

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT (A)
5TH MARCH 2023

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

POPE BENEDICT XVI - THE TRANSFIGURATION

This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Lent, is called "of the Transfiguration" because the Gospel recounts this mystery of Jesus' life. After Jesus had foretold his Passion to the disciples, "he took with him Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light" (Mt 17:1-2). According to the senses the light of the sun is the brightest light known in nature but, according to the spirit, the disciples briefly glimpsed an even more intense splendour, that of the divine glory of Jesus which illumines the whole history of salvation. St Maximus Confessor says that "[the Lord's] garments appear white, that is to say, the words of the Gospel will then be clear and distinct, with nothing concealed".

The Gospel tells that beside the transfigured Jesus "there appeared... Moses and Elijah, talking with him" (Mt 17:3); Moses and Elijah, figure of the Law and of the Prophets. It was then that Peter, ecstatic, exclaimed "Lord, it is good that we are here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Mt 17:4). However St Augustine commented, saying that we have only one dwelling place, Christ: "he is the Word of God, the Word of God in the Law, the Word of God in the Prophets".

In fact, the Father himself proclaims: "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Mt 17:5). The Transfiguration is not a change in Jesus but the revelation of his divinity: "the profound interpenetration of his being with God, which then becomes pure light. In his oneness with the Father, Jesus is himself 'light from light'".

Peter, James and John, contemplating the divinity of the Lord, are ready to face the scandal of the Cross, as it is sung in an ancient hymn: "You were transfigured on the mountain and your disciples, insofar as they were able, contemplated your glory, in order that, on seeing you crucified, they would understand that your Passion was voluntary and proclaim to the world that you are truly the splendour of the Father".

Dear friends, let us too share in this vision and in this supernatural gift, making room for prayer, and for listening to the Word of God. Further, especially in this Season of Lent, I urge you, as the Servant of God Paul VI wrote, "to respond to the divine precept of penitence by some voluntary act, apart from the renunciation imposed by the burdens of everyday life".

Let us invoke the Virgin Mary so that she may help us always to listen to and follow the Lord Jesus, even to the Passion and the Cross, in order to also participate in his glory. Let us recognise in her the human creature transfigured within by Christ's grace and entrust ourselves to her guidance, to walk joyfully on our path through Lent.

Pope Benedict XVI, 20th March 2011, St Peter's Square, Vatican City



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 5th March *St Mary's open from 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am until 6.45pm*
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 of the Church concluding with Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 6th March *Churches open from 9.00am until 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)
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 7th March *St Mary's open from 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ from 8.15am until 4.00pm*
8.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Perpetua & St Felicity (Our Lady & St John's)
9.05am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Perpetua & St Felicity (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 8th March *St Mary's open from 8.15am until 6.00pm; OLSJ from 9.00am until 7.45pm*
8.30am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent (St Mary's)
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 Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent (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 Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 9th March *Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm*
9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Second Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 10th March *Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm*
9.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St John Ogilvie (St Mary's)

Saturday 11th March *St Mary's opens at 9.00am until after Vigil Mass*
4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent & Novena to St Joseph (St Mary's)

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Last week we enrolled the seventeen young people from both our schools who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 16th March at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's. The young people are appealing for 'Prayer Partners' to assist them by praying for them each day, you will see the displays at the back of both churches, so please sign up if you would be willing to pray for one or more of the boys and girls between now and their confirmation. It has been good to see so many of the young people with their parents and families join us for Mass over the past few weeks, we encourage them and their parents/carers to keep this up and join us for Mass each week in the parish so that they can continue to grow in their faith.

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION

On Monday afternoon of last week, the boys and girls of Primary 3 from St Mary's Primary made their First Confession. We pray that the young people who received this Sacrament will always know, appreciate and love the beautiful gift of God's mercy and healing in this Sacrament. Many thanks to the boys and girls, their parents and carers and school staff for a lovely celebration of this Sacrament.

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The boys and girls in Primary Four who are preparing for their First Holy Communion will be joining us for Mass in the weeks leading up to the celebration of this Sacrament. The young people from St John's will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th May, and those from St Mary's on Saturday 20th May. We pray that the young people and their families will come to know, appreciate and place great value on coming to the celebration of Mass each week.

