

# 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

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)  
12TH FEBRUARY 2023**

## THE SHRINE OF LOURDES

Lourdes is the most famous healing shrine in the world but it's a fascinating pilgrimage destination for anyone, even if you're not in need of a miracle. People from many nations fill its streets. Lourdes is one of the most-visited pilgrimage sites in the world with around four million pilgrims visiting each year. But when a young servant girl named Bernadette Soubirous claimed to see a radiant vision of a woman in white here on February 11, 1858, it was just small market town virtually unknown to the larger world.

Over the next five months the lady would appear 17 more times to Bernadette, visions that the Roman Catholic Church (though initially sceptical) would declare authentic appearances of the Virgin Mary. Miraculous cures have been associated with Lourdes ever since.



Lourdes today is far different from the isolated mountain hamlet of 1858. During the main pilgrimage season that runs from Easter through the end of October, an average of 25,000 pilgrims gather here each day in the shrine located in the centre of Lourdes.

Several huge basilicas and churches dominate the grounds. The torchlight processions for which Lourdes is famous winds between them, a flickering ribbon of light held by pilgrims singing hymns of praise to Mary.

The large outcropping of stone known as Massabielle is still there, and in the niche where the lady had appeared to Bernadette stands a statue of the Virgin Mary, her hands joined in prayer as her eyes gazed heavenward. Long lines of people slowly wind into the area beneath the stone, where they reverently touch the rock and leave photographs, flowers, and other tokens near the spring that had been uncovered by Bernadette. A rack of candles burns brightly in front of the grotto, and nearby is a line of taps where people collect water from the spring.

The diversity of people is striking: nuns in long habits, elderly couples, young people traveling in groups, rich and poor, from every nationality on earth come together.

While the grotto is the heart of the sanctuary, the rest of the town is intriguing as well. Small and sometimes ugly trinkets are everywhere. The places where those trinkets are likely to end up is many and varied, how they will find their way into nursing homes, hospital rooms and bedside tables, into the pockets of chemotherapy patients and the hands of soldiers going off to war. Though small and inexpensive, those tokens carry a powerful message: they are a reminder that the broken and wounded will be the first to enter the Kingdom of God, that miracles are possible even when the darkness seems overwhelming, and that the most unlikely among us can receive a life-changing vision of light.

**Motherwell Diocese is travelling to Lourdes from 14th - 21st July and everyone is invited to join this pilgrimage. The pilgrimage will fly from Edinburgh Airport with 7 nights spent in Lourdes, costs ranging from £919 - £984, depending on hotel, and exclusive of a single room supplement and insurance cost. Fr Wyllie will be travelling with this pilgrimage and invites parishioners to form a group with him, please email him by the end of this month if you would be interested in travelling. More details can be found at [tangney-tours.com/pilgrimage/Lourdes.diocese-of-motherwell](http://tangney-tours.com/pilgrimage/Lourdes.diocese-of-motherwell)**

## THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

<b>Sunday 12th February</b>	<i>St Mary's open from 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am until 5.45pm</i>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (St Mary's)
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>2.00pm</b>	Baptism (St Mary's)
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Monday 13th February</b>	<i>Churches open from 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
<b>11.30am</b>	Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)
<b>12noon</b>	Holy Mass for Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
<b>Tuesday 14th February</b>	<i>Churches open from 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
<b>9.00am</b>	Recitation of the Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Mass for the Feast of St Cyril & St Methodius (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Wednesday 15th February</b>	<i>Churches open from 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
<b>9.30am</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
<b>9.30am</b>	Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
<b>6.30pm</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>6.30pm</b>	Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>7.00pm</b>	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Thursday 16th February</b>	<i>Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
<b>9.00am</b>	Recitation of the Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>9.30am</b>	Mass for Thursday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Friday 17th February</b>	<i>Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
<b>9.30am</b>	Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)
<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Mass Friday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
<b>Saturday 18th February</b>	<i>St Mary's opens at 9.00am until after Vigil Mass</i>
<b>4.15pm</b>	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (St Mary's)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

14th February - Feast of St Cyril & St Methodius - St Cyril lived from 826-869 and St Methodius from 815-885. They were brothers born at Thessalonica, Greece, who spread the Faith in Moravia. They translated liturgical texts into Slavonic, using the Cyrillic alphabet which they devised. Cyril died, aged 43, on a visit to Rome. Methodius became a bishop and worked in Pannonia and the present-day Czech Republic, where he is buried at the great shrine of Velehrad. Saints Cyril and Methodius were named as patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Like most other parishes, we do not see enough of our young people at Mass, especially those who are due to receive their Sacraments. This is a very sad situation where the parents and carers can be so removed from the life of the Church that their children only come to Mass with the school and on the days when they receive their First Confession, First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

At baptism, each parent made a vow to bring their child(ren) up in the practice of the Faith. Fr Wyllie feels as though we need to help the parents/carers to do this. He hopes to raise awareness in the parents/carers that there is a level of commitment required to put a child forward for receiving the Sacraments and that the Sacraments are not stand alone events but are important steps on a child's faith journey in growing in the faith of the Church and in the parish community. Over the next few weekends, the children who are to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be expected to be at Sunday Mass in the weeks leading up to receiving the Sacraments. This will help them feel part of the parish community and allow them to experience Sunday Mass together with the rest of us - building up their Faith but also building up their place in our parish community.

The children will receive a 'Mass Passport' which will be stamped each week they attend Mass. Those children who have attended Mass each Sunday will be enrolled for the Sacraments, the dates of the enrolment Masses have been made known to the parents/carers.

