

# 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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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wylie



St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT 10TH MARCH 2024

# THE SIGN OF GOD'S ABIDING LOVE

If Jesus' entire mission in history is an eloquent sign of God's love, his death, in which God's redeeming tenderness is fully expressed, is quite uniquely so. Always, but particularly in this Lenten Season, our meditation must be centred on the Cross. In it we contemplate the glory of the Lord that shines out in the martyred body of Jesus.

God's greatness, his being love, becomes visible precisely in this total gift of himself. It is the glory of the Crucified One that every Christian is called to understand, live and bear witness to.

The Cross - the giving of himself on the part of the Son of God - is the definitive "sign" par excellence given to us so that we might understand the truth about man and the truth about God: we have all been created and redeemed by a God who sacrificed his only Son out of love.

This is why the Crucifixion, as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in the Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, "is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form" (no. 12). How should we respond to this radical love of the Lord?

The Gospel presents to us a person by the name of Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem who sought out Jesus by night. He was a well-to-do man, attracted by the Lord's words and example, but one who hesitated to take the leap of faith because he was fearful of others. He felt the fascination of this Rabbi, so different from the others, but could not manage to rid himself of the conditioning of his environment that was hostile to Jesus, and stood irresolute on the threshold of faith.

How many people also in our time are in search of God, in search of Jesus and of his Church, in search of divine mercy, and are waiting for a "sign" that will touch their minds and their hearts! Today, as then, the Evangelist reminds us that the only "sign" is Jesus raised on the Cross: Jesus who died and rose is the absolutely sufficient sign. Through him we can understand the truth about life and obtain salvation. This is the principal proclamation of the Church, which remains unchanged down the ages.

The Christian faith, therefore, is not an ideology but a personal encounter with the Crucified and Risen Christ. From this experience, both individual and communities, flows a new way of thinking and acting: an existence marked by love is born, as the saints testify.

Continue, dear friends, on the path on which you have set out, striving to make your parish a true family in which fidelity to the Word of God and the Church's Tradition may become, day after day, more and more your rule of life. As we turn our gaze to Mary, "Mother of holy joy", let us ask her to help us deepen the reasons for our faith, so that, as today's liturgy urges us, renewed in the spirit and with a joyful heart, we may respond to the eternal and boundless love of God. Amen!



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

## Sunday 10th March

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	Vespers & Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)



## Monday 11th March

11.30am	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week in Lent (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week in Lent (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 12th March

8.30am	Morning Mass for Tuesday of the Fourth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Wednesday 13th March

8.30am	Morning Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week in 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 Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.00pm	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 Fourth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Thursday 14th March

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 Fourth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
12.30pm	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Fourth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Friday 15th March

9.30am	Stations of the Cross led by the pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Fourth Week in Lent (St Mary's)



## Saturday 16th March

4.00pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

## SCIAF COLLECTION

This weekend we observe in the Catholic Church in Scotland, SCIAF Sunday. It is a day when we pray for the work done all around the world on our behalf by SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund). There will be a second collection taken up at all Masses for the work SCIAF does to help our poorest brothers and sisters in the developing world. Please give as generously as you always do. There have been many calls on your generosity over the past few weeks, so please just give whatever you can.

## JUSTICE & PEACE

Fr Wyllie has been in contact with Justice & Peace, and Anne-Marie Clements, the Catholic Social Teaching Engagement Officer for Justice & Peace will speak at all the Masses this weekend to give us a flavour and insight into the work they do and also to encourage parishioners to set up a Justice & Peace Group in our parish. If you would be willing to be part of a Justice & Peace group in the parish please listen to Anne-Marie at Mass this weekend and then either give your name to her or to Fr Wyllie and we can hopefully set up a Justice & Peace group in due course. This group could meet once a month or once a quarter.

## MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK IN OUR PARISH

5.00pm - 115

10.00am - 140

12noon - 104

5.00pm - 38

**Total - 397**

## PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,054.00
Standing Orders:	£1,592.00
Votive Candles:	£538.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£3,184.00</b>

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

*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.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

As a parish we congratulate our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last week at a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Toal. We extend our prayerful best wishes and an assurance of our prayers to the young people on whom the Sacrament was conferred. We hope that the young people, together with their parents/carers and families, will continue to come along to our parish celebration of Mass and be part of our parish community.

## 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.



## FULL LICENSE FOR THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall Team would like to give an update on the application for the full license for the Parish Hall. The application for a full bar license is progressing well. We are hoping that the license will be granted over the next few weeks. This will mean that we can hold events/take bookings at short notice and be able to provide a bar. Further updates will be given when we have them.

## SACRAMENTS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

On Saturday 11th May at 12noon the boys and girls of St John's Primary will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for the first time; the boys and girls from St Mary's Primary will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18th May at 12noon. Please pray for all the children who have been enrolled for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion as they prepare for this special moment.

## AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

Again this coming Thursday we have the monthly Mass and lunch with the residents of Auchlochan. Everyone is very warmly invited to attend but please let Betty McGonagle know for catering purposes. Anyone who could help with volunteering would be greatly welcomed too. Mass begins at 12.30pm followed by soup, sandwiches and cakes and live music.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LISBON

Many thanks to all those who have paid their £150.00 towards the cost of the pilgrimage which will take place from 2nd-9th July. The final balance will be due 10 weeks before departure, on or before 24th April. A meeting has been arranged with Anne Marie Cairns to go through the pilgrimage, this meeting will take place on **Wednesday 20th March in the Parish Hall after the 7.00pm Mass**. All pilgrims are invited to attend.



## PROJECT WELLSRING WORKING GROUP

Fr Wyllie is delighted to announce that the members of this team are: **Fr Wyllie, June Walker, Marie Beacom, Jonathan Lyons, Harvey Perrie and Sylvia Brown**. This group will meet for the first time on Tuesday 12th March at 6.30pm in the Parish House at Larkhall. This initial meeting will aim to begin setting out a plan of renewal for our parish based on the responses to the Parish Questionnaire handed out in the autumn and published a few weeks ago for all parishioners to read. Please pray to Our Lady of Fatima each day for our parish as we embark on this project.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Pat Whalin, Douglas Russell, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Janet McIntosh, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Anne O'Neil (Belfast), William McLearn, Aaron Mulligan

**RIP** - Paul Murphy, Michael Simpson, Mason Reid (Motherwell)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jim Walker, James Feeney, Mary Dawson, Minnie Sinclair

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

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR PASSIONTIDE & HOLY WEEK

### Saturday 16th March (Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent)

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

5.35pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

### Sunday 17th March (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

9.15am Confessions until 9.45am (St Mary's)

10.35am Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

12.35pm Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (Our Lady & St John's)

### Monday 18th March (Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent)

6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm (St Mary's)

### Wednesday 19th March (Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent)

6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)

### Saturday 23rd March (Vigil of Palm Sunday)

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

### Monday 25th March (Monday of Holy Week)

11.30am Confessions until 11.50am (St Mary's)

12.30pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm (St Mary's)

7.30pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

### Tuesday 26th March (Tuesday of Holy Week)

9.30am Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

### Wednesday 27th March (Wednesday of Holy Week)

9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)

10.30am Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.30pm Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)



## SACRED TRIDUUM 2024

### HOLY THURSDAY

No morning Mass in our parish. Mass of Chrism at Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral at 11.00am

7.00pm Holy Mass of the Lord's Last Supper (St Mary's)

8.00pm Watching at the Altar of Repose until

10.00pm Night Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)

### GOOD FRIDAY

12noon Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death (St Mary's)

7.00pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

### HOLY SATURDAY

7.00pm Easter Vigil & First Mass of the Resurrection (St Mary's)



TRIDUUM