

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

**SOLEMNITY OF JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING
20TH NOVEMBER 2022**

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognised that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilisation itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and - while governments around them crumbled - the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever was reinforced. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (*Quas primas*, 7).

Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. "From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognise his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures" (*Quas primas*, 13).

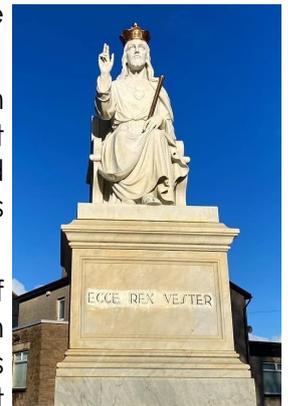
The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ's kingship with our whole lives:

He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. **He must reign in our wills**, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. **He must reign in our hearts**, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. **He must reign in our bodies** and in our people, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.' - (*Quas primas*, 33).

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. "Thus by sermons preached at meetings and in churches, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them for their King" (*Quas primas*, 26).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalised in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalising our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in our social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat! (Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands!)



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 20th November

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, Universal King (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, Universal King (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, Universal King (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 21st November

- 11.30am Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)

Tuesday 22nd November

- 9.00am Recitation of the Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Cecilia (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 23rd November

- 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 an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary's)
7.00pm Annual Requiem Mass for Deceased Parishioners (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 24th November

- 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 Andrew Dung Lac & Companions (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 25th November

- 9.30am Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00m Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Catherine of Alexandria (St Mary's)

Saturday 26th November

- 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

21st November - Memoria of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - According to an ancient tradition, after being presented in the temple, Mary spent much of her childhood around the temple. The First Reading, about the temple, might hint at this. Mary was totally dedicated to God's will, she is celebrated and venerated because she always put God first. This Feast day has been celebrated by the Church from the sixth century.

22nd November - Memoria of St Cecilia - St Cecilia is venerated as a virgin and martyr of Rome. In the second or third century she refused to worship the pagan gods and was beheaded. In the church of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, Rome, there is a sculpture of the martyr with three fingers extended, still proclaiming the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity at the moment of her death, the sculpture is like this because this was the way her body was found when the tomb was opened in 1599. St Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians.

24th November - Memoria of St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions - In the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, Christians were severely persecuted in Vietnam and many thousands were executed. Today's feast honours 117 martyrs between 1820 and 1862; 21 were French and Spanish, some bishops, the others priests; and 96 were Vietnamese, priests, laymen and laywomen. They are all honoured as the patron saints of Vietnam.

25th November - Memoria of St Catherine of Alexandria - During a pagan sacrificial celebration around the year 307, Catherine of Alexandria publicly proclaimed the gospel. For this, she was punished by being bound to a spiked wheel before being beheaded. This is where we get the name for the firework 'the Catherine Wheel'. Her grave is claimed to be on Mount Sinai. She is the patron saint of young girls, students, philosophers, and craftsmen working with wheels

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Next weekend we begin the Season of Advent. On Sundays our readings will come from the Year A cycle of readings and Year 1 for weekdays.

CLEANER NEEDED FOR PARISH HALL. £20.00 A SHIFT. SPEAK WITH FR WYLLIE.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

Our Annual Requiem Mass will take place this Wednesday at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's. At this Mass we will remember all those from our parish who have died especially those who have died over the past twelve months. A candle will be burnt for each of the deceased who were buried/cremated from this parish over the past year. All parishioners are warmly invited.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT EVENING

An evening for young people aged between 16 and 35 will take place in St Bride's Hall, Motherwell, on Wednesday 23rd November from 7.00pm until 9.00pm. The evening will include inspirational talks, prayer, social, live music and pizza. Entry is free but please email Mishal if you intend on going. mishal@rcdom.org.uk

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£825.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£3,278.80
Stall:	£100.00
TOTAL:	£4,203.80

Many thanks for your very generous support

Last week we received an insurance claim for the water damage to Our Lady & St John's house, this is included in Bank Transfers. This insurance claim amounted to £2,968.80.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

The Hospice is looking for our help in raising much needed funds to sustain the wonderful work they do in caring for the dying of our communities. This year they are organising a Light Up A Light Badge Appeal and ask our support. **Light Up A Life badges are available at the back of the church for £2.00.**

SAFEGUARDING LETTER

The Diocese of Motherwell wishes to encourage anyone who has experienced abuse by clergy or church personnel, or who have any safeguarding concerns to come forward and speak to the Diocesan Safeguarding team. You can contact them either by emailing, writing, or calling the Diocesan Advisor. Every effort will be made to offer assistance. We have a mandatory Duty of Care, which requires all allegations of abuse, including non-recent abuse, to be referred to Police Scotland. Email: veronicamckenna@rcdom.org.uk; Tel: 01698 269114 (Safeguarding option).

