

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM
14TH AUGUST 2022

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrate today, commemorates the belief that when Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, died, her body was "assumed" into heaven to be reunited with her soul, instead of going through the natural process of physical decay upon death.

Although the holiday goes by many different names - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, and the Feast of the Assumption to name a few - it has been celebrated since the fourth century by the Church. The Assumption is celebrated by the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Community and some branches of the Anglican Communion.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a public holiday in countries such as Austria, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, France, parts of Germany, Guatemala, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland. It is also celebrated in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and others, despite not being considered a public holiday. It is celebrated by colourful processions, performances, pageants, and fireworks, but each region puts its own spin on celebrations.

In Larkhall and Blackwood this year, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption in the following ways:

PARISH BBQ

After the Vigil Mass this weekend, we will hold our Parish BBQ in the carpark of St Mary's. There has been a wonderful response to the invitation to join us, with over 130 people due to take part. There will be burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and other food available as well as desserts. Parishioners are invited to bring their own bottles. There will be a raffle and a donations box for parishioners to help raise funds for the parish.

SOLEMN SUNG VESPERS

At 6.30pm on Sunday 14th August there will be a sung Solemn Vespers led by the Schola Benedicti, a chamber choir which sings in various cathedrals, abbeys and parish churches throughout Scotland and England. This will take place in St Mary's and Fr Wyllie encourages and invites all parishioners to attend. It promises to be a lovely service of prayer concluding with Benediction.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 14th August

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Sung Solemn Vespers concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 15th August

12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
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Tuesday 16th August

9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
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Wednesday 17th August

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 Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (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 Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 18th August

9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.20am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 19th August

10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
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Saturday 20th August

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

COMMENCEMENT OF WORK IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

On 4th August, a meeting took place to discuss the plans for the work to be carried out on the flooring in Our Lady & St John's attended by Fr Wyllie, Jim McGoldrick & Robert Hamill.

The work on the parquet flooring will begin on Monday 29th August and will take around 2-3 weeks to complete, then the work will begin on the tiling of the floor from 19th - 23rd September.

As a result of this work we will have to move the Parish Forty Hours Adoration from Our Lady & St John's to St Mary's this year. Fr Wyllie apologises to parishioners for this change of plan, but it was necessary to have the work completed for the Mass with the bishop on 13th October.

The 'Sponsor a Tile' fundraiser totalled £1,685.00. Many thanks to all those parishioners who donated to this venture. A plaque will be ordered and placed at the back of the church with the names of the people the tiles are dedicated to when the new flooring has been laid.

From Monday 29th August until Friday 23rd September all parish Masses will be celebrated in the Parish Hall with Requiem Masses taking place in St Mary's.

PARISH MASS ATTENDANCE

On the first weekend of each month a Mass attendance census takes place to gauge where we are as a parish with parishioners attending Sunday Masses. Fr Wyllie has been quite concerned with the lack of parishioners at all our Sunday Masses in the parish, particularly the absence of young people and young families over the summer months, at some Masses there are no young children at all. This does not bode well for the future, especially at a time when the number of priests is falling, the numbers attending Mass throughout the diocese has plummeted, the cost of running buildings is skyrocketing and the means of keeping them open is spiralling. It is an unfortunate reality that we will not be able to sustain what we have at the moment over the next ten years (buildings, Mass provision etc.). Please come to Mass each week in your own parish, keep coming here if you're from another parish, encourage your relatives and friends to return to Mass, bring your children and/or grandchildren to Mass each week. Below you will see the Mass attendance in our parish over the past few months from a Catholic population of 2,300:

April - **320** May - **295** June - **312** July - **245** August - **288**

CHORAL VESPERS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

This evening (Sunday), there will be Choral Vespers (Sung Evening Prayer) in St Mary's beginning at 6.30pm concluding with Solemn Benediction. The Schola Benedicti, who will lead this Liturgy, is a chamber choir which operates in Scotland and England, singing in various abbeys, cathedrals and parish churches. They have as their aim to revive the Church's great musical tradition, especially in the young. Fr Wyllie invites and encourages all parishioners to support this event. Please make a very special effort to come along and celebrate the Assumption, enjoying the great talent of the choristers and appreciating the Church's great musical tradition.