## GAS BILL

All parishes in the Diocese received their Gas bill at end of January. As with everyone else, we are paying much more than we were previously. The Gas bill for St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's came to just under £7,000.00 for the period running from 1st October 2022 - 7th January 2023. In comparison, our gas combined with the electricity came to just over £7,000.00 for the whole of 2022. That is a huge jump! The heating in both our churches will be timed to come on 30 minutes before each Mass and turn off as Mass begins. Fr Wyllie appeals with everyone to be understanding that the churches can't be heated to the same extent as they were before, so please be aware that the churches might not be as warm as we are accustomed to and to be conscious of this when we are getting ready to come to Mass.

### PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations (29th Jan):	£860.00
Collection & Donations (5th Feb):	£890.00
Standing Orders (26th Jan - 2nd Feb):	£1,332.00
Standing Orders (3rd Feb - 9th Feb):	£220.00
Votive Candles:	£260.00
Stall:	£20.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£3,582.00</b>

#### Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

*All UK Taxpayers are asked to join the Giftaid scheme. Forms available.*

### PARISH HALL LETS & FUNCTIONS

We are now in a position to take bookings in the Parish Hall for lets and functions (if you require a bar then 28 days notice is required to obtain an occasional license from the council). If you would like to have a function or let the Hall for various activities or parties then please get in contact with Suzanne Sherry at the new Hall email address for further information. The Hall will also be available for regular lets too. Email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Over the past few weeks it has been a great joy to have welcomed Theo, Lea and Hunter into the life of the Church through the waters of baptism. We send the young people and their parents our congratulations and an assurance of our prayers as they take up the responsibility of bringing their children up in the Faith of the Catholic Church.

### LIGHT BITE AFTER MASS

The next Light Bite will be next Sunday after the 12noon Mass. All parishioners are invited to the Hall after Mass that day. A number of the boys and girls from St John's will be selling cakes etc. The children will be showing us the exciting plans they have for the garden behind the Hall and would like you to see them.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent begins on 22nd February. Masses for Ash Wednesday are:

- 8.00am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** School Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
- 10.30am** School Mass (St Mary's)
- 7.00pm** Holy Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

*Imposition of Ashes will take place at all Masses.  
8.00am Mass will be a brief Mass.*

The Parish Weekly Schedule for Lent will be published in the bulletin for next weekend. Please make a special effort to grow in our relationship with the Lord over the forty days of the Season of Lent.

### CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Church Workers Social will take place this Friday, 17th February from 6.30pm until late. The bar will be open before the meal for parishioners to purchase drinks, the meal will be served around 7.00pm, so please make sure that you are seated for then. The meal will consist of three courses (starter, main course and dessert) followed by tea, coffee & mints. When the meal is finished there will be a DJ to provide the entertainment.

Only four parishioners have indicated that they'd like to travel on a bus from Larkhall to Blackwood and back again. Fr Wyllie proposes that a taxi could be ordered instead of booking a bus for such a small number, or alternatively, lifts could be organised for those who cannot/prefer not to drive that evening.



### CHURCH BUILDING FUND COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Anne Dempster, Joyce Heeley, Phyllis Nicholson, Selina Gold, Kathy Newbound, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

**RIP** - Stacy Graham, Jane Rafferty (Caldercruix), Ellen (McKay) Bowden (Australia), Tam Stevenson (Quarter)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Mary Gallacher, Patrick & Margaret Corrigan, John Gowans, Frank McCorry, McLaren & McCorry Families, Jim Grant, Helen Grant, Jack Hastie, Patrick & Anne Grant, Thomas McDonagh, Tony & Mary Goodwin, McKay Family, Alice Watters, Babs McGurk

## WHY HAVE A BUILDING FUND COLLECTION?

The maintenance and preservation of our parish properties is an essential element of a parish priest's remit. He is tasked with ensuring that all parish property (churches, houses, halls and grounds) are in a good and safe condition. The Building Fund Collection enables the appropriate stewardship needed to maintain the parish properties and allows for any major or minor repairs to be carried out. This is not only the responsibility of the parish priest, but it is incumbent on all of us to preserve and maintain the wonderful legacy which has been handed onto us by those who, over the years, built up our parish.

Over the past three years, we have embarked on a programme of repairs and upkeep of the various parish properties. Below is a list of all the work that has been carried out to enhance and preserve our parish buildings & grounds:

### St Mary's Church, House & Grounds

- New & efficient boiler system allowing us to heat the church, sacristy, confessional, porches and toilet (previously there was no proper heating except in main body of church)
- A new roof on the porch toilet which had rotted because of dampness
- Sealing of the fascia windows (main porch) which were letting in water
- Work on the roof at the four corners of the church which were letting in water
- Full electrical & gas audit of the church & house carried out
- Bi-annual cleaning of gutters
- New decking around the house to replace the rotten decking
- External lights replaced around the church exterior
- Annual power washing of the monobloc
- Refurbishment of altar cross & monstrance

### Our Lady & St John's Church, House & Grounds

- New & efficient boiler system in the house
- New parquet & tiled flooring
- Painting of the church with the exception of the ceiling
- Full electrical & gas audit of the church & house carried out
- New fire door
- Sanding & re-varnishing of the pews damaged by Covid cleaning materials
- Gable end of the house repaired to stop dampness in the house
- Painting of the house with the exception of the office, kitchen & utility room
- Refurbishment of the new sacristy area
- Tarmac laid at the entrance to the carpark & front of the church
- Bi-annual cleaning of gutters
- Painting of the perimeter gates, fence and railings
- External lights added around the exterior of the church
- Annual power washing of the monobloc, ramps & stairs
- Refurbishment of High Altar candles, crucifix & sanctuary lamp

### The Parish Hall

- Moss being removed from the roof
- New & efficient boiler system
- Bi-annual cleaning of gutters
- New fire door
- Will be painted over the next few weeks with carpet being professionally cleaned