

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. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT
21ST DECEMBER 2025**

MARY, MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR

Think of Mary. Making the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem by walking and riding on a donkey for 80-90 miles while nine months pregnant is impressive. Of course, after all that walking and rough travelling on a donkey, no wonder she gave birth when they arrived in Bethlehem! Giving birth in such challenging circumstances is also quite impressive. We have lots of beautiful artwork of Mary, and often, she is depicted as soft and dainty, but do not be fooled; Mary was strong and tough!



Mary's life brings the Season of Advent to life. This season is a time of celebration and preparation for the three-fold coming of Jesus. First, the historical coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem. Second, the coming of Jesus right now in our lives. And, finally, the future second coming of Jesus.

Even before the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she would have known of the promise of the Messiah. The prophets foretold a saviour that was to come. One of the purposes of Matthew in writing his Gospel was to show how Jesus is the Messiah that the prophets foretold in the Old Testament. Jesus assumed humanity in Mary, entered our time and place, and fulfilled the promises God made to his people through the prophets. This is the historical coming of Jesus, the Incarnation (taking on human flesh).

As Christians today, we possess the same anticipation that God is acting for our good. What do we hope God will do? Take some time in these final days of Advent to sit with this question and go deeper. Go beyond the superficial hopes of the season for the presents to be loved, the turkey to be perfectly cooked and for someone to make the trifle that granny used to make. Go spiritually deeper and listen to God's promises and hear them speak to the desires and aches of the heart. Hope comes from listening to him. What does it truly mean to have a saviour that is, "God with Us"? Have we really surrendered our lives to Jesus and allowed him to show his face to others through us? Here, we meet Jesus as he comes to us today and incarnate his presence as we show his love to those around us.

Another way we prepare for the coming of Jesus during Advent is for his second coming. At Jesus' ascension, the angels told the disciples: "This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Jesus' second coming will include the final judgment, the resurrection of the body and the redemption of all creation. We do not know when this will be, but we do know Jesus told us to be ready. We can hope for this fullness of redemption and live in a state of grace so we are prepared when it comes.

Mary beholds the three-fold coming of Jesus in a unique way. She learned the hope for a Messiah in her childhood. She literally delivered the Saviour to the world and she, by her assumption body and soul into heaven, participates in the resurrection of the body already. She has gone where we hope to follow. She has done what we hope to do. She is an impressive mother and we can journey with her this Advent to go deeper with her Son, Jesus.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 21st December (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 6.00pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
 10.35am Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)
 12.35pm Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)
 5.35pm Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)



ADVENT

Monday 22nd December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
 12noon Holy Mass for the 22nd December (St Mary's)
 12.30pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)
 6.00pm Confessions until 7.00pm (St Mary's)

Tuesday 23rd December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; 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 Third Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)
 9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
 10.00am Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 24th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 10.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 1.00am)

No morning Mass in the parish
 No Confessions today in the parish
5.00pm VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS (St Mary's)
 8.00pm Carols before Mass (St Mary's)
8.30pm FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS (St Mary's)
12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Our Lady & St John's)



CHRISTMAS TIME

Thursday 25th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am DAWN MASS OF CHRISTMAS (St Mary's)
12noon DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 26th December (St Mary's closed; OLSJ closed)
 No Mass in the parish

Saturday 27th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family (St Mary's)

Sunday 28th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family (Our Lady & St John's)



CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

Christmas is a time when we feel the loss of our beloved dead most acutely. We can find great comfort in having them remembered at our Christmas Masses. If you wish your deceased loved ones remembered at our Christmas Masses and recorded in our Christmas bulletin, please hand in their names in an envelope clearly marked 'Christmas Remembrances' by **Tuesday 23rd December at 12noon.**



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A second collection is taken up at Christmas as a way of parishioners offering a special Christmas gift to the parish. This collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Those who are in Giftaid are asked to use one of the Christmas Giftaid envelopes. Please place your name on the envelope in order for us to put the donation through as Giftaid.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

There are still some cards and other seasonal items available in our parish stall, it would be great to have as much of this stock sold by Christmas. This is a great way of supporting the parish by purchasing your Christmas cards and other gifts from the parish stall. Please have a look after Mass. Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are on sale for £2.00, the greatest gift we can ever give someone is having the Sacrifice of Mass offered for them and for their intentions.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£959.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£290.00
Stall:	£126.00
	£1,375.00

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**



CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

A special bulletin will be available for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This same bulletin will cover the weekend of 27th/28th December and the week which follows. A separate bulletin will be available again for the weekend 3rd/4th January. If you have any intimations, announcements or names for the bulletin please keep this information in mind. Fr Wyllie kindly asks that all notices and names for the Christmas bulletin are in by Tuesday 23rd December at 12noon, and for the 3rd/4th January bulletin by Wednesday 31st December at 11.00am.

PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

Could all those who have their names on the list to attend the Parish Hogmanay Party on 31st December please hand in the ticket money to either Fr Wyllie or Suzanne Sherry by the end of this weekend. Could those who intend on going and have not yet placed their names on the list do so and hand in their money. When you have paid please tick the paid column on the sheet.

PARISH DRINKS

Normally on 27th December we would celebrate the Feast of St John with a special Mass and parish social in the Parish Hall, but this year, because the Feast falls on a Saturday, we have decided to have a parish social on Sunday 28th December from after the 12noon Mass. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Many thanks to all those parishioners who came out on Tuesday evening for our latest Theology on Tap. Fr Andrew, as always, held us captivated as he explored the Christmas story from the Gospels. We thank him sincerely for coming back to the parish to lead this talk for us. The next Theology on Tap will take place in February. The date and speaker are still to be confirmed.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

This weekend we have extended times of Confessions to allow as many parishioners as possible to avail themselves of this beautiful Sacrament. Confessions will be heard after all Masses this weekend and then in St Mary's from 6.00pm - 7.00pm on Monday evening. There will be no confessions in the parish on Christmas Eve itself. Please make a special effort to come along to the Sacrament of Confession in order to prepare our hearts and minds for receiving the Lord worthily in Holy Communion and receiving him in our hearts at Christmas.

PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.30pm - 1.30am

Ticket - £10.00 (glass of prosecco & a pie), under 16's free
Please sign up on the list & pay ticket money this weekend.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Jim Melville, Anne Connor, Jane Hamilton, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming, Joe Murphy (Dubai)

RIP - James McKernan, Jean Lundie (Coatbridge), Veronica Hood (Hamilton)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jerry Dunn

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



CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES



*This Christmas we remember those who have gone before us in faith.
May they rest in the peace of Jesus Christ who was born for them, suffered
for them, died and rose again for them:*

John & Jane McMurray, Philip & Ida Holton, Ken & Millie Gough, Jim & Mary Dow, Jim Dow Jnr; John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Annie & Michael Creechan, Margaret & Eddie Love, Cathie & George Gibney, Catherine Ann Bews, Kennedy Family, Creechan Family; Gerard Wyllie, John & Catherine Deerin, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, Jim McShane, Martin Wyllie, Kevin Wyllie, George Wyllie, David James, Ellen Mullen, Chrissie Ferris, Frank Lyons, Anne Findon, Marion Hoey, Very Reverend Giles Canon Goward, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Very Reverend William Canon Dunnachie, Eleanor Morrison; Elizabeth Gold, The Sweeney & McCabe Families, Margaret Curley Foix, Janet McIntosh, Pat Grace, Kathleen McGeoch, Bunty Kane, Margaret McGeechan, Frank Campbell, Milly Lynch; Alice & Con Weir & Family; Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, Christina Weller, Louis Baron Weller, Christina McCluskey, Teresa McCluskey, John McCluskey, David Yardley Kennedy, Robert Kennedy Snr, Robert Kennedy Jnr, Sharon Campbell, Barry Myles, Alexander Young, Christina Fuller, James Hotchkiss, Margaret Hotchkiss, John McStea; Jamie Dunn, Jerry Dunn, Marion Houston, Desmond Houston, Houston Family, Campbell Family;

MANY THANKS

A big thank you to the pupils and staff of both our primary schools for the wonderful Nativities over the past two weeks and also for the reflective and beautiful Advent & Christmas Services which they held on Friday. We are all very grateful to the pupils and staff for helping us to remember that Jesus Christ is the reason for the season. The young people were a credit to their families, their school and their parish. Well done everyone and enjoy a well earned break.

ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

Over Christmas a box is at the crib for parishioners to donate to the wonderful work St Margaret's Adoption Society do in finding loving and safe homes for babies and young people.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24th December

5.00pm - Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

8.30pm - First Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12.00am - Midnight Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25th December

10.00am - Dawn Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12noon - Day Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

