

# 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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St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
23RD FEBRUARY 2025**

## THE 3RD, 4TH & 5TH ARTICLES OF THE CREED

**"... Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary ..."**

Having established Jesus' divinity, the creed considers in the next article the Incarnation — how Jesus assumed human nature (Lk 1:31-38, when Mary consents to giving birth to the Saviour of the world).

The world needed a saviour because human beings had turned from God. God responded by sending Jesus, who is fully God, to become fully human. God accomplished his will with the free cooperation of Mary, but he did so through the power of the Holy Spirit rather than through the agency of a human male. Mary's virginity and the Holy Spirit's action reinforce that Jesus is true God and true man.

The benefits of the Incarnation for humanity cannot be exhausted: forgiveness of sins, salvation, a model for human behaviour. Perhaps most inspiring is that we share in Jesus' "sonship" through his incarnation: "... when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman ... so that we might receive adoption" (Gal 4:4-5).

**"... suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; ..."**

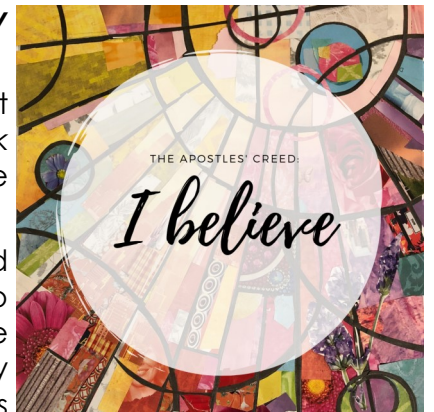
The jump from Jesus' birth in Article 3 to his passion and death in Article 4 may seem quite a leap. Why not include details of his teaching and healing ministry? The answer, once again, is that the creed is a summary of faith, not an exhaustive account.

However, a creed is also a product of its time, and the Apostles' Creed clearly defends against Docetism. The Docetists rejected that an all-powerful God would share humanity with his creatures; it seemed beneath the dignity of God. So the creed goes out of its way to list the historical figure of Pontius Pilate and to name explicitly the humiliations and sufferings Jesus really endured, all of which can be verified through extra-Biblical sources like the Jewish historian Josephus, the Roman historian Tacitus and the Babylonian Talmud.

**"... he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; ..."**

As truly man, Jesus experienced death. As truly God, Jesus went to "hell" in order to announce the good news of salvation. However, by "hell" the creed does not mean only the place of the damned, but also the realm of those people who were deprived of the vision of God until the coming of the Saviour (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 633). Jesus announced the good news of salvation to the "righteous" dead (cf. Acts 3:15; 1 Cor 15:20; 1 Pt 3:18-19, 4:6) and opens the gates of heaven to them through his resurrection.

On the third day, Jesus appears as the resurrected Lord to his apostles and other disciples. The witness of Scripture is clear on the Resurrection (cf. Mk 8:32, 9:9-31, 10:34). The stories of the empty tomb and Jesus' appearances are well known, and the authors of the New Testament handed on the Resurrection stories as the truth which they experienced personally (cf. Dei Verbum, No. 19).



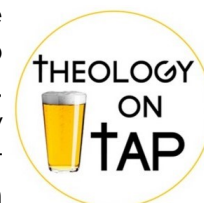
# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

<b>Sunday 23rd February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>	
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
<b>12noon</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
<b>Monday 24th February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>	
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
<b>Tuesday 25th February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>	
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
6.30pm	First Confessions	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
<b>Wednesday 26th February</b>	<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	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
1.30pm	First Confessions	<i>(St Mary's Primary)</i>
6.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
6.30pm	Confessions until 6.50pm	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
<b>Thursday 27th February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>	
9.30am	School Mass in honour of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
12.30pm	Auchloch Mass	<i>(Our Lady &amp; St John's)</i>
<b>Friday 28th February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>	
10.00am	School Mass in honour of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
<b>Saturday 29th February</b>	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>	
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm	<i>(St Mary's)</i>
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass for the Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	<i>(St Mary's)</i>



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Since November, we have had a monthly Theology on Tap in our parish. The notion of Theology on Tap has grown in popularity over the past few years to allow an informal environment to learn more about aspects of the Catholic Faith. So far, we have had a session on Our Lady as herald of the Gospel in the New Testament, the Church's Teaching on Love, Sexuality and Morality, and most recently, on the Nullity Process and Marriage. The numbers attending each session have been good and we hope to continue that for the future talks, especially Fr Andrew's session on The Passion Gospel of Luke to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. The upcoming dates for the future sessions are listed below:



24th March	Anne Marie Clements	Catholic Social Teaching - Love one another
10th April	Fr Andrew Robinson	The Passion Gospel of Luke - Luke's perspective
19th May	Anthony Horan	Church & State - Separate or not?

