

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Our Lady & St John's  
Carlisle Road  
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

**Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &  
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood**

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St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
29TH MARCH 2026**

## UNITATIS REDINTEGRATIO

On 21st November 1964 the Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio* (translated as *Restoration of Unity*) was solemnly proclaimed by the Second Vatican Council. In the introduction of this Decree we find the statement: "Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only; division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalises the world and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel... The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council".



The Decree is divided into three chapters covering the principles and practice of ecumenism, and the Churches and ecclesial communities separated from Rome. The concept of ecumenism refers to Our Lord's wish that all his followers should be one, and ecumenism properly applies only to Christians. The whole motive for ecumenism from the Council's point of view is the vital importance of bringing Christians into unity in the one Church of Christ, which it clearly identifies as the Catholic Church.

The first chapter on principles begins with a clear statement of the work of Christ who, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, "has called and gathered together the people of the New Covenant, who are the Church, into a unity of faith, hope, and charity". The Council establishes the key theological principle which governs this document: "All who believe in Christ and have been baptised are in communion with the Catholic Church even though this communion is imperfect". All baptised Christians are incorporated into Christ and a common faith, and their Church or ecclesial community possesses valid elements - scripture, sacraments and grace.

The ultimate aim of every Christian should be to make a reality the words of Christ "May they all be one", addressing and discussing historical doctrinal splits. Common prayer for unity is a primary means to obtain the grace for reconciliation, working together on common goals and theological dialogue.

*Unitatis Redintegratio* addresses divisions with the Orthodox East and the Reformation West recognising differences, conflicts and issues.

When it comes to ecumenism and the language used we hear the words 'Church' and 'ecclesial community'. The term 'Church' in these documents refers to those communities of faith with valid sacraments and apostolic succession (bishops in an unbroken line from the Apostles) i.e. the Orthodox and Coptic Churches. The term 'Ecclesial communities' refers to groups who do not have full sacramental validity and do not have apostolic succession, i.e. all Protestant denominations - e.g. Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Church of Scotland and the Free Church. The Protestant Reformation tore asunder the unity of the Church and constituted a formal break from apostolic succession and from the foundations of Christianity as set out by the early Church from the earliest times through to the mid 16th century. The term 'Ecclesial communities' is not meant in a derogatory way, but rather as a theological distinction to describe communities that are genuinely Christian but separated from full communion.

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

<b>Sunday 29th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Mass for Palm Sunday with blessing of palms</b> (St Mary's)
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Holy Mass for Palm Sunday with blessing of palms</b> (OLSJ)
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass for Palm Sunday</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Monday 30th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 7.30pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Stations of the Cross led by the pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of Holy Week ( St Mary's)
12.25pm	Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)
<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions after Mass</b> (St Mary's)
<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Confessions until 6.25pm</b> (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Monday of Holy Week (St Mary's)
<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Confessions after Mass</b> (St Mary's)
<b>Tuesday 31st March</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Confessions after Mass</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Wednesday 1st April</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Confessions until 9.50am</b> (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of Holy Week (St Mary's)
1.30pm	Holy Week Service led by pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)
6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Confessions until 6.50pm</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of Holy Week (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Thursday 2nd April</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 12.00am; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
	<i>No Morning Mass in the parish.</i>
	<i>Mass of Chrism at Motherwell Cathedral at 11.00am. All welcome.</i>
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>MASS OF THE LORD'S LAST SUPPER</b> (St Mary's)
	<i>Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight (St Mary's)</i>
10.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
<b>Friday 3rd April</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 7.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 12.30pm)</i>
12noon	Stations of the Cross with veneration of the Cross (OLSJ)
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>LITURGY OF THE PASSION &amp; DEATH OF THE LORD</b> (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross with veneration of the Cross (St Mary's)
<b>Saturday 4th April</b>	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 10.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
	<b>NO VIGIL MASS AT 5.00PM</b>
<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>EASTER VIGIL &amp; FIRST MASS OF THE RESURRECTION</b> (St Mary's)



## CONFESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER

There are additional opportunities for us to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for Easter. Please make a special effort to come to confession over the next few days to reconcile with the Lord and celebrate the Sacred Triduum with souls cleansed of sin.

## WELCOME TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Since September our catechumens and candidates have been learning more about the Faith through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course. Andrew, John and Shellana will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. We keep them very much in our prayers in these final days of preparation as they receive Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Cards are available at the stall.

## COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES

A collection will be taken up at all the Liturgies on Good Friday for the Holy Places of the Holy Land associated with life & death of Lord. Please give as generously as you are able to this collection to help preserve these places associated with Our Lord and for the Christians there.

