

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THE KOREAN MARTYRS

The first native Korean priest, Andrew Kim Taegon was the son of Christian converts. Following his baptism at the age of 15, Andrew travelled 1,300 miles to the seminary in Macao, China.

After six years, he managed to return to his country through Manchuria. That same year he crossed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai and was ordained a priest. Back home again, he was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at the Han River near Seoul, the capital.



Andrew's father Ignatius Kim, was martyred during the persecution of 1839, and was beatified in 1925. Paul Chong Hasang, a lay apostle and married man, also died in 1839 at age 45. Among the other martyrs in 1839 was Columba Kim, an unmarried woman of 26. She was put in prison, pierced with hot tools and seared with burning coals. She and her sister Agnes were disrobed and kept for two days in a cell with condemned criminals, but were not molested. After Columba complained about the indignity, no more women were subjected to it. The two were beheaded.

Peter Ryou, a boy of 13, had his flesh so badly torn that he could pull off pieces and throw them at the judges. He was killed by strangulation. Protase Chong, a 41-year-old nobleman, apostatised under torture and was freed. Later he came back, confessed his faith and was tortured to death.

Christianity came to Korea during the Japanese invasion in 1592 when some Koreans were baptised, probably by Christian Japanese soldiers. Evangelisation was difficult because Korea refused all contact with the outside world except for taking tax money to Beijing annually. On one of these occasions, around 1777, Christian literature obtained from Jesuits in China led educated Korean Christians to study. A home Church began. When a Chinese priest managed to enter secretly a dozen years later, he found 4,000 Catholics, none of whom had ever seen a priest. Seven years later there were 10,000 Catholics. Religious freedom came to Korea in 1883.

Besides Andrew and Paul, Pope John Paul II canonised 98 Koreans and three French missionaries who had been martyred between 1839 and 1867, when he visited Korea in 1984. Among them were bishops and priests, but for the most part they were lay persons: 47 women and 45 men.

The growth in the Korean Church has been absolutely amazing in the last half century or so. In 1985 there were 1.8 million Catholics in South Korea, by 2017 that had grown to 5.8 million. In 2016 74% of all baptisms were of adults (converts to Christianity). While the birth-rate in Korea is low, the conversion rate is through the roof. There were 75,000 adult baptisms in 2017. Compare that to the USA at 38,000 (with about 12 times more Catholics in the USA and a more established Church).

South Korea boasts more than 10,000 religious sisters, the vast majority of priests (more than $\frac{3}{4}$) are under 45. From 1997 to 2017 the Church grew from 7.9% of the population to 11%. There are more than 5,000 priests (1 priest for every 1,000 Catholics). After centuries of persecution the Church is thriving in South Korea. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 18th September

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 19th September **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MASS TIME TODAY!**

- 9.30am **Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)**
10.00am **Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

Tuesday 20th September

- 8.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions (OLSJ)
9.00am Recitation of the Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions (OLSJ)

Wednesday 21st September

- 8.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Matthew (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 the Feast of St Matthew (St Mary's)
6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of St Matthew (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 22nd September

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 23rd September

- 9.30am Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) (St Mary's)

Saturday 24th September

- 4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm
5.30pm **Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

20th September - Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions - St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon - the first Korean priest-martyr, St Paul Chong Ha-Sung - a catechist, and their 98 companions were martyred in the persecution of the Church in Korea in the nineteenth century. Religious freedom was granted in Korea in 1883. Today the Catholics of North Korea are persecuted heavily for their faith, but in South Korea the Catholic Church is flourishing growing by 50% over 20 years to 5.8 million believers. St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon is the patron saint of Korea.

21st September - Feast of St Matthew - Little is known about St Matthew, except that he was the son of Alphaeus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. Saint Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle." Matthew was a tax collector and is therefore the patron saint of bankers.

23rd September - Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina - Padre Pio was born of humble village parents, he became a Capuchin Franciscan novice at 15 and an ordained priest in 1910. His health was not robust but he already had a reputation as a holy person. He received the wounds of Christ on his body, the stigmata. He died in 1968 and is patron of civil defence volunteers.

8.30AM MASSES

Last week we introduced an early morning 8.30am Mass, on a Tuesday in Our Lady & St John's and on a Wednesday in St Mary's. In Our Lady & St John's we had 11 attend the 8.30am Mass and in St Mary's we had 5. It would be good to have more young people & families attend.

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Each year we celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October. He is the patron saint of animals and ecology. Many parishioners have pets at home which mean very much to them, so Fr Wyllie is suggesting that after the 7.00pm Mass the following day, Wednesday 5th October, there will be a special blessing of pets in the carpark of Our Lady & St John's beginning around 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to bring their pets to be blessed on that evening. A very simple and short prayer service will begin shortly around 7.30pm and then owners are invited to bring their pets forward one at a time for a special blessing. Fr Wyllie will bless Baloo safely in the chapel house on the Tuesday so there are no fights or scuffles with other pets. He's hoping that the blessing will maybe make Baloo a bit more tolerant of other animals. St Francis of Assisi, pray for him.



PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£2,075.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£360.00
Raffle from International Night:	£325.00
TOTAL:	£2,760.00
Many thanks for your very generous support	
Project Gambia Collection:	£2,137.00

DEACON COLUM MARTIN

Deacon Colum Martin was ordained a deacon at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham at the end of June and is currently ministering in St John the Baptist's, Uddingston. He has family connections in Larkhall, so we are looking forward to welcoming him to deacon our Masses on the weekend 1st/2nd October.

PROJECT GAMBIA

Last weekend it was good to welcome members of Project Gambia to update us on the work they are doing to alleviate the hunger and poverty felt by so many children in The Gambia. The members who came along last weekend were very grateful for the welcome and support they received from the parish. They are delighted to announce that their bucket collection at the conclusion of Masses raised £2,137.00. May God reward your kindness.



AUCHLOCHAN MASS

The next Mass with the residents of Auchlochan and anyone else who would like to come along for the Mass and the tea afterwards will take place in Our Lady & St John's on Thursday 29th September, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, at 12.30pm.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Next Sunday, the Bishops of Scotland together with priests from across the country will celebrate Mass in Carfin Grotto at 3.00pm. All Scotland's Catholics are invited to attend Mass and venerate the relics of St Bernadette.

NO 5.00PM MASS NEXT SUNDAY EVENING.

A list has been available at the back of the church for those wishing to travel to Carfin. The bus will leave Our Lady & St John's at 1.30pm and leave St Mary's around 1.50pm. We will stay for the Mass and for some time of private prayer and a walk around the grotto before leaving the grotto around 5.15pm.

BBC - 'MY KIND OF TOWN'

A few months ago the BBC visited St Mary's to film for a special episode of the programme 'My Kind of Town' in Larkhall. The producer contacted Fr Wyllie to let him know that 'My Kind of Town' will be aired on 17th November on BBC Scotland. The time is to be confirmed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS THURSDAY

On Thursday evening (22nd September) at 6.30pm we will be moving back into Our Lady & St John's from our time spent in the Parish Hall. The church will need a good clean with the amount of dust which the works have caused to spread around the church. If you are handy with a brush, mop or duster or could lend some strength with moving the fittings which were transferred to the Hall then please give generously of your time. This is a job for both men and women and we can share the cleaning and the moving of the furniture which needs done on that evening. Many hands make light work, so please make an extra special effort to come along and get the church organised for the resumption of Masses.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Selina Gold, Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Philip Bryson Matt Lunardi (Ardrossan), Sr Cathie Fitzsimons, Catherine McAlinden (Ireland), Anne Marie Taylor, Queen Elizabeth II

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Tom Campbell, James Whyte, Mary Smith

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

SAINT BERNADETTE RELICS AT CARFIN GROTTA

Saturday 24th September

10.30am Holy Rosary
11.00am Arrival of the Relics
11.30am Holy Mass
5.00pm Parish Vigil Mass
6.00pm All-night Vigil
Throughout the night there will be priests available to hear confessions.
7.00pm Evening Prayer
9.00pm Holy Rosary
12.00am Holy Rosary
3.00am Holy Rosary
5.00am Holy Rosary
7.00am Morning Prayer
7.30am Holy Mass

Sunday 25th September

9.00am Holy Mass
11.00am Holy Mass
3.00pm Scottish National Pilgrimage
6.00pm Torchlight Procession
9.00pm Night Prayer
10.00pm Church closes

Monday 26th– Friday 30th September

8.00am Church opens
9.00am Confessions
9.15am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Rosary
10.00am Holy Mass & veneration of the relic
11.00am Confessions
12.30pm Holy Rosary
12.30pm Confessions
1.00pm Holy Mass & veneration of the relic
3.00pm Liturgy of Water (Grotto)
8.00pm Torchlight Procession
(Tuesday-Friday)
9.00pm Holy Mass

Saturday 1st October

7.00am Holy Mass
8.00am Relics depart

Diocese of Motherwell's Pilgrimage day is Friday 30th September.

CHANGE OF VIGIL MASS TIME IN ST MARY'S

The vast majority of those who responded to Fr Wyllie were in favour of changing the Saturday Vigil Mass time from 5.30pm to 5.00pm. Out of the 34 respondents 5 said they would prefer to keep the Mass at 5.30pm and 29 voted in favour of a change. So, the Vigil Mass from Saturday 1st October will move to 5.00pm. Please make other parishioners aware of this change.

WEEDING & TIDYING UP THE PARISH GROUNDS

It would be wonderful to get a team of volunteers to weed and tidy up the grounds around the church and carpark in St Mary's (particularly behind the church), and also at Our Lady & St John's around the church, house and hall. Please speak with Fr Wyllie if you could help.

THE LITTLE CHILDREN'S MARKET

The Little Children's Market is coming to Larkhall. We bring you quality, preloved baby & children's items to support the local community. Our next event is in Larkhall Leisure Centre on Sunday 9th October, 11.00am - 12:30pm. Parishioners from St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's are invited to pop along and support this event. We are also collecting baby toiletries to help families in need which can be handed in on the day. If anyone would like to book a table, please contact Dana Hill on 07841610100. Your support is greatly appreciated.