LENTEN MASSES & DEVOTIONS

During the season of Lent we are invited to deepen our relationship with the Lord and in the parish there are many opportunities each week to help us do that. Please make a special effort to come to Mass, especially the evening Masses for those who are working and the early morning Masses for the families with children at school. Confessions are also an important part of preparing ourselves for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum, as Lent reaches its final stages there will be many extra opportunities for confessions in addition to the normal slots already available, please note that confessions on a Saturday in St Mary's will be available from 4.00pm until 4.45pm each week. Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Benediction, Stations of the Cross and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are also opportunities for us to come together as a community to deepen our relationship with the Lord during these forty days, so please consider joining us for these devotions. If you have any suggestions for anything else we can do as a parish during Lent then please speak with Fr Wyllie or send him an email and he will try to include this into the Lenten programme.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,055.00
Standing Orders:	£1,392.00
Votive Candles:	£380.00
Stall:	£25.00
TOTAL:	£2,852.00

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**
Giftaid forms available at back of the church.*

PRIVATE PRAYER IN CHURCH

Both our churches are open during the week for private prayer (times can be found on the weekly Mass schedule). If you are passing by the church please pop in for a little prayer. Time spent before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is never time wasted.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

The annual second collection for the **Sick & Retired Priests** of the diocese will take place at all Masses this weekend. Please be as generous as you can be to this diocesan collection.

The annual collection for **SCIAF** will be taken up on 19th March which will help the work SCIAF does on our behalf in the poorest countries of our world.

The traditional collection for the **Holy Places** of the Holy Land associated with the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Lord will be taken up on Good Friday, 7th April.

SPARKLING AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

Already there have been a good number of enquiries about the Sparkling Afternoon High Tea which will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 17th June. If you wish to reserve seats please email the Parish Hall at BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com or speak with Suzanne Sherry or Michelle Donnellan.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH

St Joseph's Feast day will be celebrated this year on Monday 20th March, due to the Fourth Sunday of Lent taking precedence this year on 19th March. A parish novena will be prayed after all Masses from Saturday 11th until Sunday 19th March. St Joseph is a very powerful intercessor for us and for the whole Church, so if you have any petitions or prayer requests please try to pray this novena. On days when there are funerals please say the novena privately.

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

A Fairtrade Coffee Morning will take place in St John's Primary on Friday 10th March from 9.30am until 10.30am. The school invites parishioners to join them as part of their Fundraising Fridays initiative. There will be tea/coffee, treats and more available on the morning. Please show your support and head along if you are free.

TIDYING OF THE CHURCH GROUNDS

After the autumn and winter both our church grounds, in Larkhall and Blackwood, could be doing with a good tidy and freshen up in time for Holy Week. It would be good to get volunteers together to clear away the old leaves, get rid of the weeds that have sprung up and generally give the grounds a good tidy. Please let Fr Wyllie know if you'd be able to help with this.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Vida Wilson, Alice Pisacane, Anne O'Neill (Belfast), Jimmy Crawford (Belfast), Joanne Kennedy, Anne Dempster, Joyce Heeley, Phyllis Nicholson, Selina Gold, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Freda Davies (*Receiving - Wednesday 15th March at 6.30pm; Requiem Mass - Thursday 16th March at 9.30am*), Hugh Steele (*Requiem Mass - Friday 17th March at 10.00am*), Helena Tierney

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary & Michael Vernal, James Rafferty, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Isabella Freeland, Raymond Holmes, Minnie Sinclair

PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is available to lease for parties and functions. Please get in contact with Suzanne Sherry at the new Hall email address for further information. 5-6 weeks notice must be given if you wish to have the bar for a function. Email: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com for more info.

The costs for booking the hall for functions & ongoing regular lets are:

Hall only - £60.00 Hall & Kitchen - £70.00 Lets - £15.00 per hour

Family Quiz & Pizza Night

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

Friday 14th April

7.00pm until late

Free Entry



BONGO'S BINGO

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall for School Funds

Saturday 29th April

7.00pm until late



SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE

Cup Final on Big Screen, Draught Lager, Pies at Half Time

£5.00 entry



SPARKLING AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

2.00PM - 6.00PM



SANDWICHES, SAUSAGE ROLLS, QUICHE, SWEET DESSERTS & TEA & COFFEE

GLASS OF PROSECCO ON ARRIVAL OR BOTTLE OF PROSECCO ON TABLE FOR GROUPS OF 4+

RAFFLE & LIVE MUSIC TOO

TICKETS - £ 20.00