

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
19TH JUNE 2022

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the feast of Corpus Christi. It is the feast of the Eucharist which Christ instituted at the Last Supper and which is the Church's most precious treasure.

It is an amazing truth of our faith that our Creator and Lord made Himself bread to be broken, shared and eaten. He made Himself our food to give us life, His divine life. As Jesus said: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:54). The same flesh and blood offered by Christ to the Father on the cross and resurrected to glory is given to us in the Eucharist. It is the food of eternal life. The Eucharist is truly "holy communion." As Saint Paul teaches: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16).



Every Holy Thursday, we remember and we celebrate the institution of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. It is good that every year we also celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. On both of these days, we focus on this wonderful gift of Christ, the sacrament of His Body and Blood. It is a gift that we can too easily take for granted or neglect to appreciate. This precious heritage that the Lord has given to the Church is the Lord Himself who comes to meet us and to bring us the life of God.

Each of us needs to be nourished with the love that the Lord offers us in the sacrament of the Eucharist. It is our soul's greatest need. It is sad how many neglect the Sunday Eucharist, most likely due to a lack of appreciation of the greatness of this gift Jesus left us on the night before He died. I think of our persecuted brothers and sisters in some areas of the world who go to Mass even at risk to their lives. Their faith in the Eucharist is so strong that they will not neglect Mass even if it may result in imprisonment or death, thinking especially of the 50 men, women and children killed while attending Mass in Nigeria on Pentecost Sunday.

It is good to remember the example of the 4th century martyrs of Abitinae in North Africa. During the persecution by the emperor Diocletian, the Sunday Eucharist was banned with the greatest severity. Yet, many Christians courageously defied the imperial decree. They accepted death rather than miss the Sunday Eucharist. When arrested and asked why they defied the prohibition, they declared that it was not possible for them to live without the Eucharist, the food of the Lord. One of the women, when asked if she had disobeyed the emperor's decree, replied: "Yes, I went to the assembly and I celebrated the Lord's Supper with my brothers and sisters, because I am a Christian". These martyrs felt the strong inner need to celebrate and receive the Holy Eucharist. It was only later that the Church made explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass. In our secularised society, it is easy not only to ignore the Sunday Mass obligation, but to forget how vital the Eucharist is for our Christian lives. We need to hear the word of God, to gather in prayer as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to commemorate the death and resurrection of the Lord. We need to be fed by the bread of life. Do we really feel the need? Our Lord said: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you.

On this feast of Corpus Christi, may we be renewed in our Eucharistic faith and devotion! May we always treasure this gift of Our Lord's Body and Blood, the sacrament of His love!

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 19th June

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 20th June

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 21st June

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Aloysius Gonzaga (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 22nd June

10.00am	School Mass for the Memoria of St John Fisher & St Thomas More (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Fisher & St Thomas More (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 23rd June

9.30am	School Mass for Thursday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
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Friday 24th June

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (St Mary's)

Saturday 25th June

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

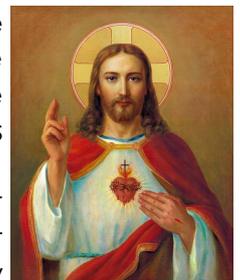
IF YOU ARE RETIRED, OFF WORK OR ON HOLIDAY PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO WEEKDAY MASS

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

21st June - Memoria of St Aloysius Gonzaga - St Aloysius Gonzaga was born in 1568 of a noble family in Lombardy, the oldest of seven children. Still a child, his father gave him military training. However, at seventeen years of age he won a four-year long battle with his father to give up his inheritance to become a Jesuit. When a plague broke out in Rome in 1591, the Jesuits opened a hospital to care for the sick. Aloysius, who had never enjoyed good health, was infected and died, aged 23 in 1591. He is the patron saint of Catholic youth.

22nd June - Memoria of St John Fisher & St Thomas More - St John Fisher was born in England in 1469 and became the Bishop of Rochester in Kent. He was recognised as a man of prayer who showed great pastoral care for his diocese. He was appointed the Confessor of Queen Katherine of Aragon. St Thomas More was born in 1478 and was a man of prayer, married with four children. He rose through the legal profession to be Lord Chancellor of England, gaining a reputation for honesty and integrity. He was a close friend of King Henry VIII but both saints incurred the anger of the king when they opposed his plans to divorce Queen Katherine of Aragon. Judged guilty of treason, John was beheaded on this date in 1535 and Thomas a few days later on 6th July. John is the patron of the Diocese of Rochester and Thomas is the patron of adopted children, lawyers, civil servants, politicians and difficult marriages.

24th June - Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Each year we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and in the liturgy we peer, as it were, into the heart of Jesus opened in death by the spear of the Roman soldier. Jesus' heart was indeed opened for us and before us - and thus God's own heart was opened. The liturgy interprets for us the language of Jesus' heart, which tells us above all that God is the shepherd of mankind, and so it reveals to us Jesus' priesthood, which is rooted deep within his heart; so too it shows us the perennial foundation and the effective criterion of all priestly ministry, which must always be anchored in the heart of Jesus and lived out from that starting point.



