

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 - OLOFParish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27TH JULY 2025**

FROM THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

Following the bombing of the only Catholic Church in Gaza, Christian schools, hospitals and towns last week, Cardinal Pizzaballa said:

Patriarch Theophilos III and myself, have returned from Gaza with broken hearts. But also encouraged by the testimony of many people we met. We entered a place of devastation, but also of wonderful humanity. We walked through the dust of ruins, past collapsed buildings and tents everywhere: in courtyards, alleyways, on the streets and on the beach — tents that have become homes for those who have lost everything. We stood among families who have lost count of the days of exile because they see no horizon for a return. Children talked and played without batting an eyelid — they were already used to the noise of the bombing.



And yet, in the midst of all this, we encountered something deeper than the destruction: the dignity of the human spirit that refuses to be extinguished. We met mothers preparing food for others, nurses treating wounds with gentleness, and people of all faiths still praying to the God who sees and never forgets. Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there — crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering.

We have not come as politicians or diplomats, but as pastors. The Church, the entire Christian community, will never abandon them. It is important to emphasize and repeat that our mission is not for a specific group, but for all. Our hospitals, shelters, schools, parishes — St. Porphyrius, the Holy Family, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, Caritas — are places of encounter and sharing for all: Christians, Muslims, believers, doubters, refugees, children.

Humanitarian aid is not only necessary — it is a matter of life and death. Refusing it is not a delay, but a sentence. Every hour without food, water, medicine and shelter causes deep harm.

We have seen it: Men holding out in the sun for hours in the hope of a simple meal. This is a humiliation that is hard to bear when you see it with your own eyes. It is morally unacceptable and unjustifiable...

It is time to end this nonsense, end the war and put the common good of people as the top priority. We pray — and call — for the release of all those deprived of freedom, for the return of the missing, the hostages and for the healing of long-suffering families on all sides.

When this war is over, we will have a long journey ahead of us to begin the process of healing and reconciliation between the Palestinian People and the Israeli People, from the too many wounds this war has caused in the lives of too many: a genuine, painful and courageous reconciliation. Not forgetting, but forgiving. Not erasing wounds, but transforming them into wisdom. Only such a path can make peace possible — not only politically, but also humanly.

As shepherds of the Church in the Holy Land, we renew our commitment to a just peace, to unconditional dignity and to a love that transcends all borders.

Let us not turn peace into a slogan, while war remains the daily bread of the poor.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 27th July	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 28th July	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Tuesday 29th July	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Martha, St Mary & St Lazarus (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 30th July	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Thursday 31st July	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Ignatius of Loyola (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 1st August	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Alphonsus Ligouri (St Mary's)
Saturday 2nd August	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th July - Memoria of St Martha, St Mary & St Lazarus - Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus were three siblings who lived in Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, and were friends of Jesus. On one visit, Jesus had Mary sitting at his feet and listening to him when Martha complained that she was not helping her to prepare the meal. Jesus chided Martha, telling her that her sister 'had chosen the better part'. Later, we hear the graphic account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead to the delight of the two sisters. In 2021 Pope Francis decreed that henceforth the three siblings should share this feast day on this day rather than it just commemorating St Martha.

31st July - Memoria of St Ignatius of Loyola - St Ignatius was born in 1491 in the Basque country of northern Spain. Ignatius became a soldier and was seriously injured in battle at Pamplona in 1521. It was during his long recuperation that he received the grace of spiritual conversion. He read about the lives of Christ and the saints and realised their worth, compared to the lives of so many people like himself. Such 'discernment of spirits' became an essential element in his Spiritual Exercises, composed between 1522-1524. Later, at the University of Paris, he and five fellow students took religious vows (the first steps in founding the Society of Jesus); in 1539 a special vow was added of total obedience to the Pope. Ignatius in Rome led the new order. It became a key element in the Counter Reformation and still remains prominent in the education of the young, in foreign missions, in charitable work and in scholarship. He died in 1556.

