

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

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
4TH OCTOBER 2026

DO NOT GIVE EVIL THE LAST WORD

During Pope Leo XIV's visit to Barcelona in June, one young woman asked the Holy Father a question born not from a script, but from terrible personal suffering.

She told him of a childhood marked by violence. Her father had attempted to kill her mother. Her mother survived because a young man intervened - and he was killed instead. Her father went to prison; her mother later became caught up in drug addiction, and as a child she was eventually taken into care.

Yet it was there, amid such brokenness, that something beautiful began to happen. She encountered the love of a family, heard about Jesus, began to pray and was eventually baptised. Later, on retreat, she experienced the love of God in a profound way. But one question remained. How could she forgive her father? And, looking back upon everything she had suffered as a child, where was God?

Pope Leo's answer offers something important for every Christian who has ever struggled with hurt, anger or memories that cannot simply be erased. The Holy Father did not offer an easy answer. He did not tell her that what happened did not matter.

Instead, Pope Leo described forgiveness as a journey and a "powerful medicine against evil" which gradually heals the wounds within us. Perhaps most importantly, he explained that forgiveness does not necessarily mean returning to the relationship as it was before. Forgiveness is not the justification of wrongdoing, neither is it forgetting what happened.

Rather, forgiveness means refusing to allow the evil done to us to have the final word in our lives. This is profoundly Christian. At the heart of our faith stands the Cross. Jesus does not deny the reality of evil. He bears its wounds in his own Body. Yet hatred does not have the final word. Sin does not have the final word. Love does.

And so, Pope Leo reminded this young woman - and all of us - that forgiveness may take time. Some wounds are too deep for us simply to decide one morning that everything is now alright. Healing can be a long road, walked gradually with God.

The Pope also addressed that haunting of questions: Where was God?

He reminded those gathered that we cannot attribute to God the evil that comes from human choices. God has entrusted us with freedom and responsibility. Violence, hatred and selfishness are not the will of God. Yet God does not abandon us in their midst.

The story of this young woman itself bears witness to that truth. In the darkest chapters of her life, other people became instruments of God's love. A place of care became a home. She encountered Jesus. She received Baptism. And a heart that had understandably built walls around itself slowly discovered that it could open again.

Pope Leo's message does not ask us to pretend our wounds do not exist. Instead, it invites us to place them into the wounded hands of Christ and allow him to heal us. "Forgiving does not mean justifying the evil received or forgetting what happened but preventing that evil from having the last word in our lives."

Pope Leo XIV, Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium, Barcelona, 9th June 2026.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 4th October (St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
2.00pm Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)



Monday 5th October (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 Memoria of St Faustina Kowalska (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 6th October (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-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 7th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)
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 Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
6.00pm Reception of Body & Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John'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 Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 8th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.30am Requiem Mass for Janet Cosgrove (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 9th October (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 the Memoria of St John Henry Newman (St Mary's)



Saturday 10th October (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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

5th October – Memoria of St Faustina Kowalska – St Faustina was born in 1905. The Divine Mercy devotion began through the visions (The Desires and Promises of the Merciful Saviour) received by St Faustina in her convent near Krakow in Poland. She died in 1938 and her former convent is a place of pilgrimage welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

7th October - Memoria of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary – The feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary was instituted in thanksgiving for the naval victory of the 'Holy League' (of Christian nations led by Don John of Austria) over the ships of the Islamic Ottoman Empire in 1571 at Lepanto (off the coast of Greece). Nowadays, the feast is a special day in the month of the Holy Rosary, the prayer that allows us to meditate on the mysteries of Christ. The prayer also reminds us of the maternal care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary for all her children, especially those in most need or difficulty.

9th October - Memoria of St John Henry Newman – St John Henry Newman was born in 1801 in London on 21st February and educated at Trinity College, Oxford. As a fellow of Oriel College and Vicar at the University Church, Newman became a leading figure in the Oxford Movement within the Church of England. His search for truth led to his reception into the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore on 9th October 1845. Newman consequently set up the Oratory of St Philip Neri in England and was based for most of his Catholic life in Birmingham. After many trials and disappointments, Pope Leo XIII created him a Cardinal in 1879 in recognition of his theological work and personal witness. He died on 11th August 1890 and at his funeral the poor people turned up in their hundreds to line the streets, so good was his care and concern for them that they turned out to bid him farewell. He was canonised by Pope Francis on 13th October 2019.