## PROJECT WELLSPRING

One of the key elements of Project Wellspring is to promote renewal in all our parishes. This is happening in different ways but there is merit and encouragement in sharing of ideas and progress. Bishop Toal invites the members of the parish Project Wellspring Working Groups throughout the diocese to meet at St Bernadette's Parish Hall, Motherwell on Monday 10th March from 7.00pm - 9.00pm. **The Parish Project Wellspring Working Group for our parish will meet on Tuesday 26th February (this Tuesday) at the Parish House in Blackwood at 7.15pm.**



## BISHOP TOAL

His Lordship the Bishop will visit our parish on Thursday 6th March, primarily to visit the Confirmandi.

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£930.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£405.00
Stall:	£95.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,430.00</b>

**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**



## LENTEN PENANCE

The grounds at both churches still have lots of leaves on the grassy areas and corners around the churches and parish houses. It would be great to get a group of volunteers for both churches to clean these up and make the grounds look tidy and presentable as we head into spring.

## FOODBANK & TRINITY CHURCH

Following the closure of Trinity Church the Foodbank will need to move from the adjoining cottage from where they have been operating for several years. They are looking for suitable premises to continue their support of those in need in our community. If anyone has any ideas or information regarding a possible new site please call 07591104027.

A sad consequence of growing secularism in our society is the inevitable decline in church attendance. Trinity Church which has operated from 1900 on the main street in Larkhall has now closed together with several dozen other Church of Scotland churches over the past few weeks in the surrounding area (including Lesmahagow Parish Church). We keep the parishioners of Trinity in our prayers in this moment of sadness for them as they lose their place of worship.

## NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY

St Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost items and lost graces, is a very powerful intercessor and a very popular saint. The novena to St Anthony takes place in our parish every Tuesday morning at the conclusion of the 9.30am Mass in Our Lady & St John's.



## AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The Parish Hall

**THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**



## PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

**FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY**

2.00pm - 7.00pm



## LIGHT BITE AFTER 12NOON MASS

The Parish Hall

**SUNDAY 2ND MARCH**



## POSSIBLE SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

**SATURDAY 15TH MARCH**

7.00pm - Late

£10.00 for Adults (16+)

Children Free



## 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 McLearn, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew

**RIP** - Eamon McQuilken (Greenock)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** -

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

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent begins this year on Wednesday 5th March with Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence. To mark this special day, the Masses in our parish are as follows. Please make a special effort to join us:

<b>8.00am</b>	Brief Mass	(St Mary's)
<b>9.30am</b>	School Mass	(OLSJ)
<b>10.30am</b>	School Mass	(St Mary's)
<b>7.00pm</b>	Holy Mass	(OLSJ)



## PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

A pilgrimage to Iona will take place from 17th-18th May led by Bishop Toal. The pilgrimage will include pickup points at Motherwell and Glasgow Cathedrals, dinner, bed and breakfast in the Royal Hotel Oban, coach travel and ferry crossings, entry to Iona Abbey, travel to Oban on the Saturday and stay overnight in Oban then on to Iona on the Sunday with a special celebration of Holy Mass in Iona Abbey at 1.00pm. For more details please contact Jim McKelvie on 07957847290 or email [j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk](mailto:j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk)



## SCIAF WEE BOXES

The SCIAF Wee Boxes which have become such a feature in our homes, classrooms and workplaces during the season of Lent have been delivered to the parish and are available for you to take home with you. The boxes and your donations should be returned to the church by Holy Thursday evening (17th April).

## PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team will take place on Tuesday 11th March at 7.00pm in the Parish House at Larkhall. If you have any items you would like discussed at the meeting please speak with Fr Wyllie, Laura Steele, Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Scott Smith, Mary McDermott or Ciaran Reilly.

## DEANERY WELLSRING CO-ORDINATOR

The Diocese is asking for volunteers to come forward to help parishes get the most out of Wellspring spiritually, pastorally and operationally. The intention is that we try to secure the help of a co-ordinator for each deanery who will support the parishes in the Hamilton Deanery (Larkhall & Blackwood, St Mary's, St Peter's, Our Lady & St Anne's Hamilton, Blantyre, Hillhouse, Bothwell, Uddingston and Strathaven).

If you have a passion for supporting the clergy and their parishes and have experience of managing change (ideally with facilitation skills) could you approach your parish priest. Typical activities include co-ordinating, facilitating and leading meetings/discussions and sharing practices and outcomes with teams across the Diocese. This role is expected to require around 7 hours a week and you would be part of a team from across the Diocese; full support and training will be given.

## PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

A Parish Financial Report is available this weekend to have a look at the parish income and expenditure for 2024.