

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**

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - [catholicparishourladyoffatima](https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishourladyoffatima)

Twitter - OLOFP parish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL
28TH JUNE 2026**

THE PAPACY

Many people mistakenly believe that the papacy is a man-made invention of the Catholic Church. But these notions are incorrect and misinformed. The truth is, the authority of the Pope is present in Scripture. Though the word "papacy" doesn't appear in the Bible, just as the word "Trinity" does not, the doctrine is nonetheless rooted in God's revelation. Catholics believe that divine revelation comes to us in two forms: Sacred Scripture (written) and Sacred Tradition (spoken word), both of which work together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Catholic Church teaches three truths about the office of the Pope:

Supremacy: The Pope holds leadership over the entire Church.

Infallibility: When teaching *ex cathedra* (from the chair of Peter) on matters of faith and morals, the Pope is protected from error. This doesn't mean he can't make personal mistakes, Peter himself was rebuked by Paul (Galatians 2:11–14). Rather, God preserves the Church from doctrinal error through the papal office.

Succession: The office of Peter is passed down through the generations. The authority is not tied to one man, but to the office.

The clearest scriptural basis for the papacy is found in Matthew 16:18–19, where Jesus says to Simon: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the powers of hell shall never prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Here, Jesus gives Simon a new name, Peter (from "Petros" in Greek, meaning rock), and assigns him a foundational role in the Church. In biblical tradition, a name change signifies a mission change (e.g., Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Saul to Paul).

And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter) - John 1:42. There is no historical precedent for the name "Peter" before this moment, further emphasising the unique authority being bestowed.

The mention of "the keys" in Matthew 16:19 is deeply rooted in biblical tradition. This isn't a mere metaphor, it's a direct reference to a well-understood symbol of authority in the ancient world. To understand its weight, we look to Isaiah 22:20–22, where Eliakim, a faithful servant, is entrusted with the "key to the house of David"... I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." When Christ gives Peter "the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven" in Matthew 16:19, He is invoking this same ancient imagery. Just as Eliakim was made steward over David's kingdom, Peter is made steward over Christ's Kingdom, the Church. The papacy provides unity, stability, and doctrinal clarity. It is not an invention of man, but a divine office rooted in Scripture, modelled in ancient tradition, and confirmed by history.

We believe Christ did not leave His Church leaderless. He appointed a steward. That steward was Peter. And that stewardship continues today through the papacy. God bless our Pope!



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 28th June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 29th June (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 Monday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 30th June (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 the First Martyrs of Rome (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 1st July (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 Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Thursday 2nd July (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 Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 3rd July (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 the Feast of St Thomas (St Mary's)



Saturday 4th July (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

30th June - Memoria of First Martyrs of Rome - The First Martyrs of the Roman Church are those who died in the persecution instigated by the Emperor Nero. It was the first persecution of several which Roman Emperors periodically inflicted over the next 250 years. According to the Roman historian Tacitus, Nero used the Christians as a scapegoat to blame for the disastrous fire which destroyed two-thirds of Rome in the year 64. Christians living in Rome were put to death with ingenious cruelty. This was the same persecution in which St Peter & St Paul were killed.

3rd July - Feast of St Thomas - St Thomas "called the twin" was the Apostle who encouraged the others to go with Jesus to Judea "and die with him" (John 11:16) and whose questioning elicits Our Lord's response: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). Famously he is Doubting Thomas but who eventually addresses the Risen Jesus as "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Tradition has him taking the Faith to Kerala in India in the year 52 and being martyred near Chennai in the year 72. He is the patron saint of India, Sri Lanka, architects and builders.

4th July - Memoria of St Elizabeth of Portugal - St Elizabeth was born in 1271, a Spanish princess, who was given in marriage to King Denis of Portugal. From her earliest days she had established a strong daily timetable of prayer. She used her position to found institutions to help the poor and needy. King Denis was well-known to be unfaithful, and she suffered much, but he later repented and she helped him die a good death. After he died she took on the habit of the Third Order of St Francis, continuing her life of prayer and charitable work. The Portuguese call her "The Peacemaker" for her strenuous efforts to reconcile warring factions. She once rode a mule onto the battlefield to stop a civil war between her son and husband. She died in 1336 and is the patron of peacemakers, brides, widows, charity workers and victims of adultery.

