

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



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

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St Mary's
Raploch Road
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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

GOD'S FORGIVENESS - OUR FORGIVENESS

In the parable in today's Gospel, that of the merciful King, twice we find this plea: "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full". The first time it is pronounced by the servant who owes his master ten thousand talents, an enormous sum. Today it would be millions and millions of dollars. The second time it is repeated by another servant of the same master. He too is in debt, not towards the master, but towards the same servant who has that enormous debt.

The heart of the parable is the indulgence the master shows towards his servant with the bigger debt. The evangelist underlines that, "moved with compassion the master"— we should never forget this word of Jesus: "Have compassion", Jesus always had compassion – "moved with compassion the master let him go and forgave him the loan". An enormous debt, therefore a huge remission! But that servant, immediately afterwards, showed himself to be pitiless towards his companion, who owed him a modest sum. He does not listen to him, he is extremely hostile against him and has him thrown in prison until he has paid his debt. The master hears about this and, outraged, calls the wicked servant back and has him condemned. "I forgave you a great deal and you are not capable of forgiving so little?"

In the parable we find two different attitudes: God's – represented by the king who forgives a lot, because God always forgives – and the human person's. The divine attitude is justice pervaded with mercy, whereas the human attitude is limited to justice. Jesus exhorts us to open ourselves with courage to the strength of forgiveness, because in life not everything can be resolved with justice. We know this. There is a need for that merciful love, which is also at the basis of the Lord's answer to Peter's question, which precedes the parable. Peter's question goes like this: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?". And Jesus replies, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times". In the symbolic language of the Bible this means that we are called to forgive always.

How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life! Even in families. How many families are disunited, who do not know how to forgive each other. How many brothers and sisters bear resentment within. It is necessary to apply merciful love to all human relationships: between spouses, between parents and children, within our communities, in the Church and also in society and politics.

It is not easy to forgive because although in moments of calm we think "Yes, this person has done so many things to me but I have done many too. Better to forgive so as to be forgiven", but then resentment returns like a bothersome fly in the summer that keeps coming back. Forgiveness isn't something we do in a moment, it is a something continuous, against that resentment, that hatred that keeps coming back. Let's think of our end and stop hating.

Today's parable helps us to grasp fully the meaning of that phrase we recite in the Lord's Prayer: "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". These words contain a decisive truth. We cannot demand God's forgiveness for ourselves if we in turn do not grant forgiveness to our neighbour. It is a condition. Think of your end, of God's forgiveness, and stop hating. Reject resentment, that bothersome fly that keeps coming back. If we do not strive to forgive and to love, we will not be forgiven and loved either. *Pope Francis, Vatican City.*

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 17th September	<i>St Mary's open 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am until 7.30pm</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	Receiving of Body (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 18th September	<i>Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
2.00pm	Requiem Mass for Hugh Gardiner (Our Lady & St John's)
Tuesday 19th September	<i>Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 20th September	<i>Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
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 St Andrew Tae-Gon & Companions (St Mary'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 St Andrew Tae-Gon & Companions (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 21st September	<i>Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
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 Feast of St Matthew (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 22nd September	<i>Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Saturday 23rd September	<i>St Mary's open 9.00am until 6.00pm; OLSJ closed</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

20th September - Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions - The Korean martyrs testify to the presence of the Faith in that region from the 18th century and the terrible persecutions during the 19th century. Outstanding among them were St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon (1821-1846), the first Korean-born priest who was tortured and beheaded near Seoul in 1846, and St Paul Chong Ha-Sang (born around 1794 and martyred in 1839), a lay catechist who was crucified on 22nd September 1839. More than 8,000 Christians from all walks of life lost their lives during the persecution and 103 of them were canonised in 1994. In North Korea today, Christians still suffer great persecution by the brutal Communist regime, whereas in South Korea the Catholic Church is growing rapidly, with 5.8million Catholics recorded in 2017, with 75,000 adult baptisms that year alone. St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon is the patron saint of Korea.

21st September - Feast of St Matthew - St Matthew, also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus. He worked as a tax collector for the Romans, a despised profession, when he was called by the Lord at Capernaum. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ called him to be an Apostle. After the Ascension he may have travelled to Persia or to Ethiopia; wherever it was, he was martyred. St Matthew's Gospel stands first in the New Testament, and his name appears among the Apostles in the Roman Canon. He is venerated as the patron saint of accountants, bankers, book-keepers, security guards, and stockbrokers.

23rd September - Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina - St Pius was born in 1887, better known as Padre Pio, born in Pietrelcina in Campania, Italy, and joined the Capuchin community at Morcone. Ordained in 1910, he moved six years later to San Giovanni Rotondo in the Gargano peninsula. Bearing the wounds of Christ's passion on his body (known as stigmata), he became famous for his ministry in the confessional, his spiritual direction and his miracles. He died in 1968 and was canonised in 2002. He is the patron saint of stress relief, adolescents and civil defence volunteers.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£826.00
Standing Orders:	£130.00
TOTAL:	£956.00
Ecclesiastical Students:	£714.00

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.