CHURCH BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

Second Collection this weekend at all Masses for the Church Building Fund.

PARISH BARBECUE & SOCIAL

Fr Wyllie is hoping to hold a Parish Barbecue in the grounds of St Mary's on Saturday 13th August 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 during July and a bus will be booked if enough uptake.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£855.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£490.00
Giftaid Reclaim:	£10,290.69
TOTAL:	£11,635.69

Many thanks for your very generous support

ST JOHN'S P7 LEAVERS MASS

This coming Tuesday there will be a Mass for the P7 pupils from St John's Primary School to give thanks to God for the past seven years of their education at St John's and to ask God's blessing upon them as they embark on their journey to secondary school. This Mass will be celebrated in the school.

PIONEERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Holy Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart will take place in St Francis Xavier's Church, Carfin on Friday 24th June, commencing at 7.30pm. The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart invite everyone to join them to mark this important Feast Day at Carfin that evening. Tea & Coffee will be served in the Hall after Mass in the Xavier Centre.

GIFTAID RECLAIM

Last Wednesday we received £10,290.69 from the UK Government thanks to all those who are signed up to the Giftaid Scheme. This is an enormous boost to our parish finances and it is all thanks to those who pay UK Tax being signed up to the Giftaid Scheme, at no extra cost to themselves. If you pay UK Tax you could be helping the parish enormously. Giftaid Forms are available at the back of the church.

MASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

A special Mass will be celebrated for all married couples in Our Lady & St John's on Wednesday 29th June at 7.00pm. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their vows & at the conclusion of Mass to have their rings blessed. An invitation is extended to all married couples to take part in this Mass.



HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTION

A full Health & Safety inspection of all our parish properties took place on Tuesday of last week by the Diocese of Motherwell Estates Department & the Diocesan Health & Safety Consultant. Fr Wyllie is very pleased to say that apart from a few minor adjustments needed, we were commended for the high levels of Health & Safety procedures being followed.

Fr Wyllie will now have to appoint two new Health & Safety co-ordinators for our parish, as he has been doing it all himself. One to look after this for St Mary's and another who will do the same for Our Lady & St John's. This will include monthly checks of fire safety & ensuring that the parish properties are following updated & new Health & Safety guidance.

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. We intend to lay a new parquet flooring under the pews too. 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. Each tile will hopefully be dedicated to a particular person or family and a list will be compiled listing all those who the tiles are dedicated to. This work will be a much more permanent and worthy flooring than we already have. The work will begin at the end of July.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

This week the schools will finish up for the summer holidays. We wish all pupils, staff and parents a very blessed, safe and happy holiday. It would be wonderful to have our young people join us for morning Mass during the summer holidays to instil in them the graces and blessings we receive from attending daily Mass. Please make a special effort to join us for weekday Mass over the summer holidays.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - 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 - Mary Helen Brannigan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Cardinal Thomas J. Winning, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Isabella Freeland, Mary Dow, Mary Goodwin

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION FROM NEWARTHILL TO CARFIN

Today, there will be a Blessed Sacrament Procession from St Teresa's Newarthill, through the streets to Carfin Grotto, concluding with Benediction with Bishop Toal. This begins at 3.00pm and everyone is invited. All First Communicants and Altar Servers are invited to take a special part in the procession. Please try your best to attend.



UPDATE ON WORKS ON OUR PARISH BUILDINGS

Here is a list of works which have been/will be carried out to our parish buildings:

ST MARY'S & OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

- To comply with regulations, all the electrics have been PAT tested, Emergency Lighting all checked and replaced where necessary, and Electrical Certificates & Reports produced, for St Mary's Church and House & Our Lady & St John's Church, House & Hall
- Again, to comply with regulations, the gas boilers have been serviced and all gas appliances have been checked in St Mary's Church & House, & Our Lady & St John's Church & Hall. The boiler in Our Lady & St John's house has been condemned

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

- A serious leak developed in the house with the heavy rain on 8th June. Investigative work took place on Monday morning and there is a serious cavity in the roof leading down into the wall of the house. This will be dealt with over the next week or so with the cavity being filled in and other essential works being carried out around the house and sacristy roof area
- On the inspection, it was noted that the gable end of the house has a serious crack down the stonework. This will be filled and pointed shortly
- The work has begun on the panelling around the church at the end of last week. This work is progressing well and on completion we will begin to look at installing a recycled parquet flooring for underneath the pews in August
- The work on the tiling of the floor has been confirmed and will begin over the next few months in time for the 140th Anniversary Mass on 13th October
- The red stone which was laid around the entrance to Our Lady & St John's will be rectified with a new black tarmac. The mono-block, ramps & steps will be power-washed soon

ST MARY'S

- The decking around the house in St Mary's is giving way, especially when wet. Work is underway to replace the decking. Many thanks to the two generous parishioners who have made a donation to contribute to this work being carried out
- It is hoped to have St Mary's painted since the leaks and the dampness were dealt with two years ago. We also hope to get the church carpet cleaned before 8th December

Your contributions to the Building Fund will help greatly with this work. Please give generously.

PARISH INTERNATIONAL MASS & 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 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