

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT
30TH NOVEMBER 2025**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This Sunday, by the grace of God, a new Liturgical Year opens, of course, with Advent, a Season of preparation for the birth of the Lord. The Second Vatican Council, in the Constitution on the Liturgy, affirms that the Church "in the course of the year... unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation and Nativity to the Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the Coming of the Lord". In this way, "recalling the mysteries of the redemption, she opens up to the faithful the riches of her Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present for all time; the faithful lay hold of them and are filled with saving grace" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 102). The Council insists on the fact that the centre of the Liturgy is Christ, around whom the Blessed Virgin Mary, closest to him, and then the martyrs and the other saints who "sing God's perfect praise in Heaven and intercede for us" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 104) revolve like the planets around the sun.



This is the reality of the Liturgical Year seen, so to speak, "from God's perspective". And from the perspective, let us say, of humankind, of history and of society what importance can it have? The answer is suggested to us precisely by the journey through Advent on which we are setting out today. The contemporary world above all needs hope; the developing peoples need it, but so do those that are economically advanced. We are becoming increasingly aware that we are all on one boat and together must save each other. Seeing so much false security collapse, we realise that what we need most is a trustworthy hope. This is found in Christ alone.

As the Letter to the Hebrews says, he "is the same yesterday and today and for ever (Heb 13: 8). The Lord Jesus came in the past, comes in the present and will come in the future. He embraces all the dimensions of time, because he died and rose; he is "the Living One". While he shares our human precariousness, he remains forever and offers us the stability of God himself. He is "flesh" like us and "rock" like God. Whoever yearns for freedom, justice, and peace may rise again and raise their head, for in Christ liberation is drawing near (Lk 21: 28).

We can therefore say that Jesus Christ is not only relevant to Christians, or only to believers, but to all men and women, for Christ, who is the centre of faith, is also the foundation of hope. And every human being is constantly in need of hope.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Virgin Mary fully embodies a humanity that lives in hope based on faith in the living God. She is the Virgin of Advent: she is firmly established in the present, in the "today" of salvation. In her heart she gathers up all past promises, and encompasses the future. Let us learn from her in order to truly enter this Season of grace and to accept, with joy and responsibility, the coming of God in our personal and social lives.

As we read in this Sunday's Gospel from St Matthew: "Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Mt 24:44).

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 30th November (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 6.30pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 1st December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Andrew (St Mary's)

Tuesday 2nd December (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 First Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 3rd December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)

9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Francis Xavier (St Mary's)

10.30am Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St Mary's)

6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

6.30pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Francis Xavier (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 4th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

NO 9.30AM MASS

12.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the First Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

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

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Fr Wyllie will be interviewing for the new head teacher of St John's this morning. Apologies.

Saturday 6th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT 4.00PM - 4.45PM



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

1st December - Solemnity of St Andrew - This Solemnity is transferred to the Monday as the First Sunday of Advent takes precedence. St Andrew the Apostle is the Principal Patron of Scotland (as well as of Russia and Greece). Born in Bethsaida at the Sea of Galilee, he was a follower of John the Baptist before he was a disciple of Christ, to whom he brought Peter, his brother. Along with Philip, he presented some Gentiles to Jesus and, in the Gospel, is named as the person who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fish. It is said that he evangelised in Asia Minor and Scythia (a region of Eurasia, to the north of the Caspian and Black Seas) before being crucified in Achaia (the area of Patras, in western Greece).

3rd December - Memoria of St Francis Xavier - St Francis Xavier was born in 1506 in the royal castle at Javier in the Basque country. He went to university in Paris in 1525, where he met his countryman, Ignatius of Loyola, and the other five original members of the Society of Jesus. In 1542 he was sent to India and he spread the Faith to many territories between there and Japan. Poised to enter China, he died in 1552, aged 46. The unfinished nature of his work inspired St Guido Conforti to found the Xaverian Fathers in 1895 for the Chinese mission. Pope Pius XI named him a patron of the Missions.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

As the Season of Advent marks the beginning of the new Church's year, the readings on a Sunday will be taken from Year A, and during the week the readings will be taken from Cycle 2. For those who have missals please bear this in mind. For those who use Universalis on their phones, the readings will automatically be on the correct year and cycle.

TO CONSERVE HEAT PLEASE KEEP THE CHURCH DOORS CLOSED.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£940.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£315.00
Stall:	£50.00
	£1,305.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

Education Collection:	£600.00
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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**



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul do amazing work in our parish helping those who are in need of financial and practical assistance. This assistance ranges from providing household goods, school uniforms, food parcels, Christmas dinners and gifts, and many other ways of supporting those who are in need in our community. At the 12noon Mass and 5.00pm Mass in Our Lady & St John's, a representative of the St Vincent de Paul will give an update on their work and make an appeal for our financial and spiritual support. Please support the work of our St Vincent de Paul particularly through the SSVP box at the end of Sunday Mass each week.

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Pope Leo XIV recently expressed his desire for parishes to pray the Divine Office (Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer) together. In response to the Holy Father's express desire, we will have Evening Prayer (Vespers) in Our Lady & St John's on Sunday 7th December at 6.00pm and in St Mary's on Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm followed by Adoration & Benediction. Please make a special effort to come along and join in this prayer for the Church and the world.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

A second collection will take place next weekend, 6th & 7th December at all Masses for St Andrew's Hospice. The hospice does such important and necessary work in caring for the terminally ill and dying and relies heavily on donations to continue their work.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St John's Primary Partnership Group invite you to the Christmas Fayre after the 12noon Mass in the Parish Hall this afternoon (Sunday). Entry is free. This will be an opportunity to soak up the festive cheer as you get some Christmas shopping by purchasing some locally made arts and crafts, support charities (such as the Mini Vinnies & Glainne Mara), have a shot at our raffle, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with home baking and (for the young/young at heart) a chance to meet Santa. All proceeds will go to St John's Primary, so please dig deep and support this venture. Any donations of raffle prizes would be gratefully received.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection of foodstuffs and donations for the local foodbank will take place this weekend. Bags of groceries and monetary gifts can be left at the back of the church that weekend before being taken to the foodbank on the Monday.

RORATE MASSES

During Advent it is an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church to offer Rorate Masses, Masses in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary lit by candlelight and facing liturgical east. These Masses will be celebrated in Our Lady & St John's on a Wednesday evening on 3rd & 10th December at 7.00pm and 17th December at 6.30pm. In St Mary's this Mass will be celebrated on Monday 15th December at 12noon.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Jane Hamilton, 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, Joe Murphy (Dubai)

RIP - Patricia Kelly (Lanark), Betty Irving (Shieldmuir), Marie Seagrave

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Patricia Weir

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

PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

The Patronal Feast day of St Mary's and St Mary's Primary School is celebrated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday 8th December. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10.00am, rather than 12noon, followed by a celebratory Coffee Morning in the primary school. All parishioners, parents/carers and families are warmly invited to this special Mass and the coffee morning afterwards to celebrate this special day.

ASSISTED DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care & Sports Committee recently met to consider further amendments to the Assisted Dying Bill. They dismissed several proposed safeguards, including limiting eligibility to those with six months or less to live (including intellectual disability or eating disorders, poverty or inadequate housing). They went further and rejected an amendment which will allow doctors to initiate discussions on assisted suicide with their patients, and also voted against permitting hospices and care homes to opt out of facilitating assisted suicide. Please contact your MSP through a simple process at <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Bambinelli Sunday, Sunday 14th December, is when people, especially children, are invited to bring the figure of the baby Jesus from their cribs to be blessed at Mass. All welcome to do so.



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Mass 12.30pm followed by Lunch & Social



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

THIS FRIDAY 2.00PM - 9.00PM



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

6.30pm Fr Andrew Robinson on the Christmas Narrative



PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.30pm - 1.30am

Ticket - £10.00 (includes a glass of prosecco & a pie)

