

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

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10TH AUGUST 2025**

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This Friday, Catholics and many other Christians celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.

Venerable Pope Pius XII confirmed this belief about the Virgin Mary as the perennial teaching of the Church when he defined it formally as a dogma of Catholic faith in 1950, invoking papal infallibility to proclaim, "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

His Apostolic Constitution "*Munificentissimus Deus*" (Most Bountiful God), which defined the dogma, contained the Pontiff's accounts of many longstanding traditions by which the Church has celebrated the Assumption throughout its history.



The constitution also cited testimonies from the early Church fathers on the subject, and described the history of theological reflection on many Biblical passages which are seen as indicating that Mary was assumed into heaven following her death.

Although the bodily assumption of Mary is not explicitly recorded in Scripture, Catholic tradition identifies her with the "woman clothed with the sun" who is described in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation. The passage calls that woman's appearance "a great sign" which "appeared in heaven," indicating that she is the mother of the Jewish Messiah and has "the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Accordingly, Catholic iconography of the Western tradition often depicts the Virgin Mary's assumption into heaven in this manner.

Eastern Christians have also traditionally held Mary's assumption into heaven as an essential component of their faith. Pius XII cited several early Byzantine liturgical texts, as well as the eighth-century Christian theologian St John of Damascus, in his own definition of her assumption.

"It was fitting," St John of Damascus wrote in a sermon on the assumption, "that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death," and "that she, who had carried the creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles."

In Eastern Christian tradition, the same feast is celebrated on the same calendar date, although typically known as the Dormition (falling asleep) of Mary. Eastern Catholic celebration of the Dormition is preceded by a two-week period of fasting which is similar to Lent. Pius XII, in "*Munificentissimus Deus*," mentioned this same fasting period as belonging to the traditional patrimony of Western Christians as well. The feast of the Assumption is always a Holy Day of Obligation for both Roman and Eastern-rite Catholics, on which they are obliged to attend Mass or the Divine Liturgy. Mary, Assumed into Heaven, pray for us who have recourse to you.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 10th August (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 11th August (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 Memoria of St Clare (St Mary's)

Tuesday 12th August (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 Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 13th August (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Thursday 14th August (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 the Memoria of St Maximilian Kolbe (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (OLSJ)

Friday 15th August (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
8.00am Brief Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (OLSJ)
10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)

Saturday 16th August (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

11th August - Memoria of St Clare - St Clare was born in 1293, the daughter of wealthy parents in Assisi, and was attracted by the life and teaching of St Francis. She spent some time with him and his group but then, in 1312, she founded her own women's Franciscan group, usually known as 'the Poor Clares'. They were to live lives of poverty, austerity and prayer. As their leader, Clare lived at the little church of San Damiano, just outside Assisi. Her remains are venerated in the church of Santa Chiara in the town. Nowadays there are many different congregations of women worldwide, all following in varying ways the Franciscan charism and way of life. She died in 1353 and is the patron saint of television, eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, and needle workers. In the Diocese of Motherwell we are very fortunate to have a Poor Clare Monastery in Bothwell where the nuns, dedicated to poverty, austerity and prayer, pray for all of us. We especially remember them in our prayers on this feast of St Clare.

14th August - Memoria of St Maximilian Kolbe - Raymond Kolbe was born in 1894. He was cruelly deprived of his father, hanged by the Russians as a traitor. He joined the Conventual Franciscans friars, taking the names Maximilian Maria and studied in Rome. Ordained a priest in 1918, he returned to Poland and taught in the seminary at Krakow. He had a special devotion to the Immaculate Virgin Mary and, in addition to operating a radio station, he published several periodicals, magazines and articles. In 1941 the German occupying forces arrested him and he was interned in Auschwitz. When one prisoner escaped, the authorities (to deter further attempts) decided to starve ten others to death. One of those chosen implored to be exempt because he had a wife and children, and Fr Maximilian volunteered to be his substitute. Two weeks later, nine had starved to death but Fr Maximilian was still alive, so a guard was ordered to give him a lethal injection. He died in 1941 at Auschwitz and is recognised as the patron saint of prisoners (especially political prisoners), those struggling with drug addiction, families, journalists, amateur radio operators, and the pro-life movement

PARISH BBQ MEETING

A meeting will take place on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall for those who are able to help with the BBQ next Saturday. If you are able to help in any way please come along to this meeting.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£966.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£1,857.00
Votive Candles:	£440.00
Total:	£3,263.00

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**



PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

Our Parish Forty Hours Adoration will take place this year in Our Lady & St John's. There are half hour slots for praying before the Blessed Sacrament over these days. Please place your name on the list at the back of the church to ensure the Blessed Sacrament is not left unattended.



SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

12noon	Solemn Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4.55pm
3.00pm	Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm
5.00pm	Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6.30pm	Evening Prayer of the Church followed by Benediction

MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am	Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.55am
12noon	Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick followed by Adoration
3.00pm	Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
6.00pm	Angelus & Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
6.00pm	Confessions until 6.45pm
7.00pm	Holy Hour concluding with Benediction

TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm
12noon	Angelus & Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
6.00pm	Angelus & Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
6.00pm	Confessions until 6.45pm
7.00pm	Closing Mass followed by tea in the Parish Hall

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This Friday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holyday of Obligation when the Church invites us all to attend Mass. The Masses in our parish for this Solemnity are:

6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Our Lady & St John's
8.00am	Brief Mass	St Mary's
9.30am	Holy Mass	Our Lady & St John's
10.30am	Holy Mass	St Mary's

CHURCH CLEANING

Many thanks to the nine parishioners who have volunteered to join the cleaning rota in St Mary's, that's us now up at 22 cleaning volunteers who are split into four groups. Sadly, there have been no new volunteers to help with the cleaning in Our Lady & St John's. If you would be willing to help with cleaning in Our Lady & St John's, giving of an hour or two each month, then please speak with Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott or Liz McKenna as soon as possible. Many hands make light work.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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, Kerry Peterson

RIP - Mr McDonald, George Skene (Aberdeen),

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Marion Houston, Cathie & George Gibney, Catherine Ann Bews, John Creechan, Gerard Wyllie, Harriet Keane, Jean Tierney, Peggy Craigens

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

This week the young people of our parish will return to school for the new academic year. We keep all the boys and girls, their teachers, parents and carers in our prayers as they begin a new school year. We especially ask God's blessings upon the young people who will begin Primary School and Secondary School for the first time this coming week.

SPONSORSHIP FORMS

There is a sponsor sheet on the table at the back of the church to support the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children in their work in helping to defeat Liam McArthur MSP's bill for Assisted Suicide. More details can be found on the form but please consider supporting this endeavour to protect the most vulnerable in our society from Assisted Suicide.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

The Mass attendance last weekend was rather poor, but many families and individuals are on holiday or away for the weekend before the schools go back this week. Please make an effort to encourage family, friends and neighbours to come along to Mass in our parish:

5.00pm - 86

10.00am - 135

12noon - 56

5.00pm - 24

Total - 301



PARISH BBQ

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST

7.00pm - Late

NAMES ON LIST AT BACK OF CHURCH



PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

MASS AT 6.30PM

FOLLOWED BY INTERNATIONAL MEAL



PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

A highlight of the parish social calendar is the annual Parish International Night where we come together as one parish made up of many different cultures and backgrounds. We have many parishioners from various countries and cultures and we would invite them to prepare a dish from their country of origin. Over the past few years we have had around 12 different countries represented at this International Night and the food has always been second to none. If you or your family origin is from another country or culture please consider contacting Fr Wyllie to be a part of this wonderful evening. Starters, main courses or desserts are welcome.