

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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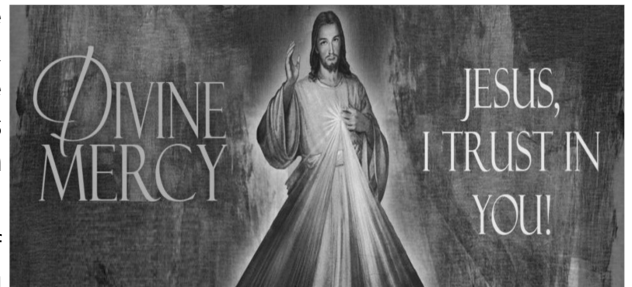
St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE 7TH APRIL 2024

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Sunday after Easter is the final day in the Octave of Easter. It has a lot of names: Low Sunday, Domenica in albis — but it's also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy devotion is relatively new, but it has grown in prominence in recent years.

The Divine Mercy devotion originates in a series of apparitions in the 1930s, in which St Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated religious sister in Poland, recorded that Jesus appeared to her.



St Faustina said that during the apparitions, which were later approved by the Church as worthy of belief, Jesus asked her to spread the message of his great mercy toward the world. Pope John Paul II canonised St Faustina on April 30, 2000. That same day, he also instituted Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast for the universal Church.

The message St Faustina received from Jesus is recounted in "The Diary of Saint Faustina."

The central message is that Jesus desires to grant his great mercy to souls. He wants people to trust in his mercy, to ask for it, and to allow themselves to be vessels of his mercy for others. There are several aspects to the devotion:

The "Image of Divine Mercy" is a painted depiction of Jesus as he appeared to St Faustina. Jesus is clothed in white and raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing. Red and white rays are emitted from Jesus' heart, signifying the blood and water that flowed from Christ's heart at the crucifixion, and the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

The Hour of Divine Mercy is 3.00pm, the time of Jesus' death on the cross. St Faustina recounted that Jesus asked people to pray and reflect on his Passion during this hour, and to ask for God's mercy on the world. He promised that "In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion."

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a prayer recited on rosary beads asking God to have mercy on the world. St Faustina said Jesus promised great graces to be granted through the chaplet, particularly when prayed at the hour of death. The Divine Mercy Novena is a nine-day series of prayers leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday and preparing for it. Each day invokes God's mercy on a different group of souls, including priests, souls in purgatory, and those lukewarm in their faith.

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday following Easter. St. Faustina recorded that Jesus said he wants this feast to be "a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." On this feast, he promises that the depths of his mercy are available to humanity: "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy."

As sinners we are conscious of our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness, and by the beautiful Sacrament of Confession he bestows that upon us. So, with confident hearts we can pray: "Jesus, I trust in you".

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 7th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
1.00pm	Baptism (Our Lady & St John's)
3.00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 8th April

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation (St Mary's)

Tuesday 9th April

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 10th April

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 Wednesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (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 Wednesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 11th April

9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.20am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Stanislaus (Our Lady & St John's)



Friday 12th April

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Second Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Saturday 13th April

4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

8th April - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord - This Solemnity has been transferred from 25th March, as Holy Week & Easter take precedence over all other Solemnities and Feasts. On the floor of the Holy House in Nazareth, an inscription reads '*Verbum caro hic factum est*'; the Word was made flesh here'. When the Blessed Virgin Mary said 'yes' to the Angel Gabriel, the Word became flesh and dwelt in her womb for nine months. The annunciation is the prologue to the mysteries of Holy Week: the Incarnation happened so that we could be redeemed; the child conceived on this day was born to die for our sins and conquer death through his resurrection.

11th April - Memoria of St Stanislaus - St Stanislaus (Stanislaw) was born in 1030 and became the Bishop of Krakow, Poland in 1072 and championed the liberty of the Church and the dignity of man. He reproached King Boleslaw II for his immoral life, and may have plotted his overthrow; in any event, the King himself murdered the bishop while he was offering Mass in 1079. Devotion to St Stanislaus grew at once, and he was canonised in 1523. St Stanislaus is the patron of Poland.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This afternoon at 3.00pm we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Everyone is invited to come along.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Craig & Shannen who were married in St Mary's yesterday (Saturday). We wish them the very best as they begin their married life together.

Also, congratulations to baby Matthew who will be baptised into the Faith of the Church this afternoon in Our Lady & St John's. To him and his parents, our congratulations & best wishes.

PARISH FINANCES

Easter Collection & Donations:	£2,135.00
Standing Orders:	£1,422.00
Votive Candles:	£395.00
Total:	£3,952.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

Holy Places: £300.00

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION

On Good Friday a box was available at the back of the church for those who wished to contribute to the maintenance of the holy places in the Holy Land associated with the birth, life, death and resurrection of the Lord. Many thanks to those who contributed to this annual collection especially at this time when there is so much violence and warfare in the Holy Land. The total collected was £300.00. Many thanks for your generosity.

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** or speak to Suzanne.



CHURCH WORKERS' SOCIAL

The Church Workers' Social will take place in the Parish Hall this coming Friday. The evening will begin with a prosecco/orange juice reception at 6.30pm followed by a three-course meal being served from 7.00pm. The evening will include a DJ with music and also the bar will be opened for drinks to be purchased. This is a great way for those who work so tirelessly in the life of the parish to come together and share an evening of good food, good company and good entertainment as one parish community.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LISBON

The joint Parish Pilgrimage with St Mary's Lanark and our own parish will take place from Tuesday 2nd July - Tuesday 9th July to Our Lady's shrine at Fatima and then moving on to the capital city of Portugal, Lisbon. There will be another meeting held before we travel, the date and time of which will be published in the bulletin over the next few weeks. The final instalment is to be paid by Wednesday 24th April directly to ALBA Tours. The bank details are:

Acc Name: **Alba Tours Ltd** Acc Number: **00898164**; Sort Code: **802260**



PROPOSED PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI 2025

Every twenty five years, the Catholic Church celebrates what is known as a Jubilee Year, when we are all invited to Rome to pass through the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica. This would be a great opportunity for us as a parish to go to Rome to join in the celebrations for the Jubilee Year and also to see the beautiful city and experience all that the city has to offer. We would also visit Assisi, the beautiful little town in the Umbrian Hills where St Francis and St Clare lived and worked. If you would be interested in going on this pilgrimage in 2025 please speak with Fr Wyllie. There are no arrangements at the moment as we need to see how many parishioners would be interested and the costs involved. Please be advised that you would need to be in good health for the walking that will be required in Rome and Assisi. Please speak with Fr Wyllie soon.



MANY THANKS

Over the past few days there has been some work carried out on our parish property. The railings at the side door or St Mary's as well as the wooden panelling above the side door have been painted. The benches at the statue of Our Lady have also been varnished. Thank you! The topsoil at the side of Our Lady & St John's has been cleared away and placed along the front of the garden. The fencing has also been repaired and replaced. Many thanks!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Anne O'Neil, Aaron Mulligan, Margaret McLaughlin, Kevin Wyllie, Kerry Peterson

RIP - Jim Wotherspoon (Bothwell), Catherine Grant (Hamilton), Jean Miller

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Vida Wilson, John & Jane McMurray, James Lyons, Eleanor Morrison

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



EASTER REMEMBRANCES



*This Easter the Sacrifice of Holy Mass is offered for the following,
that they may rest in peace and rise in glory*

Betty, Eddie, Wullie & Margaret McCabe, The Sweeney & McCabe Families,
Janet McIntosh, John & Catherine Deerin, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, Gerard Wyllie,
Martin Wyllie, George Wyllie, David James, Ellen Mullen, Frank Lyons, Jim McShane,
Paul McKenna, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Alice, Cornelius Weir & Family,
Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Isa & Walter Freeland, Jim Higgins, Eleanor Morrison,
May & Stan Kos, Elizabeth Wightman, Martin Gibney, Jim & Mary Somerville,
Charlie & Annie McNally, Charlie & Margaret McNally, Johnny McNally, Alan Rennie,
Jerry Dunn, Desmond & Marion Houston, Michael Simpson, Simon Cheresna,
John & Betty Connachan, Joseph & Margaret Cassidy, Maureen Crawley

PARISH STALL

Our Parish Stall has a wide range of cards, candles, rosaries, religious medals and other religious articles. Why not have a little look after Mass today or over the next few weeks? The Stall in St Mary's is to the left as you come in the main entrance and in Our Lady & St John's in the sacristy area. There is a wide selection of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards too.

BAPTISMS

There are 6 baptisms booked in over the next few weeks, so any parent who has booked a baptism is asked to contact Fr Wyllie to arrange a meeting to discuss the details of the baptism and to fill out the necessary paperwork. Please do this as soon as possible.

FEAST DAY OF ST PEREGRINE

St Peregrine is honoured as the patron saint of those who suffer from cancer. The date of his feast day is 1st May. This year we will have a special Mass in Our Lady & St John's on **Wednesday 1st May at 7.00pm** to pray for all those who suffer from cancer, those who have died from this terrible disease, their families, and to pray for all those doctors, nurses and care-workers who help to alleviate and find a cure for this disease. We will all have known and loved someone who is going through cancer treatment, or who has lost their life to cancer, so it is a fitting moment for us to offer our prayers for all those who are or have been affected by cancer. This Mass will also include the anointing of the sick.

CATHOLIC TEACHER APPROVAL

Those wishing to teach in a Catholic school are required to receive approval from your parish priest to show that you accept and live out the teachings of the Catholic Faith, including coming to Mass on a Sunday. This applies to those enrolling for the Catholic Teachers course, about to start as probationary teachers and all those applying for teaching posts, or promoted posts, within the Catholic sector. Fr Wyllie asks that all those looking for approval do so in good time, and also to remind them that they must attend Mass in our parish or no approval will be given.

BUILDING FUND SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND