

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
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**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
20TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

MAGNIFICAS HUMANITAS

We live in a world of extraordinary technological change. Artificial intelligence can now write, create images, answer questions and carry out tasks which, only a few years ago, we might have thought possible only for a human being.

Against this rapidly changing background, Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnificas Humanitas* (the Magnificence of Humanity) asks us to consider a deeper and more important question: What does it really mean to be human?

The Holy Father reminds us that our dignity does not depend upon how intelligent, productive, successful or useful we are. Our worth comes from something much deeper. Each one of us is created and loved by God, and called into relationship with Him and one another.

This is an important message in a society which can so easily measure people by what they achieve. The elderly person who needs care, the child who depends entirely upon others, the person living with illness or disability, and the person who feels that they have little to offer the world, all possess exactly the same God-given human dignity.

Indeed, one of the most beautiful themes of *Magnificas Humanitas* is its reminder that our human limitations are not simply problems to be overcome. We need one another. We experience weakness, vulnerability and dependence. Yet these very things can call forth some of the finest qualities of the human heart: compassion, patience, generosity, tenderness and love.

Technology can undoubtedly bring enormous benefits, and the Church does not ask us to fear it. But Pope Leo asks us to ensure that technology remains at the service of the human person, rather than allowing human beings to become servants of technology.

Perhaps, then, the encyclical offers each of us a simple examination of conscience.

Does the technology I use help me to be more human? Does it help me to be more attentive, compassionate and present to the people around me? Or does it sometimes distract me from the person sitting beside me?

No machine, however sophisticated, can replace the mystery of a human person. It cannot replace friendship freely given, a hand held in suffering, forgiveness offered after hurt, a family gathered around a table, a parish community caring for those in need, or a prayer quietly offered to God.

At the heart of the Christian faith is not an idea or a technology, but a person: Jesus Christ. In Christ, God himself became human. That alone tells us something extraordinary about the dignity of humanity.

Perhaps the invitation of *Magnificas Humanitas* is therefore very simple. As our technology becomes ever more powerful, may we become not less human, but more deeply human: more capable of wonder, more attentive to one another, more willing to serve, more ready to forgive and, above all, more capable of love.

For ultimately, the greatness of humanity is not found in what we can create but in who created us and in the love for which we were created.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 20th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 7.30pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Monday 21st September (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St Matthew (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 22nd September (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 23rd September (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
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 Pius of Pietrelcina (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 Pius of Pietrelcina (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 24th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
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 Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 25th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Saturday 26th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

21st September - Feast of St Matthew - St Matthew, also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus. He worked as a tax collector for the Romans, a despised profession, when he was called by the Lord at Capernaum. Nevertheless, Jesus called him to be an Apostle. After the Ascension he may have travelled to Persia or to Ethiopia; wherever it was, he was martyred. St Matthew's Gospel stands first in the New Testament. He is the patron saint of accountants, bankers, bookkeepers, tax collectors, and civil servants.

23rd September - Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) - St Pius of Pietrelcina was born of humble village parents in 1887, the future Padre Pio became a Capuchin Franciscan novice at 15 and an ordained priest in 1910. His health was not robust but he already had a reputation as a holy person, with simple but constant praying; his Masses lasted hours since they involved much contemplative prayer. One day in 1918, as he prayed before a crucifix after Mass, he received the stigmata (the marks in his own body of the marks of the Passion of Jesus). He ate little, rose daily at 2.30am and, apart from Mass, his daily occupation was to hear confessions of the many people who wished for him to hear their confession. He had a nineteen-hour day (no radio, television or newspaper). The monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, near Foggia in the south of Italy, was a place of pilgrimage in Padre Pio's lifetime until his death in 1968. It remains a place of pilgrimage today with many thousands of visitors annually. He is the patron saint of civil defence volunteers and adolescents.

