

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
2ND JANUARY 2022**

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

WHAT CAN THE THREE WISE MEN TEACH US?

Today, the Church throughout the world celebrates the Epiphany, a Greek word meaning the "manifestation." On this feast day, we commemorate the perseverance and the tenacity of the Magi, who journeyed for almost two years in search of the New-born King. How did these Magi of the East know that Jesus was a New-born King? How did a star – a reflection of astrology – guide these Wise Men to the true and living God? The answer to these questions is inspiring. In order to fully understand them, however, we need to do a quick theological summary.



Salvation history shows us that God desires all of his children to know him, to be aware of his love, and to receive his gracious invitation to share fellowship with him. Jesus Christ, his divine Son, was sent among us to be the definitive way in which such an offering could be made. God is always searching for us long before we begin to even think of searching for him. And so, God seeks us out. He gives us the means, or the semblance of the means, to find him, to truly know him, and to encounter him. This spiritual truth is the key to our unlocking the answer to the questions of the star, astrology, and the Magi of the East.

Today, we honour the Wise Men who followed a star. It was the only glimpse they possessed of the true God. It was a divine gift and a help to them. God was assuming a posture they knew and he spoke to them through it. While the prophecies given to the Israelites were the best of divine disclosures, they were not the only disclosure by God of himself. God gave the Magi a star, and they recognised what had been given, and they followed it faithfully.

It is significant that when the Magi arrived in Bethlehem, they did homage to the Christ Child. They offered him their highest and most valuable gifts. They adored him, as he sat with his mother. After their visit to the Christ Child, the Magi returned home. They did not use a star, nor expect one. As recounted in the sacred narrative, they did not return to Herod, as he had commanded them, but instead "departed for their country by another way."

Such a description is not merely an observation of geography or travel plans. It points to something much deeper. It unveils something that happened within the souls of the Magi. The homage with Emmanuel – God-with-Us – changed the hearts and spiritual orientation of the Magi of the East. The encounter with the God-made-Man rocked the world of the Wise Men. It ushered them to true worship and turned their lives from upside-down to right-side-up. They went home by "another way."

As God blessed the Magi with seeds of his revelation, given through a star, so he endows such disclosures to all his children. In our lives, God will break into any darkness, brokenness, confusion, or vice, so as to save us and offer us his invitation to divine fellowship. When we are closed off, hard-hearted, or distracted, then God – the Dawn from on High – will break upon us and give us indications of his presence, love, and mercy.

As the Magi recognised and pursued their star, will we see the "star" that God sends to us? Will we be as attentive as the Wise Men in following whatever star he sends us?

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 2nd January

10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (Our Lady & St John's)
NO EVENING MASS



Monday 3rd January

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (St Mary's)

Tuesday 4th January

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday after the Epiphany (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 5th January

9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday after the Epiphany (St Mary's)

Thursday 6th January

9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday after the Epiphany (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 7th January

12noon Holy Mass for Friday after the Epiphany (St Mary's)

Saturday 8th January

10.00am Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (St Mary's)

Sunday 9th January

10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

3rd January - Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Jesus - On the day of his Circumcision the Lord received the name Jesus, meaning 'God saves'. Devotion to the Holy Name was popularised in the fifteenth century by St Bernardine of Siena and St John Capistrano, who both carried a monogram of Jesus (IHS) with them on their preaching tours. We honour the Holy Name not only because it is the name of our Saviour but because it is, in itself, a powerful prayer.

IHS MEANING

On many church furnishings and vestments you will notice the monogram IHS, many believe it stands for 'I Have Suffered', but that is not true. The simple answer: No, IHS is not an acronym for "I have suffered." Rather, IHS is a Christogram - a combination of letters that represent the holy name "Jesus." Early scribes would abbreviate the sacred names of Jesus by using the first two letters of the name, or the first and last letters, with a line over the letters. I (iota) and H (eta) are the first two Greek letters for "Jesus." Sometime in the second century, the third letter, S (sigma), was added, thereby rendering IHS.



