

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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St Mary's
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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
29TH MAY 2022

COMMUNICATING OUR FAITH

World Communications Day was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967 as an annual celebration that encourages us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the modern means of social communication (the press, cinema, radio, television and the internet) afford the Church to communicate the gospel message.

The celebration came in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, which realised it must engage fully with the modern world. This realisation is expressed in the opening statement of the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* on "The Church in the Modern World", which says: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anguishes of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anguishes of the followers of Christ as well."

In setting it up on Sunday 7th May 1967, less than two years after the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI, knowing that the Church is truly and intimately linked with mankind and its history, wanted to draw attention to the communications media and the enormous power they have for cultural transformation. He and his successors have consistently recognised the positive opportunities the communications media afford for enriching human lives with the values of truth, beauty and goodness, but also the possibly negative effects of spreading less noble values and pressurising minds and consciences with a multiplicity of contradictory appeals.

Pope John Paul II (1990) in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* 37 said: "The world of communications is the first Areopagus of the modern age, unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a 'global village'. The communications media have acquired such importance as to be for many the chief means of information and education, of guidance and inspiration for many people in their personal, family and social behaviour. In particular, the younger generation is growing up in a world conditioned by the mass media." Increasingly aware of the world as a global village and the power of the media as a free market place for philosophies and values, the Church has sought to be in there with its message and to use the media to proclaim the values it sees are beneficial for human development and for the eternal welfare of people.

In 2002, The Pontifical Council for Social Communications produced two documents on the Internet. The first is an analysis of the opportunities and challenges the Internet presents for evangelisation and is entitled *The Church and Internet*. The other sets out an ethical code which should guide its use and is entitled *Ethics in Internet*.

The theme set by Pope Francis for this year's Communications Sunday is: "Listening with the ear of the heart". He wrote in his letter for this day:

"Among the five senses, the one favoured by God seems to be hearing, perhaps because it is less invasive, more discreet than sight, and therefore leaves the human being more free," he wrote. *"Listening corresponds to the humble style of God. It is the action that allows God to reveal himself as the One who, by speaking, creates man and woman in his image, and by listening recognises them as his partners in dialogue"*. The pope lamented what he described as an absence of listening in public discourse. *"The lack of listening, which we experience so often in daily life, is unfortunately also evident in public life, where, instead of listening to each other, we often 'talk past one another,'"* he observed.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 29th May

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm May Devotions concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 30th May

- 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Tuesday 31st May

- 9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass praying for the defence and dignity of Human Life (St Mary's)

Wednesday 1st June

- 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 Justin (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Justin (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 2nd June

NO MASS IN THE PARISH DUE TO THE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTTO

Friday 3rd June - DAY OF PRAYER FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

- 9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Charles Lwanga & Companions (St Mary's)
1.00pm Wedding Service (St Mary's)

Saturday 4th June

- 4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (St Mary's)

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTTO

This coming Thursday our parish will make a pilgrimage to Carfin Lourdes Grotto. Many thanks to all those parishioners who have supported this event by placing their names on the lists at the back of the church. It promises to be a day of prayer, socialising and enjoying all that the Grotto has to offer - the various shrines & Glass Chapel, the Cave of Bethlehem, the Chapel of the Angels, the Divine Mercy Chapel, the Holy House of Nazareth, the Reliquary and taking time to come together for food. There are 49 parishioners signed up for the bus and the lunch. Below you will find the itinerary for the day:

- 10.00am Bus leaves Blackwood
10.20am Bus leaves Larkhall
10.45am Bus arrives at Carfin
10.50am Tea & Coffee with biscuits or cakes at the Xavier Centre
11.20am Rosary Procession from the Lourdes Shrine
12noon Visit to the Reliquary
12.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel
1.45pm Lunch at the Xavier Centre
3.45pm Leave for Larkhall & Blackwood



BABY LUCA BRANNAN

Luca Brannan is just 17 months old and has been diagnosed with an inflammatory myofibroblastic tumour (IMT) that requires regular treatment. He has to be taken each day to the Glasgow Children's Hospital. Kieran and Shannen, his mum and dad, are organising an event at Hamilton Accies New Douglas Park next month. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the back of St Mary's after the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10.00am Mass. The raffle prizes include various football strips, corporate suite at Parkhead, various hotel overnights for two, Spa Day, beauty voucher, MOT to the value of £250, Snap on Tools worth £250, various bottles and Coerver Football Training Camp vouchers. Luca is the great grandson of Jack & Mary Shanks so please support this worthwhile cause which is so close to their hearts.

MASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

To celebrate the World Meeting of Families taking place in Rome late June, there will be a special Mass in our parish for all married couples. The Mass will take place on 29th June at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's and all married couples can collectively renew their marriage vows at this Mass. Any couple preparing for marriage who would like their engagement ring blessed, or any married couple who would like their wedding rings blessed will have the opportunity after Mass for this to take place. All married couples are warmly invited to this Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

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| Collection & Donations: | £980.00 |
| Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: | £160.00 |
| Stall: | £41.00 |
| TOTAL: | £1,181.00 |
| SCIAF Lenten Wee Boxes: | £1,055.79 |
| Many thanks for your very generous support | |

RCIA

The RCIA programme will begin again after the summer for anyone interested in becoming a Catholic. Please speak with Fr Wyllie before the summer holidays if you are interested in becoming a Catholic next Easter.



CHANGES TO OUR MASS SCHEDULE

When Fr Wyllie arrived in the parish he reintroduced the Saturday morning Mass, unfortunately the Mass wasn't very well attended and therefore the decision has been taken for the Saturday morning Mass to cease. Many thanks to the few parishioners who faithfully came along each week.

It was also suggested that once a week we have an early morning Mass in each church for the pupils, parents and teachers of our primary schools. Fr Wyllie will introduce these Masses to the weekly schedule after the summer holidays.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRAYER

Over the past year both churches have been open for private prayer during the day. It has been very heartening to see the number of people who pop in to light a candle or who take the opportunity for silent prayer before the tabernacle. Fr Wyllie encourages all parents, carers and children to try and make an effort to pop into the church before or after school for a moment of prayer, especially now that the better weather is here. Both churches are open from **8.30am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday**; St Mary's is open on a Saturday from 9.00am until 6.30pm and then a Sunday from 9.00am until 6.00pm or after the evening liturgy. Our Lady & St John's is open on a Sunday from 11.00am until after the 5.00pm Mass.

LIGHT BITE AFTER 12NOON MASS

Next Sunday we will hold our first parish Light Bite after the 12noon Mass. If you would be able to help in any way then please speak with Fr Wyllie to make the necessary arrangements. It is hoped we could get someone to make & serve the teas and coffees, make and serve sausage and bacon for the rolls and help out in small ways.

DAY FOR LIFE 2022

The Day for Life takes place in Scotland each year on 31st May, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That evening at 7.00pm in St Mary's there will be a special Mass to pray for the unborn and the prolife cause, that all human life may be valued and respected from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Please make a special effort to come along and pray for this very important cause. All are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

At the 12noon Mass next Sunday, Scott Maquilang will receive his First Holy Communion. We keep Scott and his family in our prayers as he prepares to receive this Sacrament.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Fr Wyllie would like to extend an invitation to all the boys and girls of the parish to consider becoming altar servers. Please speak with him after Mass if you would like to join our team of altar servers. This is a beautiful way to serve God and grow closer to him in the Eucharist, especially for the young boys in our parish to help foster vocations to the priesthood.

COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

Today is Communications Sunday. A box is available at the back of the church if you wish to contribute to supporting the Church in reaching out through social media and the press. There have been many calls on your generosity so please only give if you are able. Every little helps!

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 Gallacher, Cathy Sneddon

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John Nugent, Jim Curivan, Michael Wilson, Celia MacDonald, Susan Girvan

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION FROM NEWARTHILL TO CARFIN

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, 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 go along to show our love for the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, to come together as a diocese with our bishop at Carfin Grotto and spend some time at our Diocesan Shrine to Our Blessed Mother.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

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| 2nd June | Parish Pilgrimage to Carfin Lourdes Grotto | 10.00am until 4.00pm |
| 5th June | Light Bite after Mass | 12noon (OLSJ) |
| 13th June | Mass for the Feast of St Anthony with blessing of lilies | 7.00pm (St Mary's) |
| 19th June | Solemn Benediction after all Masses | All Sunday Masses |
| 29th June | Special Mass for Married Couples | 7.00pm (OLSJ) |

PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

One of the suggestions which cropped up a number of times in the Synod deliberations was to hold an International Night in our parish. This 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. If you would be interested in helping to organise this event or taking part in this event then please speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible so that preparations can be made for holding this event after the summer holidays. A Mass would precede the event where we would have each country represented by a flag being processed in at the beginning of Mass and at the end of Mass, with the readings in various languages and maybe some hymns too.



TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As mentioned a few weeks ago, the church of Our Lady & St John's marked its 140th anniversary in 2020, but due to Covid we were unable to celebrate this milestone. Fr Wyllie had spoken with Bishop Toal and he had kindly agreed to come to the parish to celebrate a special Mass to mark this occasion on Friday 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Unfortunately, the bishop had an engagement in his other diary and is unable to come to the parish that evening, so we have changed the date to **Thursday 13th October**, a significant date in Fatima, at 7.00pm. Larkhall maintained a permanent Catholic presence by being given the status of parish in 1872, 150 years ago. The Bishop will come to the parish to celebrate a special Mass to mark this occasion on **Thursday 8th December**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 7.00pm.

WORRY BOX

The young people of our parish suggested having a 'worry box' for them and other parishioners to place their worries. One would be selected to be prayed for at Sunday Mass. Details soon.