THANK YOU

Fr Wyllie would like to thank those parishioners who very kindly handed in cards and gifts to the Parish House on the occasion of his sixth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Friday 8th September. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated and never taken for granted. Praying for our priests has a long tradition in the Catholic Church, so please continue to pray for him each day.

100 CLUB

We are re-launching the 100 Club due to the changing of the purpose of the fundraising, no longer to build a Parish Hall in Larkhall but to support the parish financially in maintaining and enhancing our buildings in both Larkhall and Blackwood. At present we only have around 30 in the 100 Club, so we are asking for more parishioners from St Mary's and Our Lady & St John's to consider joining over the next few weeks before the first new draw in October. A list will be available at the back of the church from next weekend for those who wish to join the 100 Club, the spare numbers which are currently vacant will be on a sheet, so please chose a number.

PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

The Parish Forty Hours which took place last Sunday to Tuesday was a special time of grace and blessing in the life of our parish, with the Lord present before us in the Most Holy Eucharist being praised, adored and honoured by so many people who popped into the church for periods of prayer over the three days. Fr Wyllie would like to thank those who visited the church to spend some time with the Lord, to the altar servers, the readers, the Schola Benedicti, the florist, the cantors and musicians, the SSVP of both St Mary's and Our Lady & St John's, the ladies who provided a lovely tea afterwards, to the staff and pupils of St John's Primary School and to all those who helped in any way to make the three days so special and memorable. Over the next few months we will build on the spiritual graces we have received from this time of prayer by looking at the various aspects of our parish life and how we can grow, renew and strengthen 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 Sherry.

HALL TEAM MEETING

A meeting will take place this **Wednesday, 20th September after the 7.00pm Mass** in the Parish Hall for the Hall Team, rescheduled from last Wednesday. This meeting will focus on evaluating the finances, an opportunity for members to express their ideas, thoughts and suggestions on the past few months and also to plan for the future. Parishioners from both churches are very warmly invited to be a part of the team.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH CLUB

After a break over the summer months, the monthly Mass & Lunch with the residents of Auchlochan will take place on Thursday 28th September with Mass beginning at 12.30pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Mass and the lunch afterwards, and as always - any new helpers would be very much appreciated and welcomed. Please speak with Betty McGonagle for more information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Baby Ayla Skye Hughes, Paul McMurray, Robert Deveny, Paul Totman, Chris Dawes, Heather McMillan, Elizabeth McCann, Sharon Campbell, Douglas Russell, Robert Ferguson, Margo Higgins, Anne O'Neill (Belfast), Jimmy Crawford (Belfast), Joanne Kennedy, Anne Dempster, Joyce Heeley, Selina Gold, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Hugh Gardner (*Receiving Sunday 6.00pm; Requiem Mass Monday at 2.00pm*), Patricia Martin, Ellen Richardson,

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary Smith

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

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet on **Tuesday 26th September at 7.00pm** in St Mary's Parish House. If you have any suggestions, ideas, points or grumbles please speak with Russell McAllister, Laura Steele (Kennedy), Suzanne Sherry, Ciaran Reilly or Scott Smith before the meeting for them to raise anything you wish to be discussed or email Fr Wyllie at ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The St John's Primary School Partnership Group are holding a fundraiser in the Parish Hall on Saturday 30th September from 7.30pm until late. The Zander Nation Party Night with mini Bounce Bingo Set is to help raise much needed funds to help the Partnership Group assist the school in meeting some expenses over the school year. The tickets for this event are priced at £15.00 and are available from any member of the Partnership Group - Emma Dempsie, Michelle Donnellan, Scott or Katie Smith or Vivien Stewart.

BLESSING OF PRIMARY ONE PUPILS

The boys and girls who started St Mary's Primary in August will receive a special blessing at the 10.00am Mass on Friday 6th October. At this Mass we will ask God to pour down his blessings upon all the children but especially the P1 pupils. After this Mass Fr Wyllie will bless the classrooms in St Mary's where the children learn and develop.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

St Andrew's Hospice are opening up a new shop in Lanark to help generate much needed funds to run the Hospice in Airdie. At present the hospice costs over £100,000.00 to run each week. They are looking for volunteers to help fulfil various roles. There are different shifts which are needing covered throughout the day, 3 hours per shift. If you would be interested joining the team then please call Julie Wilson on 01236 766951 for further details or call into the store.

FOODBANK

The next collection for food and monetary donations for the local foodbank will take place in the weekend 30th September/1st October. Please be as generous as you always are in helping provide food for those less-fortunate in our community who rely on the foodbank. If you would like to donate money rather than foodstuff then please place an envelope in the offertory collection clearly marked 'Foodbank'.

"MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER", SAYS THE LORD

Our churches are places where we come together as a community to spend time with the Lord to worship and to give thanks. Over the past number of weeks there has been an increase in the number of phones or electronic devices going off in the church, lots of chatter and unnecessary conversations before and during Mass. Could you please ensure that all devices are switched off or on silent as you enter the church, and please keep the chat to a minimum at the back of the church. This will ensure that those who are praying are not being disturbed.