

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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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



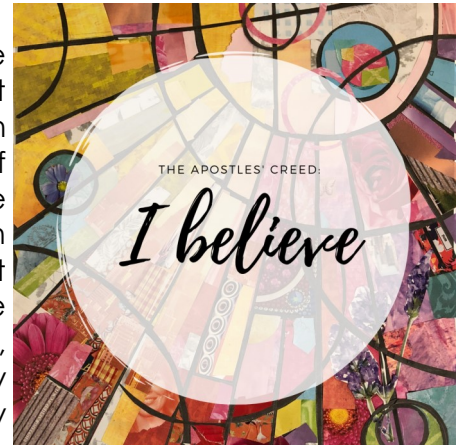
St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
9TH MARCH 2025**

THE ARTICLES OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Article 10. "... the forgiveness of sins ..."

Only God can forgive sins. Because Jesus was true God and true man, he could forgive people's sins during his earthly ministry. At the end of his earthly ministry, he shared that responsibility with the Apostles. The forgiveness of sins is tied directly to the words of Jesus, who told the apostles, "Whose sins you forgive they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain they are retained" (Jn 20:23). Jesus also clearly tied forgiveness of sin to baptism (Mt 28:16-20). The Church celebrates this grace from God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As the successors to the Apostles, the bishops continue to have this power in the Church, and they share it with priests when the priests are ordained. This is why only a priest can forgive sins in the name of the Church.



Article 11. "... the resurrection of the body ..."

The creed also affirms the resurrection of the body based on the clear testimony of Scripture. According to the Creation accounts in the Bible, death was not part of God's original plan for human beings. Our bodily death is the result of Original Sin. But God will not let death be our final end. Through an even greater act of love than his original Creation, he allowed his only Son to suffer and die so that every person might have the opportunity for immortality, for eternal life. The whole point of God's plan of salvation was that we might share in the resurrection of Christ. Perhaps the strongest statement regarding belief in the Resurrection comes from St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians: "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. ... For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised" (15:13-14, 16). At death our souls will be separated from our bodies. But when God raises us from the dead, our souls will be reunited with new, incorruptible bodies - that is, bodies that will never know illness, disease, or death again.

Article 12. "... and the life everlasting. Amen."

The conclusion of the Apostles' Creed could not end on a more positive note. Christians believe in life everlasting based on the witness of Scripture and the constant teaching of the Church. St Paul, who had a unique experience of the risen Christ (cf. 1 Cor 15:8), grasped the essential meaning of God's gift of salvation: "For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. ... I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, [for] that is far better. Yet that I remain [in] the flesh is more necessary for your benefit" (Phil 1:21, 23-24). For Paul, as it is for every believer, union with Christ already exists on earth. For the faithful person who passes through death, the union is deepened.

The reader who has persevered through this explanation over the past few weeks may profess the creed with a better understanding of what we are saying when we profess our faith in the words of the Creed each week. To learn more about our faith is so important for us to grow in our knowledge and love of God.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 9th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the First Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 10th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross led by pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St John Ogilvie (St Mary's)

12.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 2.45pm (St Mary's)

6.30pm Lectio Divina (St Mary's)

Tuesday 11th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 12th March (St Mary's open 7.45am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

8.30am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)

8.45am 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 First Week of Lent (St Mary's)

7.00pm Confirmation Mass (St Mary's)

Thursday 13th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

8.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

9.00am Morning Prayer of the Church (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 14th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Saturday 15th March (St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

10th March - Feast of St John Ogilvie - John Ogilvie was born in 1579, just as the Protestant 'reformation' was taking hold in Scotland under the fiery apostate priest John Knox. Catholicism would soon be all-but wiped out in Scotland.

John Ogilvie was raised in his first formative years by a Calvinist father. However, along with many young noblemen, he was sent to the Continent to be educated by the recently-founded Jesuits, who had already made a name for themselves for having the best schools and curricula, with their tried-and-true Catholic liberal arts program. In the midst of his studies, young John soon realised the truth of Catholicism, and, at the age of 17, was received into the Church. Soon afterwards, in 1559, he joined the Jesuits themselves, and after a solid decade of formation, was ordained in 1610.

Father Ogilvie spent his all-too brief priestly ministry as a missionary first in London, then Paris, and finally amongst his own people in Scotland, where Catholicism and the sacraments were outlawed under pain of death; it was here that he was betrayed.