PETERS PENCE

Today is the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul. As is customary, we will take up a second collection for Peter's Pence, the proceeds of which will be sent to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV to assist him in his task as successor of St Peter in running the Holy See and to help him send aid to the suffering Church throughout the world. Please be as generous as you always are to this collection which shows our solidarity with, and respect for, the Holy Father as the Bishop of Rome.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,050.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£170.00
Digital Giving:	£188.00
Stall:	£40.00
	£1,448.00

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**



STAINED GLASS

The Diocesan Fabric & Finance Committee approved the stained glass window project. This project will cost in the region of £50,000. If you are in a position to make a contribution to the cost of this work it would be very greatly appreciated indeed. These beautiful windows have been in place from the opening of the church, they are a rich part of our history and heritage. Please be as generous as you always are in supporting your parish.

DAY FOR LIFE

Many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the collection last weekend for the invaluable work of the pro-life movement in defending human life from the moment of conception to natural death. £460.00 has now been forwarded from our parish. Many thanks.

PARISH SUMMER SCHEDULE

From Monday 29th June we will follow a parish summer schedule. No adoration and confessions on weekdays and no Wednesday 7.00pm Mass. There will be no 5.00pm Sunday Mass in July.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WHITHORN

A two day trip has been organised for 29th/30th August to join the National St Ninian's Pilgrimage to Whithorn. We will be accompanied by Bishop Toal and will be staying overnight at the Premier Inn in Dumfries. The cost of the trip is £159pp for a twin/double room and £189pp for a single room. The price includes coach travel from Motherwell, dinner, bed and breakfast, and fish and chips on the return journey. For more information, contact Jim McKelvie on 07957847290 or email pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk

CLERGY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

We offer our prayers and best wishes to the priests of our diocese who celebrate significant anniversaries of their ordination this summer. We thank God for their ministry in our diocese. Please remember them in your prayers as the :

Fr Kenneth O'Brien - celebrated his Silver Jubilee on Monday 22nd June at St Barbara's Muirhead

Fr Tom Magill - celebrated his Golden Jubilee on Friday 26th June at St Athanasius' Carluke.

Fr Gerard Chromy - will celebrate his Golden Jubilee at a special Mass in St Joseph's Blantyre on Thursday 2nd July at 7.00pm.

Fr Stuart Parkes - will celebrate his Silver Jubilee in Sacred Heart, Bellshill on Monday 6th July at 7.00pm.

PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm

Card Payments preferable



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Rose M. Taylor, Raymond Hart, Margaret Mitchell, Meg Finlayson, Cathy Caven, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - John Holton, Jacqui Wyllie, Alexis Roseman, Greta Plankensteiner (Austria), Betty Kennedy, Jackie Begley

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Edward & Jean Scott

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

The QR code can also be used to donate to the parish through your phone. Just open your camera app, hold the camera to the QR code and follow the instructions. It's simple and easy to use. Many thanks to all parishioners for your continued generosity to the parish.



PRAYING FOR THE SICK

The list of those who are sick and needing prayers in our bulletin is growing. Some names have been on the list for a long time and may now have recovered or even possibly are no longer with us. In order to keep the list up-to-date please resubmit the names of those you wish prayed for by today. Please note that it is essential for the sick person to have given their express permission before their name can be added to the sick list.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

We wish the boys and girls, teaching and support staff, parents and carers of our schools a very happy and restful summer holidays. Fr Wyllie would like to thank both head teachers, Mrs Campbell and Mrs McLaughlin, and all the staff in our schools for the work they do in forming our young people in the Faith. Why not try to come along to weekday Mass over the summer months and begin your day with listening to the Word of God and receiving the Lord sacramentally in Holy Communion? It is the perfect way to begin our day.

MANY THANKS

As we enter the quieter period of the summer holidays, Fr Wyllie would like to take this opportunity to thank the altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians, cantors, cleaners, stall workers, SSVP, Lunch Club volunteers, sacristans, those who open and lock the churches, the hall volunteers, the gardeners and those who clean the sacred vessels and linens and anyone who helps in any way. May God reward you all for your work and dedication.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past year there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of people seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith in our country and throughout the world. If you, or someone you know, are thinking of becoming a Catholic or would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak with Fr Wyllie to organise an initial and informal chat. We hope to run the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course from late September with a view to those taking part in the course being received into full communion at Easter 2027.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th August	Solemnity of the Assumption	Parish Masses	All Masses
22nd August	Parish BBQ	The Parish Hall	6.30pm - Late
11th September	Parish International Night	The Parish Hall	Mass at 6.30pm
13th September	Parish Forty Hours Adoration	St Mary's	10.00am Mass
30th October	Parish Halloween Party	The Parish Hall	7.00pm - Late
28th November	Parish St Andrew's Night	The Parish Hall	7.00pm - Late
31st December	Parish Hogmanay Party	The Parish Hall	8.00pm - 2.00am