SECOND COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES FOR CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites the whole Diocese to gather for the annual Vocations Mass which will take place on Tuesday 30th August at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral. Please make a special effort to attend this Mass to intercede with God to send us good and holy priests.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

This year the National Pilgrimage will take place in Carfin Grotto on Sunday 25th September, marking the centenary of the Grotto and the visit of the relics of St Bernadette. List at the back of the church for those who wish to attend this special Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£926.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£390.00
Votive Candles:	£154.00
TOTAL:	£1,460.00
'Sponsor a Tile' Donations to date:	£1,685.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

CLERGY CHANGES

Fr Ricklan has been appointed the new chaplain to University Hospital Wishaw to be assisted by **Fr James Flynn**, who will also assist him in St Bernadette's, Motherwell.

Fr Rafal Sobieszuk, Administrator of St Bride's, East Kilbride will take a short sabbatical.

Fr Francis McGachey, current Administrator of St Patrick's, Strathaven has been appointed as Parish Priest of St Bride's, East Kilbride.

Fr Bonaventure of the Holy Ghost Fathers has been appointed chaplain to St Aidan's High.

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC

The latest edition of the Scottish Catholic is available at the back of the church this weekend, priced at £2.00. The lead story this month is '*Scotland's Addiction to Death - Church demands action over record rates of deadly drug overdoses*'.

PROPOSED MASS TIME CHANGE

Fr Wyllie would like to hear your thoughts on the possibility of changing the Saturday Vigil Mass in St Mary's from 5.30pm to 5.00pm, taking effect from the beginning of October. A 5.00pm Mass would afford parishioners the opportunity to come to Mass half an hour earlier than we do at present. Please let Fr Wyllie know your thoughts so that a decision can be made at the next Parish Pastoral Planning Team meeting later this month. All opinions and thoughts will be welcomed.

ST MARY'S CEMETERY, LANARK

It is expected that the price of a burial plot will rise to over £3,000.00 from next year. Fr McShane from St Mary's, Lanark is advertising burial plots in the cemetery in Lanark for £1,233.69. Contact him on 01555 662234 or email stmarycemetary@rcdom.org.uk

PARISH INTERNATIONAL MASS & EVENING

Our Parish International Night will take place in the Parish Hall on Friday 9th September. Unfortunately due to the work taking place in the church we will be unable to celebrate the Mass beforehand. We are relying on parishioners to help organise this event so if you are able to help to cook or provide food or entertainment from the country of your birth then please come along to the **planning meeting which will take place on Wednesday 17th August after 7.00pm Mass for all those willing to get involved.** This would be a great opportunity to bring the parish together and for us to appreciate the various cultures we have in our parish.

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 - Jezy Bulas (Poland), Marion Kane, Mary Prior, Jean Dorey-Pipon (nee Devine, formerly Larkhall), Frank McLaughlin, Baby Emelia Annabelle Hunter

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Madge & Frank Flannigan, James Sweeney, Catherine Sweeney, Jimmy Weir, Harriet Keane, Jean Tierney

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

CELEBRATION OF THE PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

REVISED SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

10.00am Solemn Mass to begin the Forty Hours
10.50am Blessed Sacrament Procession
around the grounds of St Mary's
11.00am Adoration until 6.30pm
3.00pm Confessions until 4.00pm
6.30pm Sung Vespers with Solemn Benediction

MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Adoration until 12noon
11.00am Confessions until 11.45am
12noon Holy Mass with anointing of the
Sick with tea afterwards in Hall
1.00pm Adoration until 8.00pm
1.30pm Visits by the school children
2.30pm Confessions until 3.15pm
3.00pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm
6.00pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
7.00pm Holy Hour for Families with Solemn
Benediction

TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Confessions until 9.30am
8.50am Adoration until 7.00pm
12noon Angelus & Recitation of the Holy Rosary
1.40pm Visits by the school children
5.30pm Confessions until 6.15pm
6.30pm Benediction & Closing Mass

The Forty Hours this year will be led by Fr Gavin Landers, a priest of the Diocese of Salford (Manchester) and a contemporary of Fr Wyllie at seminary. He is currently the chaplain to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, the Christie Hospital and Trafford General Hospital. Please support Fr Gavin and our parish by coming along to all that you can over the period of the Forty Hours.