St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) and his student St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456) used the Christogram IHS to promote devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. In their preaching missions throughout Italy, they carried wooden placards with the IHS surrounded by rays. St. Bernardine and St. John blessed the faithful with this monogram, invoking the name of Jesus, and many miracles were reported. They also encouraged people to have the monogram placed over the city gates and the doorways of their homes, instead of a family crest, to show their devotion and allegiance to the Lord. Countering the objections of some who considered this veneration superstitious, Pope Martin V in 1427 approved the proper veneration to the Holy Name and asked that the cross be included in the monogram IHS. Largely due to St. Bernadine's preaching, the name "Jesus" was added to the Hail Mary: "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."

During this time also, because of the decline of Greek and predominance of Latin, IHS was viewed as an acronym for the Latin Iesus Hominum Salvator, meaning "Jesus Saviour of Mankind."

WESTERN CATHOLIC CALENDARS

This years Western Catholic Calendars are available in both our stalls priced at £3.20. They contain all the most up-to-date information for the three dioceses and each parish in the west of Scotland (Archdiocese of Glasgow, Diocese of Motherwell and Diocese of Paisley), statistics, Mass times, list of all the clergy and Catholic associations which function in the Catholic Church in the west of Scotland as well as the obituaries for the clergy who have died over the past year.

CABARET NIGHT & TRIBUTE ACT



Tickets are now on sale for the Cabaret Night & Tribute Act to take place in the Parish Hall on Friday 28th January from 7.00pm till late. Tickets are priced at £7.00 and can be obtained after the Vigil Mass in St Mary's over the next week and both Masses on a Sunday in Our Lady & St John's. All proceeds are for parish funds so please support this event. Please see poster in the porch for more details.

PARISH FINANCES

Christmas Collection:	£2,770.00
Collection & Donations for 26.12.21:	£495.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£310.00
Stall:	£80.00
TOTAL:	£3,655.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

At the crib in both churches you will find a box for donations for the St Margaret's Adoption Society. It is customary for parishes in the west of Scotland to raise money for the work carried out by St Margaret's Adoption Society in helping boys and girls to find loving homes. They have to close a major funding gap which has been brought about by the pandemic and are seeking our support.

Please be as generous as you always are to the crib collection for the work carried out on our behalf by St Margaret's. The boxes will be available until after Masses this weekend.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks again, to all those who handed in gifts and cards to the chapel house over Christmas. I am very grateful to you all for the great generosity and kindness you have shown to both myself and Baloo. We are running out of space in the house for the many gifts which have been handed in. I am very humbled and very grateful. As a way of saying thank you to you all, I will offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for all of you and your intentions early in the new year. May God reward and bless you all for your kindness and support.

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY ONE ENROLMENT

Parents/carers of children who are 5 years of age between 1st March 2022 and the end of February 2023 are required to register their child for starting school. Parents should register their child at their catchment school.

How do I enrol?

Week beginning 17th January 2022 - enrol your child using South Lanarkshire Council's online enrolment form.

You must identify the catchment school for your permanent home address by using the school catchment checker.

The link to the online form will be given when you select your catchment school.

The online registration form will ask you to provide each child's full birth certificate and two pieces of recent official documentation both containing your permanent home address. Proof of where the child lives may be required.

Accepted official documentation: Utility bill; council tax statement; housing rent card; child benefit documentation.

