

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**

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Rapoloch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11TH OCTOBER 2026

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Across many parts of the world, something quietly remarkable is happening. Men and women - and particularly many young adults - are approaching the Catholic Church and asking a simple but profound question: Could this be where God is calling me?

Pope Leo XIV has spoken with great joy about this growing desire for faith. Meeting young people and catechumens - those preparing for Baptism - the Holy Father pointed to the increasing number of men and women who desire to know the Lord and are asking for Baptism. For Pope Leo, and all of us, this is a sign of hope.

His message to those beginning this journey is beautifully simple: do not be afraid to give your life to Christ. Becoming Catholic does not mean that we suddenly have every answer. Nor does it mean that our lives must be perfect before we approach the Church. Christianity begins with an encounter - the discovery that Jesus Christ is not merely a figure from history, but the living Lord who knows us, loves us and calls each of us personally.

Pope Leo has said: "We are not born Christian; we become Christian when we are touched by the grace of God." That grace can begin working in surprising ways.

Perhaps you have started coming to Mass and are not Catholic. Perhaps you attended a funeral, wedding or baptism and something touched your heart. Perhaps you have begun praying after many years away from faith. Perhaps you have been watching Catholic videos online, listening to podcasts, reading about the faith or quietly wondering about God.

Or perhaps you cannot really explain why - you simply have the feeling that God is calling you towards something more. Do not ignore the invitation.

Speaking to catechumens, Pope Leo described the Christian journey as a personal encounter with the Lord within a community which welcomes us. Through baptism we become members of the great family of God, and the light of the risen Christ is entrusted to us - a light nourished by the Word of God and by our communion with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

And the Pope's message is not addressed only to those considering becoming Catholic. It is also a challenge to those of us who are already Catholic.

Pope Leo has reminded parish communities that welcoming new Catholics cannot finish at the baptismal font at the Easter Vigil. Those entering the Church need friendship, encouragement, prayer and a parish community in which their new faith can grow. Each of us has a part to play.

We were all brought to Christ through someone.

Maybe there is someone reading this who has been thinking about becoming Catholic. If that is you, you do not need to have everything worked out. You don't even need to be certain that you will eventually become Catholic. You simply need to take the first step. Speak with Fr Wyllie. The invitation is simply to come and see. That invitation remains open to every human heart. Do not be afraid of responding to God's invitation. The meetings will take place each Wednesday evening at 6.30pm in St Mary's Parish House, so far we have six candidates all under the age of 35.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 11th October (St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

1.30pm Baptism (St Mary's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)



Monday 12th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary's)

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

Tuesday 13th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

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

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

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

Wednesday 14th October (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 Wednesday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

6.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary & October Devotions (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 15th October (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 the Memoria of St Teresa of Jesus (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 16th October (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 Margaret Mary (St Mary's)



Saturday 17th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)

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

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

15th October – Memoria of St Teresa of Jesus – St Teresa of Avila, also known as Teresa of Jesus (her religious name), was born in 1515 and became a Carmelite nun. Chosen as mother general of all Carmelite communities internationally, she reformed their rule (way of life), established many new convents, was a mystic and contemplative who was also highly active and practical, travelling often to visit convents throughout Spain besides writing much on spirituality and prayer. She died in Alba de Tormes, near Salamanca in 1582. She is the patron saint of headache sufferers, lace makers, and Spain.

16th October - Memoria of St Margaret Mary – St Margaret Mary Alacoque was born in 1647 at Verosvres in Burgundy, France, and joined the Order of the Visitation at Paray-le-Monial. She received mystical revelations concerning the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, with the help of her Jesuit confessor, St Claude de la Colombiere, spread this devotion throughout the world. She died in 1690 and was canonised in 1920. She is the patron saint of devotees of the Sacred Heart, those who have lost a parent at a young age, and people suffering from polio or rheumatic fever

17th October - Memoria of St Ignatius of Antioch – St Ignatius of Antioch was born around 35AD and is thought to have been a disciple of St John, he was the second Bishop of Antioch. On his way to Rome (and martyrdom), he wrote some letters which are still in existence; they extol the importance of the office of the Bishop of Rome, the reality of the Body and Blood of the Lord and warned against Judaism and Docetism (which held that the human form of Jesus was mere semblance, with no true reality). He was put to death around 107AD. He is the patron saint of the Church in North Africa.