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday will take place on Sunday 18th October, a day when we pray for and practically support the work of the missions. A second collection will be taken up at all Masses that weekend.

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. In 2024 there were a recorded 92,000 adults received into full communion with the Catholic Church worldwide, with 7,500 last year in Britain alone. 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. The first meeting of the RCIA will take place this Monday in the Parish House at Larkhall beginning at 7.00pm. This will be an informal meeting to learn a bit more about what is involved and to answer any questions you may have.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

October is the month dedicated to praying the Holy Rosary. In our parish we pray the rosary on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday before our Masses. During this month we will also pray the rosary with the traditional October Devotions on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm (*except this Wednesday due to funeral Rosary at 6.00pm*). Please make a special effort to come along and pray the rosary during this month. Also, please try to say at least a decade of the rosary. The young people in our schools will gather together to learn about the rosary and to pray the rosary too.

BLESSING OF PETS

The Memoria of St Francis of Assisi takes place each year on 4th October, but this year as it falls on a Sunday, the Sunday takes precedence. However, Fr Wyllie proposes that after the 10.00am Mass in St Mary's and the 12noon Mass in Our Lady & St John's he will bless parishioners' pets on the feast day of St Francis, patron saint of pets and animals. All pets are more than welcome to be blessed in the carpark, however no pets are invited to the Mass (in case Baloo gets jealous!).



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£780.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£1,859.00
Digital Giving:	£162.00
Votive Candles:	£465.00
Stall:	£20.00
	£3,286.00

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**

HIRE OF THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is available for private functions, community events, regular hires 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 or information about the hall, speak with a member of the Hall Team or contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**



BLACKWOOD SSVF STUDENT SUPPORT

Any student in further or higher education who is in need of some financial support please contact the SSVF by speaking to a member usually at the back of the church before and after Sunday Masses or phone 07522925723 or alternatively email ssvpblackwood79@icloud.com The members of the SSVF are: Betty McGonagle, Russell McAllister, Margaret Corrigan, Ronnie Lynch, Margaret Dunbar and Maureen Martin.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocese of Motherwell Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 12th – 19th July 2027. If you would like to go as part of a parish group on this pilgrimage next year, then please speak with Fr Wyllie over the coming weeks. More details of costs will be available in the coming weeks.

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 - Margaret McCaughey, 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 - Janet Cosgrove (Receiving – Wednesday 7th October 6.00pm; Requiem Mass – Thursday 8th October 9.30am), Anne Meehan (Wishaw), Joe Sloan (Wishaw), Elizabeth Craig, Margaret Cameron, Davie Cunningham (Hamilton), Edith Scott, Liz Craig (East Kilbride), Michael Murphy (Bishopbriggs)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES -

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

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

We welcome the St Peter Claver Sisters to our parish this weekend as they 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.

NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – ST MARY'S

Those who have accepted the honour of distributing Holy Communion in St Mary's will be commissioned during Masses this weekend. Please keep those who are to be commissioned in your prayers as they take up this very important and sacred ministry in our parish.

PARISH MEETINGS

Now that the summer is well and truly over, Fr Wyllie would like to meet with the various groups which operate in our parish over the next few weeks to touch base and to discuss various topics in each specific area of parish life:

Parish Finance Team	Tuesday 6 th October	2.30pm	Parish House
Parish Pastoral Team	Tuesday 6 th October	7.00pm	Parish House
Parish Hall Team	Wednesday 7 th October	7.30pm	Parish Hall
Parish Safeguarding Reps	Monday 19 th October	6.30pm	Parish House
Parish School Reps	Monday 19 th October	7.15pm	Parish House
Parish Music Ministries	Tuesday 20 th October	6.30pm	Parish House
Parish SSVP Presidents	Tuesday 20 th October	7.30pm	Parish House



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 Broclaimers

