

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - catholicparishourladyoffatima

Twitter - OLOFParish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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

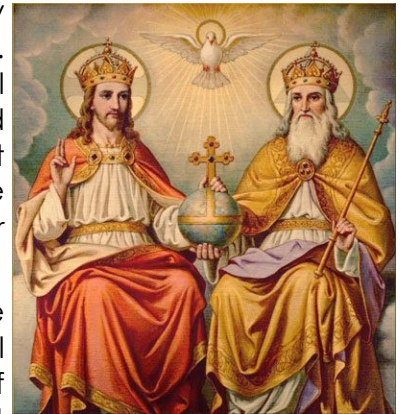


St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 31ST MAY 2026

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

One of the most fiercely debated dogmas of our faith in the early centuries of the Church was on the nature of the Most Holy Trinity. Today's solemnity did not enter the General Roman Calendar until the fourteenth century, partly because we are called to honour and worship the Most Holy Trinity every day and in every liturgy. But designating one Sunday on which we ponder the inner life of the Most Holy Trinity is an opportunity to renew and deepen our honour and worship.



The Trinity is first and foremost a mystery. As The Divine Mystery above all mysteries, we must begin by humbly acknowledging that we will never, not even in Heaven, have a complete understanding of God's essence, His inner reality. Only God knows Himself fully. Not even the Blessed Virgin Mary or the highest choirs of angels see Him and know Him as He sees and knows Himself. Nonetheless, every creature, whether angel or human, is called to probe the mysteries of God to the fullest extent possible. In that probing, contemplating, and understanding, we discover the purpose of our lives and experience the fullness of beatitude to which we are called. God and God alone satisfies the hungry, weary, and seeking soul.

This might come as a surprise, but God is perfectly simple. Saint Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church's greatest teachers, explains that angels, the physical world, and humans are made up of different material and immaterial parts that can change over time, making us a complex reality capable of internal and external disunity. God, however, is incapable of change, since He is Perfection. He is exactly Who He is, always has been, and will always be. This results in a divine simplicity and harmonious unity that is infinitely beyond His creation. God doesn't need anything to exist because it is His very nature to exist as the unchanging, transcendent God.

Within this divine simplicity and perfect unity we can distinguish various attributes of God, noting that each attribute is perfectly united with the others in the most simple and complete way. God alone is all-powerful and has supreme authority over all creation. He alone perceives all potential within creation and within Himself. He is perfectly wise, just, and merciful. He is both completely beyond creation (transcendent) and intimately involved with every aspect of creation (immanent). God is the perfection of holiness and morality. He is the only standard of goodness and truth. He is present everywhere at all times - unchanging and eternal. God is Love.

This philosophically rich language attempts to describe God in His oneness - He is One God, not three Gods. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each share perfectly in the one divine nature, and all share the same divine attributes.

Most Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - I worship You with profound love and adoration. I bow before Your greatness and perfect holiness. You are the One God in Three Persons. I give to You my life, all that I am, and all that I will be. Please take me to Yourself and do with me what You choose. I am Yours, my God. Do with me what You will so that You will be glorified in my life. Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 31st May (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (OLSJ)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (OLSJ)

Monday 1st 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 the Memoria of St Justin (St Mary's)

12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 2nd June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 5.00pm)

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

4.00pm Nuptial Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 3rd June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

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 Memoria of St Charles Lwanga & Companions (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 the Memoria of St Charles Lwanga & Companions (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 4th June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

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 Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Friday 5th June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

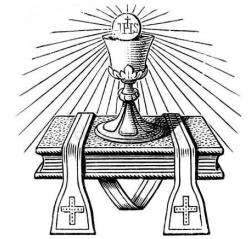
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Boniface (St Mary's)

Saturday 6th June (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

1st June - Memoria of St Justin - St Justin was born in Palestine in 103, probably of Roman stock. From his youth he was passionate about philosophy, and this led him to become a Christian. He went to Rome and set up his own philosophy school which became a prominent place of engagement with pagan thinkers. When the Emperor Marcus Aurelius started a persecution against Christians, Justin was an obvious target. He was martyred with some of his students in 165.

3rd June - Memoria of St Charles Lwanga & Companions - St Charles Lwanga was born in 1860 and became a Catholic while serving as major-duomo to local king Mwanga in Uganda who had an immoral interest in his young attendants. Several had become Catholics and resisted his advances, and St Charles protected them. Infuriated, the king had St Charles and a large group marched out, bound in flammable material, to Namugongo, where they were burnt to death in 1886. The youngest was St Kizito, aged twelve. Some others were martyred between 1885 & 1887.

5th June - Memoria of St Boniface - St Boniface was born in 675 and became a monk at Exeter, and in 719 went as a missionary to present-day Germany. With the pope's support, he re-organised the Church there after a prolonged period of civil unrest and is greatly venerated still today as "The Apostle of the Germans". His work is considered to have had a consolidating and pacifying effect on the Europe of his day. On a mission to Friesland, he and his 52 fellow-missionaries were set upon by robbers who put them to death in 754, after Boniface urged no resistance but to "overcome evil with good".

PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Team will take place on Tuesday 9th June at 2.30pm in the Parish House. Members of this team are: Fr Wyllie, Gerry McCaughey, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick & Margaret Weir. Any points you'd like raised, please speak with one of them.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£885.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£197.00
Digital Giving:	£94.50
Stall:	£70.00
	£955.00

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**

BOOK
ONLINE



HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTION

On Wednesday 20th May the parish received a Health & Safety Inspection. Fr Wyllie is delighted to say that it went very well indeed. The only next steps we have from the inspection are:

St Mary's: An inter-connected smoke alarm to be fitted in the sitting room in the presbytery, small first aid kit to replace the large one in the sacristy, base for fire extinguisher in the confessional, fire action notice at front door. **The Parish Hall:** Corrosive & Hazardous cleaning products to be kept on the ground rather than on shelving, cooker-hood to be replaced, annual check of the gas cooker to take place at same time as servicing of the boilers, clear cupboard in the main hall, and gas cylinders to be kept upright and safely secured in cellar. Fr Wyllie was also asked to write a risk assessment report for all those who perform volunteer roles in the parish (gardeners, cleaners, bar staff etc.) this has now been produced and will need to be approved by the diocese before publication.

STAINED GLASS

We have now received the proposed costs of the necessary work to be carried out to repair the stained glass in Our Lady & St John's. The rose window on the sanctuary, the large west window at the back of the church, and the stained glass of Our Lady, St John, St Peter and St Joseph, the Visitation and other windows. The total cost is £40,000.00. We are looking at grant funding to help with the cost of this work and will set about applying for these grants over the next week or so.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE PAID YOUR LADIES DAY TICKETS BY THE END OF THIS WEEKEND.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm

Card Payments preferable



PARISH LADIES DAY

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

12noon - 6.00pm

Includes the Abba tribute duo, prosecco Tea & Bar.

TICKETS - £20.00

ALL TICKET MONEY TO BE PAID BY THIS WEEKEND



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

Mass at 12.30pm

Followed by lunch in the Parish Hall



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Raymond Hart, Margaret Mitchell, Meg Finlayson, Cathy Caven, Sheila Coffield, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Louise Gonnella, 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 Smith (Shieldmuir), Jean Paterson

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Patricia Weir, Lara Markson, Susan Girvan

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

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

From 30th April we have had the option of paying into the parish through our new digital giving machines at the back of both churches. In that time the machines have allowed parishioners to donate £761.50 to the offertory collection, building fund, second collection, votive candles and stall. 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. Many thanks to everyone for your continued generosity to the parish.

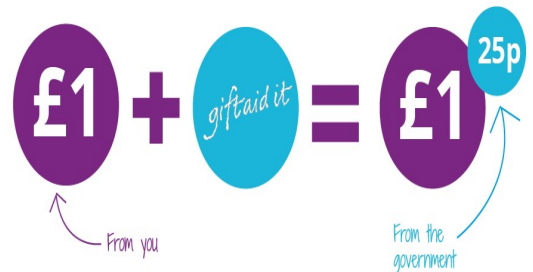


REFERENCES FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS

At this time of year many vacancies, full-time positions and promoted posts within our Catholic schools are filled. If you are a Catholic teacher who lives and practices their faith in this parish and require a reference then Fr Wyllie is more than happy to provide you with a reference, but please do not seek a reference if you are not regularly attending Mass here in the parish.

GIFTAID

Gift Aid is one of the simplest ways for Catholic churches in the UK to increase voluntary income. When an eligible donor who pays UK tax gives to a parish and completes a valid Gift Aid declaration, the church can **reclaim an extra 25p from HMRC for every £1.00 donated**. This means donations go further **at no additional cost to the giver**, helping to support worship, ministry, outreach and the upkeep of parish buildings.



To claim Gift Aid, the parish or relevant Catholic charity must be recognised by HMRC for tax purposes, and the donor must be an individual who has paid enough UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in that tax year to cover the amount reclaimed. In most cases, the donor also needs to provide a Gift Aid declaration (available on the table at the back of the church), as long as the required details are recorded. Accurate record-keeping is essential, because HMRC may ask to see declarations and donation records.

Gift Aid can also help with certain small cash or contactless donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, even where no declaration has been completed, provided the relevant rules are met. This can be especially useful for plate collections, visitor donations and similar small gifts. Used well, Gift Aid is a practical stewardship tool that allows Catholic churches to make the most of the generosity of their congregations and supporters.

Last year we received an amazing £14,244.01 from the Giftaid scheme, and we thank all those parishioners who have signed up for this, but there are parishioners who pay UK Tax on their wages, pensions or savings who could be signed up and are not. It's so easy and costs nothing.

All you have to do is sign a Giftaid Declaration form, with your name, address and National Insurance number, and if you wish to donate to the parish through standing order then fill out the second part of the sheet with the address of your bank, your bank details and the amount you wish to contribute each month and hand the form back to the parish.