Father Ogilvie underwent a number of tortures, being put in the 'boots', which crushed his feet, and the jailers were ordered to keep him awake for a full 'novena', nine days without sleep, towards the end of which they had to slash him with knives and drop him on the floor to keep him awake. Physicians who examined him afterward declared that one more sleepless night would have killed him, and the priest was never the same afterward; as he confessed, his once-sharp mind was now somewhat confused.

During all of this inhuman treatment, Father Ogilvie remained steadfast; Ogilvie was condemned to the brutal death of being 'hung, drawn and quartered', a sentence carried out on this day, March 10, 1615, at the age of 36, Father John Ogilvie was canonised a saint in 1976.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £1,040.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £1,647.00
Total: £2,687.00

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**



CONFIRMATIONS

The young people who have been enrolled for the Sacrament of Confession and have been attending Mass over the past few weeks will be confirmed by Bishop Toal this Wednesday at a special Mass in St Mary's at 7.00pm. We keep the young people and their parents/carers in our prayers. There will be no adoration, confession or Mass in OLSJ that evening.

FOODBANK

The next collection of foodstuffs and monetary donations for the local Foodbank will take place on the weekend of 22nd/23rd March. During the season of Lent we are called upon to give charity to those who need our help. Why not contribute to the work of the local foodbank as part of your Lenten observance?

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN

Fr Wyllie proposes that we make a parish pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto on Thursday 8th May, where we will be joined by the P4-P7 pupils of both our schools. A bus will pick us up and arrive at the Grotto around 10.30am and the day will begin with tea/coffee followed by devotions & Mass.

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.



ST PATRICK'S NIGHT - KIERAN DAVENPORT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late

£10.00 for Adults (16+)

Children Free



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

MONDAY 24TH MARCH

6.30pm with talk beginning at 7.00pm

**ANNE MARIE CLEMENTS FROM JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND
ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH

2.00pm - 7.00pm



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 - John Heywood, Elizabeth O'Neill, Maria Green, Anne Gracie, Giuseppe Musardo, Eileen Henderson, Rosha Ferry (Donegal), Mary-Anne McCabe

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Charles McCorry, Monica McCorry, James & Catherine McLaren, William Lynch, James Rafferty, Mary & Michael Vernal, John McIvor, Janet McIntosh (nee McIvor), Raymond Holmes, Frank Smith, Brian Morton, Minnie Sinclair

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

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

On the first weekend of every month we take a count of the numbers attending Mass in our parish. The figures for last week are below:

5.00pm - 101

10.00am - 124

12noon - 85

5.00pm - 64

Total - 374

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gerry and Theresa Murray who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last weekend. As a parish we offer them our prayerful best wishes and an assurance of our prayers for this very important milestone.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

The Diocese of Motherwell currently has seventeen retired priests, some who are still active and offer supply in the diocese and others who are in care homes and other places of care. Each year the diocese asks us to help alleviate some of the costs of caring for our sick and retired priests through a second collection which is taken up on the Second Sunday of Lent. This year the collection will be taken up on 15th/16th March.

SCIAF SUNDAY

Each year on the Fourth Sunday of Lent we offer up prayers and provide material support for the work of SCIAF, The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. A Second Collection will be taken up on the weekend of 29th/30th March for the work SCIAF do in the poorest regions of our world. Please give as generously as you always do.

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S - ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Our Lady & St John's St Vincent de Paul would like to thank all those parishioners who contribute to the work they do in helping those who are in need in our community. The SSVP are involved in outreach which ranges from providing household items, furniture, school uniforms, groceries, Christmas gifts and dinner, and so much more. The box at the back of the church is the main source of financial support which the SSVP receive in order to keep this work going. Nowadays not many people carry cash on them, but please consider bringing along some money to Mass in order to help the SSVP in their work of supporting the most needy.

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is a very ancient prayer in the Church and takes a piece of scripture and gives an opportunity to reflect, meditate and contemplate more deeply the words we have just heard. The passage of scripture is read and then a time of reflection follows, then the passage is read a second and third time, and after the third time we are invited to reflect on what word or phrase stood out for us. Fr Wyllie proposes to run a few sessions over Lent to see how it goes. He proposes we meet on a Monday at 6.30pm in St Mary's. Everyone is welcome to come along and try this beautiful way of praying.