26th September - Memoria of St Cosmas & St Damian - Little is known about St Cosmas and St Damian. They are thought to be brothers, both physicians from the Eastern Mediterranean area. They are known as the Anargyroi (the holy moneyless ones) in the East since they never took money for their medical services. As Christians, they suffered various forms of persecution before their martyrdom by beheading in 303. They are both honoured as the patron saints of physicians, surgeons, pharmacists, and dentists.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£920.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£355.00
Digital Giving:	£218.50
Stall:	£20.00
	£1,513.50

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**



SECOND COLLECTION FOR ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS

Many thanks to all parishioners who donated to the second collection last week to help with the cost of training our future priests. The total forwarded to the diocese was £720.00.

LUNCH CLUB MASS & SOCIAL

The next Parish Lunch Club Mass & Social for seniors will take place in Our Lady & St Jonh's on Thursday 1st October with Mass beginning at 12.30pm. As always, you are very warmly invited but please let Betty McGonagle know you intend on coming along.

VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP RINO FISICHELLA

Archbishop Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelisation, will be the speaker at a Clergy Day for diocesan priests this Thursday (24th) and then he will celebrate Mass in Motherwell Cathedral that evening at 7.00pm. Bishop Toal invites the whole diocese to join together for this special Mass and to welcome Archbishop Fisichella to our diocese as he speaks about the important work of evangelisation in the Church today.

PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those parishioners who made our celebration of the Parish Forty Hours of the Blessed Sacrament such a special and grace-filled time. A special word of thanks to those who popped into the church over the three days for private prayer, to those who attended the Masses, liturgies and devotions, to the many people who availed themselves of the Sacrament of Confession, the pupils and staff of St Mary's Primary, to the altar servers, readers, sacristans, florist, organists and the Schola Benedicti. The church was a power house of prayer over those days, may the Lord continue to bless and guide us as a parish and as individuals.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of people seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith in our country and throughout the world. If you, or someone you know, are thinking of becoming a Catholic or would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak with Fr Wyllie to organise an initial and informal chat. A number of young people have already approached Fr Wyllie but it would be good to have another informal chat before the beginning of October. Please speak with him after Mass or email: ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk to arrange a short meeting.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT WITH THE TRIBUTE BAND 'BROCLAIMERS

Saturday 28th November. Tickets priced at £10.00. Email: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

The QR code can also be used to donate to the parish through your phone. Just open your camera app, hold the camera to the QR code and follow the instructions. It's simple and easy to use. Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parish.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Lily Dodds, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming, Robbie Frew

RIP - Gerard McTear, Jim Bryson

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John McLaughlin, Hugh Blair, Hilda Keane, Paul Keane, John Holton, Louise Gonnella, Mary Smith, Elaine Begley

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

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

The St Peter Claver Sisters will visit the parish on the weekend of 3rd/4th October to sell their 2027 calendars to support the missionary work of the Church around the world. Please be as generous to the sisters and the great work they do throughout the world as you always are.

ALMA YOUTH GROUP - DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2027

We're looking for volunteers (\$6-28) to join the ALMA Group and help with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 12th - 19th July 2027. An information evening will take place at the Diocesan Centre in Motherwell on Tuesday 29th September at 7.00pm to find out more.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRES

The Parent Councils of both our primary schools would like to give advance notice of the Christmas Fayres which are being organised to raise funds for our young people. Please save these dates in your diary and support these two events:

Sunday 22nd November - St John's Christmas Fayre in the Parish Hall after the 12noon Mass

Sunday 6th December - St Mary's Christmas Fayre in the Primary School after the 10.00am Mass

SEPARATED, DIVORCED OR BEREAVED?

The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death, is one of life's most traumatic experiences. Beginning Experience Scotland team would like to help. A weekend away can lead to a lifetime of change. Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, 16th - 18th October. For further details contact Maggie at beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com or on 07786687631.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Mass at 12.30pm, Lunch after in Parish Hall



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

7.00pm - Late



PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclairmers

