

# 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  
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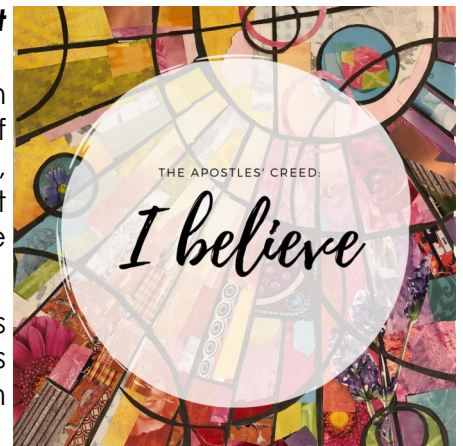
**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
2ND MARCH 2025**

## THE ARTICLES OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

### **Article 6. "... he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; ..."**

Before Jesus' ascension into heaven, as he spends 40 days with his disciples, sharing meals and preaching about the kingdom of God, he displays the powers of his risen state. For example, coming and going without regard to time and space at Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:31) or when he appears to the apostles in the upper room despite locked doors (cf. Jn 20:19).

Being "seated at the right hand of God the Father" declares Jesus' power as God. Moreover, just as he was concerned for his people on earth, Jesus continues to intercede for mankind from heaven.



### **Article 7. "... from there he will come to judge the living and the dead."**

As Lord and God, Jesus has the right to judge each of us. The Apostles' Creed here merely repeats the clear words of Jesus, when he says he will be the final judge (cf. Mt 25:31; Jn 5:22). Yet far from inspiring dread, the judgment of Christ should give us a sense of peace. Jesus did not turn away from us when we were dead in sin; rather he offered himself in our place to save us. His love and care, which are manifested in the remaining articles of the creed, can give us the confidence to follow him now on earth so we may follow him to heaven at our death.

### **Article 8. "I believe in the Holy Spirit ..."**

The Apostles' Creed mentions the Holy Spirit only briefly. Is it because it's harder to understand "Spirit" than "Father" and "Son?" Perhaps, but it's more likely that the Church during the first two centuries had a powerful experience of the fruits of the Holy Spirit via the growth of the Church. The creed, therefore, points directly to the Scriptures. Jesus promised that his Spirit would remain with his disciples (cf. Jn 14:16-17) just as the same Spirit remained with him during his earthly ministry (cf. Jn 1:29-34). The memory of Pentecost, when the Spirit filled the apostles and others and established the birthday of the Church (cf. Acts 2:1-13), would also have been strong. It's not surprising that a creed as early as the Apostles' Creed would simply affirm a belief that many of the faithful already believed firmly.

### **Article 9. "... the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints ..."**

One can see the promise of the Church in God's words to Abraham, to make "of [him] a great nation" (Gn 12:2; cf. 15:5-6). Jesus "inaugurates" this "catholic" (or universal) Church through his life and establishes it on the rock of Peter (Lumen gentium, No. 9). Jesus gives Peter and the other apostles the Eucharist, baptism and the other sacraments, and he asks them to baptise the nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt 28:19).

The Church includes all those holy ones — the saints — who live in communion with God and each other: those in heaven, in purgatory and on earth. Communion also means sharing the gifts of God in common: the Faith received from the apostles, the sacraments, individual charisms and love (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nos. 946-962).

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

<b>Sunday 2nd March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (St Mary's)
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>2.30pm</b>	Baptism (St Mary's)
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Monday 3rd March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
<b>11.30am</b>	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
<b>12noon</b>	Holy Mass for Monday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
<b>Tuesday 4th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
<b>9.00am</b>	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Casimir (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>9.55am</b>	Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Wednesday 5th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 7.45am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Brief Mass with imposition of Ashes</b> (St Mary's)
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass with imposition of Ashes</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass with imposition of Ashes</b> (St Mary's)
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass with imposition of Ashes</b> (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
<b>9.00am</b>	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>9.30am</b>	Holy Mass for Thursday after Ash Wednesday (Our Lady & St John's)
<b>Friday 7th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
<b>9.30am</b>	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Mass for Friday after Ash Wednesday (St Mary's)
<b>Saturday 8th March</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
<b>4.00pm</b>	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of Lent</b> (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 Our Lady was great. He died of tuberculosis in 1484 aged twenty-six and was named patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.

**5th March - Ash Wednesday** - Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and is observed as a day of fasting and abstinence. We are asked to only have one square meal and two small snacks and to refrain from eating meat. Purple is the colour of the season, a colour of penance. Flowers are not used and musical instruments are only used to support the singing. The Gloria is omitted from the Mass. The Fridays of Lent are traditional days of abstaining from meat.

## FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

The Bishops Conference of Scotland have designated the Friday after Ash Wednesday as a day of penance and prayer for those who have suffered abuse, particularly at the hands of those within the Church who should have shown kindness, goodness and gentleness to those under their care. The 10.00am Mass this Friday will be offered up for those who have suffered physical, sexual and mental abuse, especially in the Church.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the boys and girls from our parish who received the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Confession for the first time last week. We pray that our young people will always know their dignity as children of God and the loving mercy and forgiveness which awaits us when we ask God for it. Many thanks to the parents/carers, teachers, school staff and all those who help our young people in their journey of faith.

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR SCIAF ON SUNDAY 30TH MARCH**

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£960.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£125.00
Votive Candles:	£442.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,527.00</b>

### 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**



## CONFIRMATIONS

The young people who have been enrolled for the Sacrament of Confession and have been attending Mass over the past few weeks will be confirmed by Bishop Toal on Thursday 12th March at a special Mass in St Mary's at 7.00pm. We keep the young people and their parents/carers in our prayers. All parishioners are welcome to attend this special Mass.

## FOODBANK

The next collection of foodstuffs and monetary donations for the local Foodbank will take place on the weekend of 22nd/23rd March. During the season of Lent we are called upon to give charity to those who need our help. Why not contribute to the work of the local foodbank as part of your Lenten observance?

## PIONEERS OF THE SACRED HEART - SHORT TERM PLEDGE

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart invite parishioners to consider giving up all intoxicating drink (alcohol) for Lent. There are some short-term pledge cards available at the back of the church for those who wish to make this commitment.

## PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team will take place on Tuesday 11th March at 7.00pm in the Parish House at Larkhall. If you have any items you would like discussed at the meeting please speak with Fr Wyllie, Laura Steele, Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Scott Smith, Mary McDermott or Ciaran Reilly.

## LIGHT BITE AFTER 12NOON MASS



The Parish Hall  
**THIS AFTERNOON**



*Please pop in and enjoy some rolls and sausage, tea, coffee, diluting juice*

## ST PATRICK'S NIGHT - KIERAN DAVENPORT



The Parish Hall

**FRIDAY 14TH MARCH**

**7.00pm - Late**

**£10.00 for Adults (16+)**

**Children Free**



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

**MONDAY 24TH MARCH**

**6.30pm with talk beginning at 7.00pm**

**ANNE MARIE CLEMENTS FROM JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND  
ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Marilyn McLearn, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew

**RIP** - Sandra Bogan (Hamilton), Antonietta Rosato (Shepperton, Australia), Frank Freel (Calderbank)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - John & Mary Brennan, Ian Quinn, Robert Maguire, Charlie & Sadie Carty

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

## SEASON OF LENT IN OUR PARISH

### ASH WEDNESDAY

<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Brief Mass</b>	(St Mary's)
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	(OLSJ)
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	(St Mary's)
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	(OLSJ)

*The following programme will begin on the first full week of Lent (10th March onwards)*

### MONDAYS OF LENT

11.30am	Stations of the Cross	(St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass	(St Mary's)
12.30pm	Adoration until 2.45pm	(St Mary's)
6.30pm	Lectio Divina	(St Mary's)

### TUESDAYS OF LENT

9.00am	Stations of the Cross	(OLSJ)
9.30am	Holy Mass	(OLSJ)
9.55am	Novena to St Anthony	(OLSJ)

### WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

8.30am	Holy Mass	(St Mary's)
8.45am	Adoration until 9.55am	(St Mary's)
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am	(St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass	(St Mary's)
6.00pm	Adoration until 6.55pm	(OLSJ)
6.00pm	Confessions until 6.50pm	(OLSJ)
7.00pm	Holy Mass	(OLSJ)

### THURSDAYS OF LENT

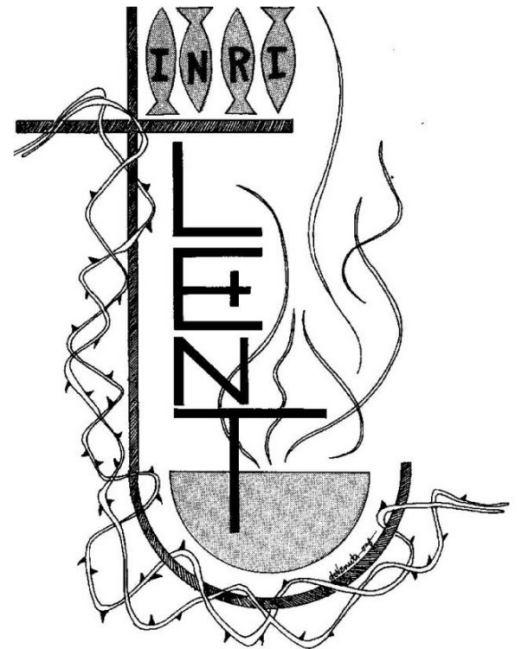
8.30am	Holy Mass	(OLSJ)
9.00am	Morning Prayer	(OLSJ)
9.30am	Holy Mass	(OLSJ)

### FRIDAYS OF LENT

9.30am	Stations of the Cross	(St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass	(St Mary's)

### SATURDAYS OF LENT

4.00pm	Confessions until 4.45pm	(St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass	(St Mary's)



## LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is a very ancient prayer in the Church and takes a piece of scripture and gives an opportunity to reflect, meditate and contemplate more deeply the words we have just heard. Fr Wyllie proposes to run a few sessions over Lent to see how it goes. He proposes we meet on a Monday at 6.30pm in St Mary's. Everyone is welcome to come along and try this beautiful way of praying.