ST ANDREW'S DAY LUNCH

The St Andrew's Day Lunch hosted by St Mary's St Vincent de Paul Conference for all those over sixty years of age will be held at 1.00pm on Sunday 27th November in the Maltings. If you would like to attend then please enter your name on the notice board at the back of the church for catering purposes. Please indicate if you need transport.

MY KIND OF TOWN

Laura, the producer from the BBC who came to the parish in May, contacted Fr Wyllie to let him know that the transmission of the new series of My Kind of Town has been pushed back to early in the new year. She apologised for the change but when she has an exact date confirmed she will be in touch to let him know, and in turn he will publish the date in the bulletin when it is confirmed.

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The proposed date of the next meeting is Tuesday 29th November, 7.00pm at St Mary's. Included in the agenda will be the Christmas programme and an update on various aspects of parish life. If you have anything you'd like brought up at the meeting then please speak with Fr Wyllie, Laura Steele (Kennedy), Scott Smith, Ciaran Reilly, Suzanne Sherry or Russell McAllister.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

This weekend we give thanks and celebrate the contribution of Catholic education to the life of the Church and our society. We welcome members of staff and boys and girls from both our primary schools to Mass this weekend and we join with them in prayer and thanksgiving for all that our schools do to encourage and promote the Gospel and the teachings of the Church in our parish.

PIONEERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Pioneer Association would like to invite you to an Evening Retreat in preparation for Advent to be held on Friday 25 November in St Augustine's Church, Coatbridge commencing at 7.00pm and will conclude with Mass. There will be an opportunity for Confessions, Tea & Coffee will be available in the Hall. Everyone is warmly invited to come along. For further details email: info@pioneers.scot

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Selina Gold, Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - John Fagan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Margaret Brennan, Maisie & Jockey Kane, Janice Mulhearn, 1st World War - John McCorry, 2nd World War - Charles McCorry, Joseph Taggart

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

MASSES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN OUR PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5.00pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas (*Our Lady & St John's*)

8.30pm

First Mass of Christmas (*St Mary's*)

12.00am

Midnight Mass of Christmas (*St Mary's*)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

10.00am

Dawn Mass of Christmas (*St Mary's*)

12noon

Day Mass of Christmas (*Our Lady & St John's*)

No Evening Mass



IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE PARISH HALL

At the meeting held on Wednesday 9th November, we managed to get volunteers to take on the responsibility of Joint Bar Manager & Hall Secretary, Hall Keeper and volunteers to help with going for bar stock. We are currently looking for a Hall Janitor/Cleaner who would deep clean the Hall after each function. This job would come with a stipend of £20.00 a shift. **If you would be interested or know of someone who would be interested in this, then please speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible.** If we cannot get anyone for this role then we have to look at the future of the Hall, as we are required to ensure that the place is thoroughly cleaned after each function. **There will be a handover this coming week**, where Bert & Angela will officially step down. We thank them again for their hard work and efforts in making the Hall such a success. At the moment we are currently looking at licenses, so there will be **no bar available until this is sorted.**

MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR - CAROL SERVICE

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will lead a Carol Service in St Mary's on Wednesday 14th December beginning at 7.00pm. All parishioners are invited to come along to enjoy and take part in the carol singing and in the readings and reflections. It promises to be a wonderful event especially in the year that we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's and the 140th anniversary of the opening of Our Lady & St John's. Please keep this evening free in your diary so that we can come together as a parish and give praise to the new born King.

PARISH STALL

Both our stalls have a variety of Christmas cards and 2023 calendars for sale. We also have beautiful crib statues for sale at £22.50. If you don't have a crib for your home or you need a new one then why not have a look at the crib statue today? Please try to keep Christ in Christmas by sending religious Christmas cards to your relatives, friends and neighbours. In purchasing from our parish stalls you are supporting the parish. Have a look after Mass today.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST MARY'S PARISH

On Thursday 8th December, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's parish back in 1872. This will be marked by a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Toal at 7.00pm followed by a reception in St Mary's Primary. All parishioners are warmly invited to this Mass and function afterwards. Fr Wyllie is looking for volunteers to help with serving drinks at the front of the church after the Mass as we are unable to have alcohol in the school.