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

Covid permitting, we will hold the Church Workers Social in the Parish Hall on Friday 18th February from 7.00pm till late, to thank all those who work in our churches, the grounds and in the parish hall including those who acted as stewards. The evening will consist of a drinks reception and bar, three course meal with tea & coffee followed by entertainment. At the beginning of February a list will be available at the back of each church for you to place your name on for catering purposes. A bus will go from Larkhall to Blackwood and back again.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - John Rosato (Australia), Pat Tierney, James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Therese Shiels

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael Canavan, Rosina Canavan, Sam McTaggart, Charles Morrison

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

At our Masses over the Christmas Season we pray for the following:

John Canning, Chris Canning, Grace Canning, William Canning, Brian Canning, Deceased members of the Gonnella & Brady Families, John & Jane McMurray, Philip & Ida Holton, Ken & Amelia Gough, Jim & Mary Dow, John McManus, John & Jane McMurray, Deceased members of the Reilly & Williams Families, Alice, Cornelius, Jimmy & Michael Weir, Martin Gibney, John Tamburrini, Christina McCluskey, Christina Weller, Margaret Hotchkiss, James Hotchkiss, Robert Kennedy Snr, Robert Kennedy Jnr, David Yardley Kennedy, Louis Baron Weller, John & Betty Connachan, Joseph & Margaret Cassidy, Maureen Crawley, John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, George & Cathie Gibney, Catherine Ann Bews, Margaret Love, Deceased members of the Creechan Family, Deceased members of the Kennedy Family, David O'Neill, Marie McLaughlin, Sharon Moncur, Bill & Betty Hutchens, Ian Hutchens, Mr & Mrs Archibald Carr, Mr & Mrs John Hutchens, Deceased members of the Hutchens, Carr, Burns, Munro, Green, Cook & Kent Families, John & Catherine Deerin, Gerard Wyllie, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, David James, George Wyllie, Annie Mulhearn, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Frank Lyons, Ellen Mullen, Jim McShane, Paul McKenna, Very Reverend Giles Canon Goward, James Reynolds, Jim Somerville, Alan Rennie, Charlie McNally (Jnr), Charlie McNally (Snr), Johnnie McNally, Annie McNally, Very Reverend Henry Canon McGinn, Danny Cunningham, Margaret & James Girvan, Sadie Girvan, Margaret & Les Bennet, Rita & James Lyons, Susan Girvan, Grace Girvan, Thomas Wilson, Ian Quinn, Isabella Freeland, Robert Maguire, Frank McCorry, Charles & Monica McCorry, Deceased members of the McCorry Family, James & Catherine McLaren, Deceased members of the McLaren Family, Deceased members of the Taggart, Clark & Wedlock Families, Betty, Eddie, Wullie & Margaret McCabe, Deceased members of the Sweeney & McCabe Family, Margaret Curley Foix, Kathleen McGeogh, Bunty Kane, Milly Lynch, Margaret McGeogh, Frank Campbell, Pat O'Donnell, Jim Higgins, Mary Dawson, Alice Watters, Bert & Agnes Scott, Linda Taylor Park, Catherine Taylor, Andrew Taylor, Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas Fehily, Reverend Father Patrick J. Moss, Deceased members of the Shanks & Moodie Families, Deceased members of the Gowans, Williamson, Connachan & Connor Families, Michael Farrell, Helen Kennedy, John Kennedy, Peter Farrell, Bernadette Kennedy, Deceased members of the Campbell & Brennan Families, Deceased members of the Stewart, McGonagle & McLaughlin Families, Deceased members of the Maguire, Morrison & McStay Families, Eileen & Billy Douglas, Georgina & Philip Maguire, John & Mary Corr, John & Rose Reid, Jennifer Cochran, William Tait, Deceased members of the Kelly & Corr Family



CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER

Both churches will be open for private prayer at the following times this week:

St Mary's

Saturday 9.00am until after Evening Mass

Sunday 9.00am until 4.00pm

Monday - Friday 8.30am until 4.00pm

Our Lady & St John's

Sunday 11.00am until after Evening Mass

Monday - Friday 8.30am until 4.00pm

STANDING ORDERS

There are a few parishioners who still donate their Offertory Collection to the Our Lady & St John's account. If you haven't managed to change the mandate with your bank to the new parish bank account then please do so as soon as possible. It's important that we merge the accounts very soon. The account details are:

Account Name: **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Sort Code: **800877** Account No.: **00499758**