

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
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Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall & Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

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FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

In his account of the infancy of Jesus St Luke emphasises how faithful Mary and Joseph were to the Law of the Lord. They fulfilled with profound devotion all the prescriptions prescribed following the birth of a firstborn male. Two of them were very ancient prescriptions: one concerns the mother and the other the newborn child. The woman was required to abstain from ritual practices for forty days, after which she was to offer a double sacrifice: a lamb as a burnt offering and a turtle-dove as a sin offering; but if she were poor, she could offer a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons (cf. Lev 12:1-8).

It is important to note that these two acts - the purification of the mother and the redemption of the son - did not require a visit to the Temple. However, Mary and Joseph wished to fulfil all the prescriptions in Jerusalem, and St Luke shows us how the entire scene converges on the Temple and thus focuses on Jesus who enters it. And it is here, precisely through the prescriptions of the Law, that the principal event is transformed, namely, it becomes the "presentation" of Jesus in the Temple of God, which means the act of offering the Son of the Most High to the Father who sent him (cf. Lk 1:32, 35).

The Evangelist's account is confirmed by the words of the Prophet Malachi which we heard at the beginning of the First Reading: "Behold", says the Lord, "I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming... he will purify the sons of Levi.... Then the offering... will be pleasing to the Lord" (3:1, 3, 4).

This is also the perspective of the Letter to the Hebrews, a passage of which was proclaimed in the Second Reading, to strengthen the theme of the new priesthood: a priesthood — inaugurated by Jesus — which is existential: "For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted" (Heb 2:18). So it is that we also discover the topic of suffering, very pronounced in the Gospel passage in which Simeon imparts his prophecy concerning both the Child and the Mother: "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and, [to Mary], a sword will pierce through your own soul also)" (Lk 2:34-35).

The "salvation" that Jesus brought to his people, and which he embodies in himself, passed through the Cross, through the violent death that he was to vanquish and to transform with the sacrifice of his life through love. This sacrifice was already foretold in the act of the Presentation in the Temple, an act without any doubt motivated by the traditions of the old Covenant, but that was deeply enlivened by the fullness of faith and love, which correspond to the fullness of time, to the presence of God and of his Holy Spirit in Jesus. Indeed, the Spirit moved over the whole scene of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and in particular over Simeon and Anna.

The Spirit "Paraclete" brings consolation to Israel and motivates the steps and moves the hearts of those who await him. He is the Spirit who prompted the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna, words of blessing and praise of God, of faith in his Anointed One, of thanksgiving, for at last our eyes could see and our arms embrace "your salvation" (cf. 2:30).



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 2nd February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord with Baptism (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 3rd February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Blaise & Blessing of Throats (St Mary's)
Tuesday 4th February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Requiem Mass for Anne Marie White (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 5th February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
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 Agatha (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 Agatha (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 6th February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.30pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Paul Miki & Companions (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Reception of Body (St Mary's)
Friday 7th February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
10.00am	Requiem Mass for Irene Kennedy (St Mary's)
Saturday 8th February	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

3rd February - Memoria of St Blaise - St Blaise was a doctor before becoming the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He was martyred in the year 316, with him is associated the blessing of throats.

5th February - Memoria of St Agatha - St Agatha lived in Sicily. Aged 15, she resisted the amorous advances of a public official because she had consecrated herself to Christ. When the Roman Emperor Decius initiated a persecution against Christians, the public official had her brought before him - he had become a judge - and he committed her to prison. Here she died after undergoing unspeakable tortures. She died in 251 and is honoured as the patron saint of breast cancer sufferers.

6th February - Memoria of St Paul Miki & Companions - St Paul Miki was born in 1565. He and his twenty-six fellow-martyrs were crucified at Nagasaki. In an outburst of anti-foreign sentiment, both of people and influences. The group comprised religious as well as members of Christ's faithful including children. When missionaries were allowed to return in the 1860's, they discovered thousands of Catholics in the Nagasaki area to whom the Faith has been secretly handed down over 250 years.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will take place on Monday 17th February beginning at 6.30pm with the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Doctor Valerie Fleming, a Judge on the Scottish Marriage Tribunal which deals with the Nullity Process for marriages. This is a subject which generates much interest and can be clouded by intrigue and speculation, so please come along and learn more about Annulments and the Nullity Process and support this event.