MISSION SUNDAY

Next week we observe Mission Sunday, a day when we pray for and practically support the work of the missions. A second collection will be taken up at all Masses that weekend. Please be as generous as you always are to the work of the Church in mission lands.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

The first meeting of the RCIA took place last Monday at the Parish House in Larkhall. Four young people under the age of 35 who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith came along to the meeting and will begin the RCIA process. If you, or someone you know, wish to become Catholic, please get in touch with Fr Wyllie over the next few days.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

Please make a special effort to come along to the public recitation of the Holy Rosary in our parish during the month of October. Each Wednesday evening during this month we will gather for October Devotions in Our Lady & St John's at 6.30pm. Also, please try to say at least a decade of the rosary as individuals during this month of the Holy Rosary. The young people in our schools will gather together to learn about the rosary and to pray the rosary too.

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

Last Week Sister Editta from the Sisters of St Peter Claver visited the parish to sell 2027 calendars to raise funds for the work of the missionaries working throughout the world preaching the Word and propagating the Catholic faith. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this appeal. The total raised was £1,060.00.

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

This year in preparation for Christmas we will begin the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots. This powerful novena is particularly for those who are experiencing problems and hardships in life. In the nine weeks preceding the celebration of Christmas we offer our prayers in this novena which will take place after the 10.00am Mass beginning on 28th October. Please join us for this special prayer.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£735.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£755.00
Digital Giving:	£221.50
Stall:	£50.00
	£1,761.50

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 hires 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 or information about the hall, speak with a member of the Hall Team or contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**



BLACKWOOD SSVF STUDENT SUPPORT

Any student in further or higher education who is in need of some financial support please contact the SSVF by speaking to a member usually at the back of the church before and after Sunday Masses or phone 07522925723 or alternatively email ssvpblackwood79@icloud.com The members of the SSVF are: Betty McGonagle, Russell McAllister, Margaret Corrigan, Veronica Dunn, Ronnie Lynch, Margaret Dunbar and Maureen Martin.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Motherwell Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 12th – 19th July 2027. If you would like to go as part of a parish group on this pilgrimage next year, then please speak with Fr Wyllie over the coming weeks. More details of costs will be available in the coming weeks.

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 for your continued generosity to the parish.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK – Murray Brown, Kevin Brown, Margaret McCaughey, Lily Dodds, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming, Robbie Frew

RIP – Margaret Caraher (*Receiving Thursday 15th at 6.00pm; Requiem Mass 16th October 11.30am*), Janet Cosgrove, Margaret Cameron, Agnes Kelly (Wishaw), Jordan Martin, Riccardo Lucchesi, John McAuslan (Snr), Mary Leighton (Hamilton)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE – Agnes Morrison, Robert Maguire, Martin McPolland, Nancy & David O'Neill, Jane McMurray, John McMurray

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

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The month of November is the month when we pray in a special way for our deceased relatives, friends, fellow parishioners and all those departed souls who need our prayers:

November Lists – will be available at the back of the church and should be returned filled out and returned the church, traditionally with a donation, by the beginning of November.

Cemetery Services – **Larkhall Cemetery Service** will take place at **1.30pm on Sunday 1st November**; **Lesmahagow Cemetery Service** will take place at **1.30pm on Sunday 8th November**.

Annual Requiem Mass – praying for all priests and parishioners of our parish who have died, particular those who died over the past twelve months, will take place on **Wed 11th November at 7.00pm**.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Last week in St Mary's we commissioned six new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to assist with distributing Holy Communion during Mass and also, from time to time, bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Many thanks to Elaine Kennedy, Ryan Houston, Marie Beacom, Jack Lyons, Elle Hulme and Kevin Mullarkey for taking up this privileged ministry in our parish. Fr Wyllie will commission new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in Our Lady & St John's in the next few weeks.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

7.00pm - Late



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Mass at 12.30pm, Lunch after in Parish Hall



PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclairmers



NOTICES FOR THE BULLETIN

All notices and announcements for the bulletin should be with Fr Wyllie by Thursdays at 11.00am.