

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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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
1ST MARCH 2026**

GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS

After the four Constitutions (major documents) produced by the Second Vatican Council, there are, in secondary importance, the Declarations of the Council.

One being *Gravissimum Educationis* (translated as *The Importance of Education*), proclaimed by Pope Paul VI on 28th October 1965, focussed on Catholic Education. Very pertinent at this moment due to the Scottish Green Party's campaign against faith schools.

It is one of the shorter documents of the Council, but even though it attempts to comment briefly on each aspect of education of interest to the Church, a few central principles stand out.

The first principle is that all people have "an inalienable right to an education that is in keeping with their ultimate goal". The way this should manifest is through the development of the students' physical, moral and intellectual characteristics. This should lead all students to the knowledge and skills necessary to discourse with others and promote the common good. Motivating and instilling in each person good moral values and a deeper knowledge and love of God.

Gravissimum Educationis focuses in a special way on Catholic education and what Catholic schools should be. It reminds us that a Catholic school should instill and promote that the baptised become ever more aware of the gift of Faith they have received, learn how to worship God in spirit and truth, and be conformed to Jesus Christ in justice and holiness. Helping young people be aware of being a part of the Mystical Body of Christ (the Church) and to bear witness to the hope that is in them in helping the world know, love and follow Christ.

The duty and responsibility of parents and families is also highlighted. It states "since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognised as the primary and principal educators". The family is the "first school of the social virtues that every society needs".

The Church calls on the civil authorities "to direct what is required for the common temporal good", meaning that good schools need provided for and sustained materially.

Then, the document clarifies the role of the Church in education. The Church reminds us that she has the duty and responsibility to make moral and religious education available in all its schools.

Teachers are called upon "by their life as much as by their teaching/instruction to bear witness to Christ, the true Teacher" and then it declares "the work of these teachers, this sacred synod declares, is in the real sense of the word an apostolate most suited to and necessary for our times and at once a true service offered to society".

The Church reminds all Catholic parents, as they promised at Baptism, to bring their children up in the practice and knowledge of the faith, that they have "the duty of entrusting their children to Catholic schools wherever and whenever possible and of supporting these schools to the best of their ability". "Holy Mother Church has a role in the progress and development of education".



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 1st March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 6.30pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm Evening Prayer & Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 2nd March (St Mary's 9.00am - 7.45pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Second Week of Lent (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)
6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Monday of the Second Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 3rd March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
10.00am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 4th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

NO 8.30AM MASS
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Casimir (St Mary's)
6.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Casimir (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 5th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

NO 8.30AM MASS
9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Second Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 6th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Second Week of Lent (St Mary's)



Saturday 7th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

4th March - Memoria of St Casimir - St Casimir was born in 1458, the third son of King Casimir IV of Poland. A shining example of faith, piety, humility, and chastity, he had little interest in proposals to arrange an advantageous marriage, and refused to go to war against other Christian princes. His devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary was great; he was so fond of the hymn 'Daily, daily sing to Mary' that it is often attributed to him. He died of tuberculosis aged twenty-six and was named patron of Poland in 1602 and also the patron saint of Lithuania.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST PEREGRINE

St Peregrine is honoured as the patron saint of those who suffer from cancer and those who suffer from incurable and life-threatening illnesses. All of us will know or have known someone who has or had cancer. A novena will take place each Monday after the 12noon Mass to St Peregrine, praying for all those who have been diagnosed with cancer, for their families, for consultants, doctors and for the nurses who treat those patients. Please come along and pray for all those who need our prayers at this time.



SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

The annual second collection for the sick & retired priests will be taken up at all Masses this weekend. The proceeds of this collection will be used by the diocese to care for the sick and retired priests of our diocese who have given decades of faithful service in ministering to God's people. The diocese will be very grateful for all donations made to this second collection.

PLEASE TURN ALL PHONES ON TO SILENT/VIBRATE WHEN IN CHURCH!

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,010.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£285.00
Votive Candles:	£470.00
Stall:	£35.00
	£1,800.00

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**



SCIAF WEE BOXES

On the table at the back of the church you will find SCIAF Wee Boxes which are to be taken home and filled up with donations for the work of SCIAF. Please ensure that these boxes are returned to the church no later than the Mass of the Last Supper on Thursday 2nd April at 7.00pm. The SCIAF collection will be counted during Easter week and the proceeds of the boxes forwarded on to them that week.

LENTEN MASSES & SERVICES

Lent is a season when we are called to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There are lots of opportunities for confessions, Masses and traditional devotions in our parish over the weeks of Lent. Why not try to come along to one or two extra things each week to give time to the Lord and grow in our love for him.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00PM - 9.00PM



PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late

Bar & Live Music **Tickets £10.00** - Includes a Pie. Names on list



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm

Fr Philip Caldwell - *The Last Seven Words of Jesus*



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH



PARISH EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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 - Bernard Cosgrove (*Requiem Mass Tuesday 10th March 9.30am*), Joan Meade (*Requiem Mass Thursday 12th March 9.30am*), Peter Nolan, Jessie Cairney, Bernadette McDermott

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John & Mary Brennan, Isabella Freeland, Ian Quinn, Robert Maguire, John Corr, Mary Corr, William Tait, Mary & Michael Vernal, William Lynch, Patricia Weir, Lara Markson

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

HOLY GHOST FATHERS

Fr Wyllie will be away from the parish from Tuesday - Friday of this week. The Holy Ghost Fathers will celebrate the weekday Masses from Tuesday - Friday in his absence. Please note that this coming week there are some changes/adjustments to the Lenten schedule.

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 two of this bulletin. Very many thanks to those parishioners who have already set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLICS

The Syro-Malabar Catholic community in our diocese are looking to purchase the former Craigneuk & Belhaven Church of Scotland for their Masses and liturgies. There are raffle tickets at the back of the church to help them in this endeavour. Tickets £10.00.

MOTHERS DAY

Mothers Day will be observed as usual on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 15th March. At Masses that weekend there will be a special blessing of mothers at the conclusion of Mass. There will also be the Mothers Day Remembrances in the bulletin that weekend. If you wish your deceased mothers name included in the remembrances please ensure that the envelope marked 'Mothers Day Remembrances' is with Fr Wyllie before 12noon on Thursday 12th March.

WORKS TO OUR PARISH PROPERTIES

Fr Wyllie would like to update parishioners on the works that have been carried out over the past few days and the works which will be carried out in the coming days/weeks to our properties:

Blackwood: The back yard, stairs and monoblock have been power washed; exterior lights have been fixed; the board listing the donors for the church floor tiles has been erected; the sacristy tap and the Hall ladies toilet have been repaired; socket in the kitchen has been fixed; PAT Testing has been carried out in the church, house and hall; all boilers serviced.

The new smoke alarm system to be installed & heat detector for sacristy; guttering around hall to be fixed; cracked tiles on Hall roof to be replaced; water damage to Hall exterior door frame to be repaired; paint job needed for the Hall kitchen; Hall front door handle to be sorted; dampness in sitting room of the parish house to be dealt with; loose tiles on house roof to be replaced; low hanging trees in front grounds to be cut back.

Larkhall: PAT Testing of house and church completed; skip to empty rubbish from garages has been delivered; broken outdoor lights have been replaced.

Power washing of presbytery garden to begin this week; House front door to be replaced; garage to be emptied; dip at back of church to be filled in; de-mossing of house roof this week; new smoke alarm system.