

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

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Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT
5TH DECEMBER 2021

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma which states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain. It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.



The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its result is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings. When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoo*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit. In fact, Catholics hold, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

Protestants' chief reason for objecting to the Immaculate Conception and Mary's consequent sinlessness is that we are told that "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Besides, they say, Mary said her "spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:47), and only a sinner needs a Saviour.

Consider an analogy: Suppose a man falls into a deep pit, and someone reaches down to pull him out. The man has been "saved" from the pit. Now imagine a woman walking along, and she too is about to topple into the pit, but at the very moment that she is to fall in, someone holds her back and prevents her. She too has been saved from the pit, but in an even better way: She was not simply taken out of the pit, she was prevented from getting stained by the mud in the first place. This is the illustration Christians have used for a thousand years to explain how Mary was saved by Christ. By receiving Christ's grace at her conception, she had his grace applied to her before she was able to become mired in original sin and its stain.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was officially defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. When Protestants claim that the doctrine was "invented" at this time, they misunderstand both the history of dogmas and what prompts the Church to issue, from time to time, definitive pronouncements regarding faith or morals. They are under the impression that no doctrine is believed until the pope or an ecumenical council issues a formal statement about it.

It is an interesting fact locally, that Biggar Kirk, which is a pre-reformation church, was dedicated to Our Lady under her title 'The Immaculate Conception' before the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century, 300 years before the title was dogmatically defined by the Pope in 1854.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 5th December

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 6th December

- 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Second Week of Advent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 7th December

- 9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Ambrose (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)

Wednesday 8th December

- 10.00am School Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (St Mary's)
6.30pm Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 9th December

- 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 the Memoria of St Juan Diego (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 10th December

- 9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Loreto (St Mary's)

Saturday 11th December

- 10.00am Rorate Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)

Sunday 5th December

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent (OLSJ)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent (OLSJ)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

7th December - Memoria of St Augustine - St Ambrose was born in Trier, Germany in 340, where his father was an official of the Roman Empire. He entered the same profession and became governor of Liguria-Emilia by 372. There was tension between Arian and orthodox parties among the Christians of Milan when they gathered to elect a new bishop on 374 and he counselled them to observe public order. He was an impressive speaker, and they acclaimed him as their bishop. He had to be baptised and ordained in the space of a few days. He was a strong and popular bishop, opposing Arianism. He died in 397. He is the patron of Milan and beekeepers.

9th December - Memoria of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin - He was born in 1474 and brought up in the Aztec religion, but converted to Catholicism with his wife in 1524 when Franciscan missionaries arrived in their region. In 1531 Our Lady appeared to him instructing him to tell the local bishop she wanted a church built on Tepeyac Hill, now part of Mexico City. As a proof of her authenticity, Our Lady imprinted an image of herself on his cloak, or 'tilma'. Until he died in 1548, he lived beside the church serving all who visited. He is the patron of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

10th December - Memoria of Our Lady of Loreto - The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Loreto is in the small town of Loreto, near Ancona in Italy. The Sanctuary is a large baroque basilica containing a 'holy house' thought to be the very house in Nazareth where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived after they returned from Egypt. The story is told of a miraculous transfer of the house, carried by angels from Palestine to Loreto at the end of the thirteenth century. The shrine is a place of pilgrimage for Italians and those from further afield.

RETIRAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

ST MARY'S PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

On Wednesday of this week we will celebrate the Patronal Feast Day of St Mary's church and primary school with a special Mass at 10.00am. Although all the children are unable to come together for the Mass, a representation of the school community will join us for Mass on that day. All parishioners are invited to come along and join together on this very special Feast Day.

ST MARY'S MINI VINNIES

St Mary's Mini Vinnies are raffling a Christmas goodie hamper, for their chosen charity Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust. Raffle tickets, £1.00, will be on sale after Mass this weekend. Please be as generous as possible in supporting this worthwhile cause and our young people.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have not functioned in our parish from March last year due to tight restrictions brought in to limit the spread of Covid. It is hoped that they will begin to **visit the sick and housebound** in the new year. More details will be available when we are more aware of what the position will be with Covid at that time. As things stand at the moment, **none of our Masses are busy enough to merit having Fr Wyllie and an Extraordinary Minister distributing Holy Communion.** However, **Extraordinary Ministers will be needed at our 8.30pm Mass and 10.00am Mass in St Mary's** at Christmas.