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £882.00  
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £250.00  
Stall: £30.00  
**£1,162.00**

### Many thanks for your very generous support

*To set up a standing order for the parish:*

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**  
Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

*Giftaid forms available at back of the church.*

## HIRE OF THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is available for private functions, community events, regular lets and fundraising events. Please consider having your parties and functions in the Parish Hall to support the parish. If you would like to find out more information regarding the Hall and bookings, then please contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**



## EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL & EASTER EGG HUNT

Next Sunday to celebrate the Resurrection there will be a parish social to which all parishioners are invited. The bar will be open, snacks will be provided at some point in the afternoon and there will also be an Egg Hunt for the younger children in the community garden. The Easter Hamper raffle will be drawn as will the 100 Club draw. All welcome.



## EASTER HAMPER

At the back of the church over the next few weeks, raffle tickets will be on sale for the wonderful Easter Hamper that has been prepared to be raffled at the Parish Easter Sunday Social. Tickets are priced at £2.00. To be in with a chance of winning the hamper please buy a raffle ticket after Mass this weekend. Raffle tickets will be on sale at all Masses this weekend.

## OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall has closed, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page three of this bulletin. Very many thanks to those parishioners who have already set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

## CHRISM MASS

Each year on the morning of Holy Thursday, the Bishop together with the priests of the diocese gather at Motherwell Cathedral for the Chrism Mass. At this Mass the sacred oils are blessed by the bishop and the priests of the diocese renew the vows they made at ordination. The Mass will take place on Thursday 2nd April at 11.00am. Bishop Toal extends a warm welcome to everyone in our diocese to gather with him for this special Mass, to pray for our priests. All welcome.

## NEW DIGITAL GIVING MACHINES

The new Digital Giving machines have been ordered and should be with us for next weekend. As we carry less cash, this helps parishioners to contribute to the parish through card and phone payments. The payment machines will be installed at the back of both churches.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Both our primary schools will reflect on the events of Holy Week at two special services. This year the St Mary's service will be held in the church on Wednesday 1st April beginning at 1.30pm. The services will include scripture readings, hymns and an explanation of the importance of the events of each day of Holy Week. All welcome.



Holy Week

## EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL & EGG HUNT

The Parish Hall

**SUNDAY 5TH APRIL AFTER 12NOON MASS**

Bar, Snacks & Food will be available



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Steven Ross, Stephen Neal, Marjory McMurray, Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

**RIP** -

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Patricia Weir, Lara Markson

Please remember to have your dead loved ones prayed for on their anniversary

## EASTER COLLECTION

A second collection will take place at all Easter Masses next weekend. Twice a year, at Christmas and Easter parishioners are invited to make a financial gift to the parish, according to their financial means. Parishioners can make a donation to this collection through bank transfer, contribute to the offertory collection or, for those in Giftaid, through the Easter envelope.

## EASTER REMEMBRANCES

If you wish your deceased loved ones remembered at the Easter Masses and included in the Easter bulletin please place their names in an envelope and hand to Fr Wyllie by Good Friday.

## THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The triduum is a period that begins on Holy Thursday and ends at the conclusion of Easter Sunday. It encompasses the evening of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. The term "triduum" means "three days". Technically, the triduum during Holy Week is known as the "paschal triduum". The word "paschal," means Passover. Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, which is connected theologically to the Passover, is referred to as the paschal mystery.



### **HOLY THURSDAY (2nd April)**

On the evening of Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which commemorates Christ's Passover meal with his apostles the night before he died. The Mass of the Lord's Supper most especially remembers the institution of the Eucharist - the sacramental gift to the Church of Christ's body and blood, given in the transformation of bread and wine. It also remembers the institution of the Priesthood. Often, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the priest washes the feet of some members of the congregation, recalling Christ's washing of feet at the Last Supper. "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet", Christ told his apostles.

### **GOOD FRIDAY (3rd April)**

There's no Mass on Good Friday. In fact, after Mass on Holy Thursday, the altar is stripped of all cloth, furniture, decoration, candles. Crosses are removed from the Church or covered. No candles burn in the church. The Blessed Sacrament is not reposed in the church's tabernacle but elsewhere. On Good Friday, the church is empty of many of its symbols. It is adorned like a church in mourning. And, at 3.00pm, the Church offers the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. At this liturgy, Scripture is read that recounts the prophetic anticipation of Christ's passion and recounts the passion narrative itself. Communion is distributed. Believers are invited to venerate the cross — to come forward and kiss or reverence a cross.

### **HOLY SATURDAY (4th April)**

The Easter Vigil is one of the most beautiful liturgies in the Church's calendar. It is spectacular and full of beautiful Catholic symbolism. It is the most important Mass of the year. The vigil begins at night. It starts in darkness with a fire, which is blessed, and from which is lit the paschal candle. The whole of salvation history is proclaimed during the readings. A beautiful Easter proclamation, called the Exsultet, is sung. Men and women are welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church. Death and sin are symbolised by the dark, and Christ's resurrection is symbolised by the light. When the lights are turned on, the church is bedecked in flowers.

TRIDUUM