

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Our Lady & St John's
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St Mary's
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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
17TH JULY 2022

MARTHA & MARY

St Luke links the two Gospels - last Sunday's Gospel on the Good Samaritan, and today's on Mary and Martha - by means of a Greek expression which means "to be on the way". The Gospel about the Good Samaritan ends with the word "Go" (Be on your way); the other begins with the words, "Jesus was on his way towards Jerusalem". We remember the great vision of St Luke, according to which the whole public ministry of Our Lord consists of being "on the way", en route to towards Jerusalem, towards the Paschal Mystery, the redemptive mystery of the Cross and Resurrection. And on his way, Jesus is looking for our love, our availability, our attention. He prepares us for the mystery of his presence, the gift of his life.



If, in the Gospel of the Good Samaritan, we perceive especially the exterior aspect of social action, of external material support for the other person, in the Gospel on Saints Mary and Martha another dimension appears: the dimension of the presence of Christ's word - the dimension of meditation, or interiority. Taken together, these two Gospels show us that love of neighbour and love of God are inseparable. In the love of neighbour there must also be the love of God. We must not give the other person material goods only, but also God. Otherwise we are forgetting the essential thing, "the one thing necessary". And correspondingly, in the love of God the love of neighbour must also be present; for in our neighbour it is Jesus himself who comes to us and asks for hospitality.

It seems to me that this is a very important teaching, particularly for the times in which we live. For after the Second Vatican Council, the idea spread that the content of the Gospel consists in social development, and that we should concentrate on doing external, material things. After this we might still, perhaps, have time for God. The consequences of this were all too apparent: even missionaries no longer had the courage to proclaim the Gospel. They felt it was now their primary duty to contribute to the development of the poorer countries. The consequences of forgetting God are terrible: the moral foundations of our societies are being destroyed. This is not "progress". In terrible epidemics, we see all too clearly the consequences of forgetting the essential thing, the necessary thing, God himself. A love of neighbour which forgets God forgets the essential.

But let us return to the Gospel about Martha and Mary. At first sight, it looks like a merely human instruction to do with the essential dimensions of hospitality. The Lord tells us that for a true human hospitality to exist, it is not enough to give food, to give external things. The real host gives more; most especially, he must give his time. He must be open to the other, give a little of himself, be attentive to the other in order to be able to respond to his needs. But within this teaching, which at first sight appears to be on a purely human level - for even in purely human hospitality, we must give more than just external things - we see shining forth a more profound reality: the necessity of being open above all to the one thing necessary, to the presence of God who, in his Word, gives us himself... And this is the essence of the Liturgy: we offer up our poor gifts, and we receive from the hands of the Lord himself the gift, the one thing necessary, his Body and Blood; and in his Body and Blood we receive eternal life, the reign of God, Redemption.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 17th July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 18th July

- 12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 19th July

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

Wednesday 20th July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 21st July

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

Friday 22nd July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Mary Magdalene (St Mary's)

Saturday 23rd July

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

IF YOU ARE RETIRED, OFF WORK OR ON HOLIDAY PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO WEEKDAY MASS

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

22nd July - Feast of St Mary Magdalene - St Mary Magdalene (Magdalene, from Magdala village in Galilee) is the most prominent of the group of women who accompanied Jesus and the Apostles and 'provided for them out of their own resources'. Often confused with the other Marys in the gospels or presumed to have had a sinful past, she is named in the gospels as having seen Jesus crucified and buried and then, early on Easter morning, having met the risen Lord who told her to go and tell the Apostles. Hence she is called 'Apostle to the Apostles'. Pope Francis raised her memorial to the rank of a Feast. She is honoured as the patron saint of the contemplative life, converts, glove makers, hairdressers, penitent sinners, people ridiculed for their piety, perfumeries, pharmacists, sexual temptation, tanners and women.

23rd July - Feast of St Bridget of Sweden - St Bridget was born in 1303 into a wealthy family, was married at the age of 14 and had eight children. After her husband's death in 1344, she devoted her life to serve the poor. For this work, she founded a religious order (now known as the Bridgettines). In the Holy Year of 1350 she went as a pilgrim to Rome and remained there for the rest of her life, becoming known and loved for her kindness to the poor. She was canonised in 1391 and was named a Patron of Europe in 1999. She is also, as her title would suggest, the patron saint of Sweden.

SPECIAL MASS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Each year we observe the Feast of St Joachim & St Anne on 26th July, the grandparents of Our Lord and parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On that day, Fr Wyllie invites all grandparents to attend the 9.30am Mass, where there will be a special blessing for the grandparents present, and also to recognise the very important role that grandparents play in handing on the Faith and in caring for our young parishioners. Please make a special effort to come along to this Mass. It might be a nice idea for grandparents to bring all or some of their grandchildren along to Mass that morning so we can celebrate with our young people the importance of grandparents in their lives.



MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Numbers attending all our Masses last weekend well particularly poor. Below are the numbers:

Vigil - 82 10.00am - 75 12noon - 54 5.00pm - 34 **Total - 245**

ST MARY'S CEMETERY, LANARK

St Mary's Cemetery in Lanark is selling lairs. As you may know, funeral costs continue to increase, and burial ground is becoming more expensive. They were advised by South Lanarkshire Council on the pricing of lairs, and at present a new lair is £1,233.69. The cemetery has many lairs left before they move to look at extending the cemetery. If you would like to purchase a lair in St Mary's, at the current price, you can contact Fr John-Paul on 01555 662234 or email Kathleen at stmarycemetry@rcdom.org.uk

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£904.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£305.00
Votive Candles:	£116.00
TOTAL:	£1,325.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

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 implore the Lord to send us good and holy priests.

INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

The following is a message from Fr Charles Coyle: "I'd like to invite anyone in the Diocese who has an interest in Inter-Religious Dialogue to a meeting in St Anthony's Church Hall on Saturday 20th August at 11.00am. This will be an opening meeting for a possible Diocesan group who would organise and lead dialogue with any other faith groups who are currently within the boundary of our Diocese. I am sure there are many people in the Diocese who have maintained good relations with people of other religions, and I would particularly like to meet them and learn from them. I am specifically interested in:

- Compiling a register of all non-Christian religious groups who are active within our Diocese
- Developing a network of people who have established dialogue, or who are interested in establishing dialogue with other religious groups

SPONSOR A TILE

It is the intention that the work on the new tiled floor will be completed for the 140th anniversary Mass on Friday 13th October. If you would like to sponsor a tile, as a family or individual, for a deceased loved one or in gratitude for something, then please place a donation of £25.00 per tile in an envelope clearly marked 'SPONSOR A TILE' with the names of the those you would wish the tiles dedicated to inside. Please hand in all sponsor money by Sunday 7th August.

There are samples of the new parquet flooring in the stall, before and after sanding, for you to have a look at the flooring which will be laid below the pew areas of the church. This work will be completed in August.

PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

A Parish International Night would be an opportunity for us to get to know our parishioners who come from various countries throughout the world. We are very fortunate to have parishioners from different countries in Europe, Oceania, Africa and Asia. What a great blessing that is and one that we should really appreciate more. The evening would include a Mass in Our Lady & St John's followed by food and snacks from the various countries, traditional dress, music and other entertainment in the Parish Hall. If you would be interested in helping to organise this event or taking part in this event then please speak with Fr Wyllie. **This will hopefully take place on Friday 9th September at 6.30pm. A meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th August after 7.00pm Mass for all those willing to get involved.**

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS VENTURE.

PARISH BARBECUE & SOCIAL

Fr Wyllie is hoping to hold a Parish Barbecue in the grounds of St Mary's on **Saturday 13th August**, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary from after the Vigil Mass. If you would be able to help with organising this or being active on the evening to cook and help serve the food then please speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible so that plans can be made. All parishioners, from St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's, are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the evening, especially young families. There will be a list at the back of both churches from this weekend. **A planning meeting will take place on Monday 25th July at 6.30pm.**

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 - Brenda Brannigan, David Collins

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Faye & John Coyle, Katie & Tommy McMenamin, Ina McManus, Margaret Moran, Mary Goodwin, John (Tony) Goodwin, Willie Stewart

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

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

BUFFER ZONES CONSULTATION

Attacks on freedom of speech and freedom of religion in Scotland are increasing. A public consultation has been launched on a bill proposed by Gillian Mackay MSP to bring in buffer zones around facilities that provide abortion in Scotland. Ms Mackay's proposals would criminalise all pro-life activities in the vicinity of abortion facilities, including silent prayer. If this Bill becomes law, anyone taking part in a pro-life vigil in Scotland would be subject to a six month jail sentence for a first offence, and up to two years for subsequent breaches. It is important that as many people as possible respond to the consultation currently taking place. If this bill becomes law, there are likely to be other measures to prohibit public pro-life witness and the display of pro-life material in public areas. SPUC has produced a briefing to help people respond to this consultation. A poster is available at the back of both churches and some leaflets are available too. Consultation link here: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/scottishbufferzonesconsultation>

BEING PRESENT TO WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD ABORTIONS

The focus on abortion in the media and in the public consciousness will also be having an impact on those who have had abortions, including women in our parish. As well as speaking up for the rights of the unborn with love, including through offering help outside clinics, it is vital that these women are given the opportunity to seek healing. With that in mind, the Abortion Recovery Care and Helpline (ARCH), which provides free, non-judgemental counselling for women (and men) who are suffering after abortion. The details for ARCH are: Telephone - 0345 605 8501; Email - info@archtrust.org.uk; Website - www.archtrust.org.uk. Calls are free from most landlines and mobiles are can be reached between 9.00am and 5.00pm, and also 7.00pm - 10.00pm each evening.

COULD YOU HELP?

The number of volunteers who help to clean Our Lady & St John's has diminished over the past few years. The team now only consists of four helpers, two groups, who clean the church every alternate week between them. It would be a great help if a few individuals could form a pair or team to help clean the church once a month. Please give this some thought and if you are able to assist with this, speak to Mary McDermott or Fr Wyllie as soon as possible.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Furniture Unit in Wishaw is looking for fit persons to help for four hours once or twice a month. The type of work would be sorting items in the unit, driving a van, helping with uplifts and deliveries to needy in the community. More information can be found on the notice board in the porch of St Mary's. If you would be able to lend a hand, please contact the Furniture Unit.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

The Parish is on various social media outlets and we would like to advertise and promote this. So, if you are on any of these social media pages then please follow the parish:

Facebook - **[catholicparishourladyoffatima](https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishourladyoffatima)**
Twitter - **[OLOFParish](https://twitter.com/OLOFParish)**
Instagram - **[olofparish](https://www.instagram.com/olofparish)**
Website - **parishofourladyoffatima.com**

KID'S BULLETIN

Fr Wyllie has produced a worksheet for the young children who attend Mass, which will replace the Children's Liturgy during the summer holidays. These sheets can be found on the table at the back of the church. There's a crossword on the front and a colouring in exercise on the back which the children can take home with them this weekend. Please take one as you leave the church today.