1st August - Memoria of St Alphonsus Ligouri - St Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri was born near Naples in 1696 and was talented in the arts of music, painting and poetry, his first choice of career was law but, aged 27, he decided to be a priest. He worked among homeless youth in Naples and in nearby rural areas, became known as a preacher with a simple and direct style and as a confessor who, although opposing moral laxity, rejected rigorous attitudes, such as Jansenism. In 1732 he founded the Redemptorist Order and in 1762 he was made bishop of the see of St Agata de Goti. He had a special devotion to Mary, particularly under the title of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Help'. Due to ill-health and difficulties for his active work, he resigned from the diocese in 1775 and returned to private life in his order before dying in 1787.

MOBILE PHONES

Please ensure that mobiles and other electronic devices are silenced when you are in church.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,900.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£485.00
Stall:	£20.00
Total:	£2,405.00
Peter's Pence:	£670.00

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**

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**



COULD YOU HELP?

We are very blessed with two beautiful churches which have been cared for and kept clean over the years. We have been handed on a great legacy of faith and love for the Church and especially for our parish church. To keep them spik and span requires helpers. If you would be able to give an hour or two of your time once every few weeks to clean the church then please speak with Fr Wyllie, or Kitty Steele for St Mary's or Mary McDermott for Our Lady & St John's. Any help would be greatly appreciated. This job is open to men as well as women and would only require hoovering, dusting and mopping. Less work with many hands. Please consider giving up some of your time to keep our churches clean and beautiful.



THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past few weeks a good number of people have made contact about learning more about becoming a Catholic. This is wonderful news and will add to the twelve people received into the Church in our parish from after Covid. If you wish to begin the RCIA course in September or learn more about it, please make contact with Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks before the course begins.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

The annual Scottish National Pilgrimage will take place at Carfin Grotto on Sunday 7th September with Mass being celebrated by the Bishops of Scotland at 3.00pm. All parishioners are warmly invited. As that day is the beginning of our Parish Forty Hours a bus will not be leaving from our parish this year.

CONSIDERING A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

If any young man is considering the priesthood and would like to find out more about what it involved and to meet with others who are also considering a vocation then please make contact with Fr Wyllie (Diocesan Vocations Promotor) or Fr Charles O'Farrell (Diocesan Vocations Director) for an initial chat. The Discernment Evenings will begin in September at the Cathedral but first contact should be made with either Fr Wyllie or Fr O'Farrell.

PARISH STALL

Our parish stall stock a wide range of cards, candles and other religious items. Most cards are only £1.00 and are suitable for events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, new home, newborn baby, Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, First Confessions, thank you cards, sympathy cards. Please support to the parish stall by having a look if you need any cards in the future. Any religious items you may need such as rosaries, books etc can be ordered if need be, just let us know.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME ALONG TO WEEKDAY MASS.

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, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy

RIP - Annette Thomson, Tom Kelly, Padraic Giblin, Gavin Clark (Hamilton), Kimberly Rose O'Hara, Bernard Boyle, Dominick Giordano

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Fay & John Coyle, Katie & Tommy McMenamin, Mary Goodwin, Tony Goodwin, Patrick & Ann Grant, Jim & Helen Grant, Jack Hastie, Thomas McDonagh, Mary Boyle, John & Jane McMurray, Nan McIvor, Members of McIvor, Gallacher & McAuley Families, Catherine Deerin, Eleanor Morrison

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Our Parish Theology of Tap evenings have proved to be very popular and worthwhile in bringing parishioners together to learn more about aspects of our faith. From it began we've had talks on the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Morality, the Nullity Process, Catholic Social Teaching, Reflection on the Passion Gospel of St Luke and the Relationship between Church and State. It is hoped the first Theology on Tap after the summer holidays will be on Monday 15th September, although this could change. Please keep this date in your diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The social life of the parish continues over the following months with various events aimed to bring our parish together while supporting the parish. All parishioners are warmly invited to some or all of the events happening in our parish.

Friday 3rd October	Parish Race Night	Parish Hall	7.00pm
Saturday 1st November	Parish Family Halloween Party	Parish Hall	6.30pm
Friday 28th November	Parish Grown-up's Ceilidh	Parish Hall	7.00pm
Monday 8th December	St Mary's Patronal Feast Day	St Mary's	11.00am
Wednesday 31st December	Parish Hogmanay Party	Parish Hall	8.00pm



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 FORTY HOURS ADORATION

Our Lady & St John's

**SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER -
TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER**

From after 12noon Mass on Sunday until 7.00pm Mass on Tuesday

