

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
26TH APRIL 2026

PRESBYTERORUM ORDINIS

The Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests was promulgated on 7th December 1965 and is titled *Presbyterorum Ordinis* (translated as *Order of Priests*). It almost didn't come to fruition but voices at the Council were determined that priests should have a Decree of their own as it would be priests who are pivotal in the important work and difficult challenges they face in their service of the Church. The key themes of the document are:



Priests participate in the Priesthood of Christ through their ordination, acting in his person as Head and Shepherd. This is particularly true during the sacred liturgy when the priest acts 'in persona Christi capitis' in the person of Christ the Head. The first chapter says that priests are "signed with a special character and are conformed to Christ the Priest in such a way that they can act in the person of Christ" by virtue of their ordination. The purpose of priestly ministry and priestly life "is to procure the glory of God the Father in Christ. The second chapter covers:

Primary Duty of Proclaiming the Gospel: Priests are called upon to make known the Gospel by their words and actions, not relying on their own wisdom but on the "word of Christ" and they must apply the lasting truth of the Gospel to the particular circumstances of life.

Performing Sacred Functions: Priests are to act as Christ's ministers by celebrating the Mass and the other sacraments, lead their people to pray, confess their sins, live the evangelical counsels, and offer their own lives and their own happiness in service of God and others.

Gathering the Family of God together: Priests are given a spiritual power for the building up of the Church, not to please people but in accord with the demands of Christian doctrine and life. They have a special obligation to minister to everyone.

United with the Bishop: All priests are ordained by a bishop and promise obedience to him, but they are also called to help the bishop, respect their bishop and support their bishop.

United with one another: Priests are also to be united with each other in "an intimate sacramental brotherhood" and must help each other to be fellow workers of the Lord.

The Priest and the Lay Faithful: The priest is called to be a father and teacher, leading his people in the discipleship of the Lord which they share in common. He must preach the Gospel and the truths of the faith "lest the faithful be carried about by every wind of doctrine".

Distribution of Priests: Priests belong to a diocese or a religious order, but they must be concerned with the needs of the Church throughout the world.

The document concludes by exhorting all priests to take courage in Christ who has chosen them for this ministry in the Church, to face the difficulties of this vocation like "the seeming unproductive work done, and also the bitter loneliness which they experience", and it concludes with a "fervent thanks to the priests of the entire world". Please pray for priests every day.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 26th April (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 27th April (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 Monday of the Fourth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 28th April (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 Fourth Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 29th April (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 Feast of St Catherine of Siena (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 Feast of St Catherine of Siena (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 30th April (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
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 Pius V (Our Lady & St John's)



Friday 1st May (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 Joseph the Worker (St Mary's)

Saturday 2nd May (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th April - Feast of St Catherine of Siena - St Catherine was born in 1347 and became a Dominican tertiary as an adolescent. While still young she had mystical experiences in prayer which led to her receiving the stigmata. Her writings are of great spiritual profit - she was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. She campaigned successfully for the pope to return from Avignon to Rome. She died in 1380. The pope himself conducted her funeral. Pope John Paul II named her a Patron of Europe in 1999. She is the patron saint of nurses and miscarriages.

30th April - Memoria of Pope St Pius V - Pope St Pius V was born in 1504 and was elected pope in 1555. He laboured to pull the Church out of the chaos caused by the Protestant Reformation, and in particular bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the Council which had taken place at Trent in Northern Italy, providing measures to bring some sense of discipline to the life of the Church so that it was better able to meet the challenges of the future. He died in 1572.

1st May - Memoria of St Joseph the Worker - St Joseph the Worker is a feast instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to state clearly that the Church was also interested in the rights and dignity of workers. The image of St Joseph, the carpenter, earning his daily living by the work of his own hands is held up to emphasise the necessity of work, the part it plays in the self-esteem of many, and the contribution made to society by so many skills and talents. It is a day for highlighting the encyclicals of the popes regarding work, dignity and workers.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection of foodstuffs for the local foodbank will take place today. Donations of non-perishable foods and monetary donations can be left at the back of the church this weekend.

DEANERY APPEAL FOR THE COMBONI MISSIONARIES

Many thanks for your generosity to last week's second collection. £900.00 was collected.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £1,766.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £910.00
Stall: £20.00
£2,696.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

SCIAF Wee Boxes: £840.00

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**



100 CLUB

Please pay your subscriptions directly into the 100 Club account. **Account Name - Larkhall 100 Club, Sort Code - 80-22-60, Account Number - 17418369.**

STAINED GLASS & STONE WORK

The stained glass and the corroding stonework and leadwork around the windows were inspected by a professional stained glass company on Tuesday of last week. We are currently looking at grant funding to help with the large costs entailed. A second collection will be taken up at all Masses in Our Lady & St John's for this project from this weekend until 17th May. The proceeds from the bar at the Parish Friday Drinks for 17th & 24th April and 1st, 8th & 15th May will be set aside for this project.



GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

As we are now happily seeing a change in the weather, **the heating** in our parish properties has been turned off. If you feel the cold then please consider putting on a heavier jacket when coming to Mass. This year, from 1st January - 31st March, the cost of heating and lighting our churches is £8,973.25. If you could spare some time to **help clear the weeds, leaves and moss** around our parish properties over the next few weeks it would be greatly appreciated.

KEYS FOR PARISH PROPERTIES

Each parish has a list of key holders for the various parish properties (churches, houses, halls, garages, out-houses), this is to provide ease of access for parishioners who perform various jobs in the parish (cleaners, those who open and lock the churches, gardeners etc). It has come to Fr Wyllie's attention that there are more people with keys for the various parish properties than are on the official list kept in the parish records. Keys should not be distributed or cut without the express permission of the parish priest. If you have a key for any of the parish properties but did not receive the key directly from Fr Wyllie please hand your key in at the earliest opportunity.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm

Card Payments preferable



PARISH LADIES DAY

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

12noon - 6.00pm

Includes the Abba tribute duo, prosecco Tea & Bar.

TICKETS - £20.00

Available by emailing: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Sheila Coffield, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Ian Campbell, John O'Neill (Craigneuk), Steven Ross, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Professor Judith Champ (Birmingham)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - William McParland, Mary McParland, Francis McParland, James Tyrrell, Andrew Boyle, David O'Neill, Nancy O'Neill, Eddie Feeney, Sadie Feeney, John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, Creechan Family, Kennedy Family, James Girvan, Margaret Girvan Bennet, Jamie Dunn

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

CHRISTUS DOMINUS

In the final months of the Second Vatican Council, on 28th October 1965, Pope Paul VI solemnly approved the Decree titled *Christus Dominus* (translated as *Christ the Lord*), the decree of the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church.

The document reaffirms that Catholic bishops are the successors of the apostles, called to lead in glorifying God, sanctifying men and women, and building up the Body of Christ. It reflected on the primacy of the Roman Pontiff in the Universal Church for he "has been granted by God supreme, full, immediate and universal power in the care of souls". This said, the document also tells us that the Pope and bishops together carry out the work of



Christ as teachers and pastors. In their unity with one another, they form the episcopal college with the Pope as the head. Each bishop has the responsibility for his own particular Church or diocese, but always remains and must always remain in union with the See of Peter (Rome) and should be concerned for the needs of the Church in other places, particularly mission territories or where the Church is persecuted.

The document lists the responsibilities of the Diocesan Bishop, the chief among them being a "witness of Christ to all men" as they teach, sanctify, and govern their diocese. The spiritual duties placed on a bishop are very many, to list a few: to dialogue with society, to safeguard catechesis, protect and promote the liturgical life of the Church, seek the welfare of their priests and assist them, allow and direct the laity in growing in the Christian faith.

As the task of a bishop can be very heavy indeed, the Decree sets out those who cooperate and assist the bishop in his role of teaching, sanctifying and governing their diocese:

Auxiliary & Coadjutor Bishops: In larger dioceses the Diocesan Bishop may be assisted by auxiliary bishops who assist the bishop in his sacramental and administrative duties. A Coadjutor bishop is one who will succeed the current bishop with approval from the Pope.

Diocesan Curia: This is the central administration of each diocese which consists of the Vicar General (deputy of the bishop responsible for administering the diocese), Episcopal Vicars (priests with a special responsibility for various aspects of diocesan life), Council of Priests (a group of priests who help the bishop to make decisions about diocesan policy) and lay staff.

Diocesan Clergy: The clergy (priests) form one family with the bishop as father. All priests "share and exercise with the bishop the one priesthood of Christ". The bishop should meet regularly with his priests to promote unity and mutual support.

Parish Priests: They share in their bishops task of teaching, sanctifying, and governing at parish level, to preach God's Word, instruct the faithful, celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments, and encourage Christian growth in individuals, families, and the parish as a whole.

Episcopal Conferences: Bishops of a region or country should meet in conference to support and work together for the good of the Church in a particular region or country.