After discussion with a few parishioners about **Holy Communion under both kinds** (host and chalice) we have agreed that going forward we will only distribute Holy Communion under one kind (the host) at our Masses in the parish.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

A much loved tradition is to have Mass said for our beloved dead at Christmas and included in our Christmas bulletin, a time when we miss them most. If you wish your dead to be prayed for, please place their names in an envelope marked 'Christmas Remembrance' through the chapel house door by Wednesday 22nd Dec.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£985.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£1,327.00
Stall:	£80.00
TOTAL:	£2,392.00

Many thanks for your very generous support
RETIRAL COLLECTION FOR ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE
NEXT WEEKEND

DIOCESAN CHOIR CAROL CONCERT



St Mary's Larkhall

Thursday 16th December 2021

7.00pm

Tickets: £4.00 for adults, free for children

With St John's & St Mary's Primaries taking part

All welcome

Pay for tickets at the door on the evening.

CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

For some people it may have been a long time since they availed themselves of the Sacrament of Confession. Advent is a time of preparing ourselves spiritually for the coming of the Lord and for putting right our relationship with him. Gods love and mercy awaits all those who seek it, never be afraid, never feel as though you don't need it, we all do! A very warm welcome awaits you, no matter how long it may have been, so please come along to Confessions in our parish this Advent.

CONFESSIONS TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 18th December	3.45pm until 5.15pm; immediately after the Vigil Mass (SM)
Sunday 19th December	9.15am until 9.45am; immediately after the 10.00am Mass (SM) Immediately after the 12noon Mass; 4.00pm until 4.45pm and immediately after the 5.00pm Mass (OLSJ)
Monday 20th December	Immediately after the 12noon Mass (SM)
Tuesday 21st December	9.00am until 9.20am (OLSJ) 6.00pm until 7.00pm (SM)
Wednesday 22nd December	After 10.00am Mass (SM). 6.00pm until 6.30pm (OLSJ)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - John Rosato (Australia), Pat Tierney, James Ferguson, Murray Brown, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Rory Quigley, Janet McIntosh, David Hillhouse, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Gerard Lyons, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Mrs Nancy Crickett (Carmyle), Mark McGuire (Shieldmuir)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Charles Morrison, The Morrison, Maguire & McStay Families, James Maguire, Thomas Morrison, Mrs Anne Berry, Lucia Stewart

Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for on their anniversaries & months mind

WRAP UP CAMPAIGN

The two parish conferences of the SSVP in our parish are collecting jackets, coats and other warm items for a Wrap Up campaign to provide warm clothing for those most in need. If you have any items that you could donate please bring them along to Mass between now and Christmas for them to be distributed.

MOBILE PHONES

Inevitably our mobile phone will go off when we would rather it didn't, but to be on the safe side please ensure that your phone is either on silent or turned off during the celebration of Mass. A number of mobile phones have gone off during various Masses over the past few weeks so please ensure they stay quiet.

ALTAR SERVERS

A list will be available in the sacristy for the altar servers to sign up to serve at the Mass they will be attending at Christmas. Parents are asked to let the young people know what Mass they will be attending so that we can make plans for having servers at our Christmas Masses.

CABARET NIGHT & TRIBUTE ACT



Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

Friday 28th January

7.00pm til Late

Plaid in Scotland

(a Scottish artists tribute act and Michael Buble Tribute Act)

Tickets - £7.00 each

Contact Angela Stewart - 07733440351

MANY THANKS

Last weekend our parish had two social events which were very well supported. Many thanks to those who came along and supported the Parish Quiz Night in the Parish Hall on Friday evening and those who organised it. Thank you to, to those who came to the St Andrew's Meal on Sunday afternoon and to the SSVP.

CHRISTMAS 2021

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

8.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SM)

12.00am Midnight Mass (SM)

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am Dawn Mass of Christmas (SM)

12noon Day Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

Sunday 26th December - The Holy Family

10.00am Holy Mass (SM)

12noon Holy Mass (OLSJ)

Monday 27th December - Feast of St John

12noon Holy Mass (OLSJ)

Please make a special effort to come along to at least one of these Masses over Christmas.

RORATE MASSES

On the Saturday mornings of Advent we will celebrate a Rorate Mass, a Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent. The purple vestments are replaced for the white of Our Lady and the church is lit by candlelight. The Mass is also celebrated facing East, the direction of the rising sun, where we believe the Lord will come again at the end of time, showing our eager waiting for his return, priest and people oriented in the same direction awaiting our Redeemer. If you have never been at a Rorate Mass please come along and worship the Lord, venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary and turn our focus to the rising Sun of history, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.