BLESSING OF THROATS

Blessing of Throats will take place at the 12noon Mass this coming Monday, Feast of St Blaise.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£845.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£125.00
Votive Candles:	£632.00
Stall:	£130.00
Total:	£1,732.00

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**



CHURCH BUILDING FUND

A second collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend for the Church Building Fund. After the storm last Friday, we have a number of repairs which need to be carried out to the roofs of both churches due to missing slates and upturned lead. Please give generously.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The young people preparing for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are expected to join us for Mass over the next few weeks and months in preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments. We keep the young people in our prayers.

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The annual Church Workers Social will take place on Friday 21st February beginning with a drinks reception at 6.45pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who perform the following ministries, responsibilities and roles in our parish: Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Musicians & Cantors, Sacristans, Cleaners, Florists, Grounds Workers, Hall Team members, Pastoral Planning Team members, Finance Team members, Wellspring Working Group members, RCIA Leaders, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Stall workers, Mini Vinnie Leaders, Housekeepers, Bar Volunteers, SSVP members, Collection Counters, those who wash the altar vessels and altar linens. Rather than a three course meal, we will have a chip shop van serving food, the bar will be open (with 3 free drinks), a DJ and karaoke. Menus are available at the back of the church, please complete and hand in by 16th February at the latest.



CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Drinks Reception beginning at 6.45pm



AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Mass at 12.30pm followed by Lunch in the Parish Hall



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

2.00pm - 7.00pm



NO WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be no weekday Masses in the parish from Monday 10th - Friday 14th February.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Marilyn McLear, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew

RIP - Anne Marie White (*Requiem Mass Tuesday 4th Feb 9.30am*), Irene (Catherine) Kennedy (*Receiving Thursday 6th Feb at 5.00pm; Requiem Mass Friday 7th Feb at 10.00am*), Kathleen Pacitti (nee Campbell) (Uddingston), Rosemary Piacentini, Patrick O'Dowd, Margaret Campbell

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Cornelius Weir, Catherine Deerin, Joe & Margaret McCaughey, Kathleen Duffy, Frank McCorry, Tom Girvan, Peter, Agnes & Jo Maguire

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

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Monday 14th July - Monday 21st July. Any parishioner wishing to travel as a pilgrim on this trip should speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible. The pilgrimage is being organised by Joe Walsh Tours, everyone intending on travelling should contact Joe Walsh Tours directly, either online or by phone. <https://joewalshstours.co.uk/pilgrimages/group-diocesan-pilgrimages/diocese-of-motherwell-pilgrimage/>

MOTHERWELL TO ST ANDREW'S

As part of the Holy Year celebrations, a walking pilgrimage will take place from Motherwell Cathedral to St Andrew's, a distance of about 110 miles, walking the route in 10 stages, every Thursday, starting on Thursday 3rd April, and each day will involve a walk of about 10-12 miles. The route follows the Ladywell Way from Motherwell and, after North Queensferry, follows the Fife Pilgrim Way to St Andrew's. For more information please contact Jim at j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk

PARISH STATISTICS FOR 2024

2,350	Estimated Catholic Population	367	Average Mass Attendance
15.6%	Percentage Attending Mass	45	Average Weekday Attendance
156	Number of children at Primary School	90	Number at High School
13 Baptisms	1 Adult Baptism	11 First Communions	17 Confirmations
	2 Marriages	16 Funerals	

PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The Parish Finance Team will meet on Tuesday 18th February at 2.45pm at the Parish House in Larkhall. This meeting will be to analyse and sign off the accounts for 2024. If you have any questions, queries or ideas you would like brought to this meeting please speak with Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick, Gerry McCaughey or Patricia Weir.

INTERIOR CHURCH DOORS

Fr Wyllie asks that the interior porch doors in both churches remain closed until the final hymn has begun at the conclusion of Mass. This will ensure that in this cold snap the heat is conserved in both our churches. Please do not wedge the swing doors open before or during the Mass.

BAPTISM

During the 12noon Mass today in Our Lady & St John's, we have the joy of baptising baby Jamie, this is very fitting on this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when the Lord Jesus was offered to God in the Temple. We pray for baby Jamie and for his mum and dad, that they will always trust and know the loving presence of God as members of his Church.

CRUCIFIX & CELTIC CROSS NECKLACES

Our stalls have crucifix and Celtic cross necklaces for sale which would make a perfect gift for a child who is to receive their First Holy Communion, First Confession or Confirmation. The crucifix is 18 carat plated gold, the Celtic crosses are small and silver. Why not have a look after Mass today?

