

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT
12TH DECEMBER 2021**

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR WYLLIE

Dear Parishioners,

The Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist, Holy Communion, is the greatest gift and treasure we have in the Church, for we believe, as Catholics for over two thousand years have, that contained in that tiny white host is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord. It is the very gift of God himself to us.

From the earliest days of us being brought to church we are told to keep a sacred silence, genuflect to the tabernacle (if we are able), receive Holy Communion reverently and say our prayer of thanksgiving afterwards, and not to leave the church until the priest has left the altar. We are also taught by tradition that men and boys do not wear hats inside the church, that mobile phones are turned off or turned to silent during our visit to the church and that we respect those who wish to have silence to pray before, during and after Mass.



It is with the greatest sadness and regret that over the past few weeks we have found four discarded Sacred Hosts lying in the main body of the church in St Mary's. This is happening with alarming regularity. This cannot and will not go unchallenged. As a priest I have a duty to ensure that the celebration of the Mass and the reception of the Sacraments are performed and carried out with the greatest care and attention. I took a vow to fulfil this in my priesthood.

This maybe a child who needs to be carefully instructed on the importance of what Holy Communion is, it maybe someone who finds it difficult to receive Holy Communion while removing their mask from their face. There is also the possibility, and please God it isn't, someone who is deliberately performing acts of sacrilege toward the Lord in Holy Communion.

Regardless of who is doing this or how it is happening, steps must be taken to tackle this immediately. All parishioners are asked to be extra vigilant at Mass, particularly at Communion time and afterwards and if they see something to let me know as soon as Mass is over. Parents and carers are also asked to ensure that all children consume the entire Host before moving away from the front of the altar.

In the meantime I wish to reiterate the following which all parishioners must abide by at all our Masses, most of which is good practice and a reminder of what we should already be doing:

Facemasks must be removed from your mouth before presenting yourselves for Holy Communion

Each communicant must clearly and audibly reply 'Amen' when the Host is presented to you

Holy Communion must never be broken or halved by the communicant, if you have a problem with swallowing a whole host please speak to me before Mass to arrange an alternative

The communicant must step to the side and place Holy Communion in their mouth before the altar. Holy Communion must never ever be taken by you to your seat or consumed while walking to your seat

Those who kneel for Holy Communion should consume the Host while kneeling at the kneeler

Fr Seán G. Wyllie

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 12th 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 (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 13th December

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

Tuesday 14th December

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

Wednesday 15th December

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John of the Cross (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 Memoria of St John of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 16th 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 Thursday of the Third Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm **Motherwell Diocesan Choir Carol Concert** (St Mary's)

Friday 17th December

- 9.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Third Week of Advent (St Mary's)

Saturday 18th December

- 10.00am** Rorate Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
3.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm **Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent** (St Mary's)
6.15pm Confessions after the Vigil Mass (St Mary's)

Sunday 19th December

- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.45am (St Mary's)
10.00am **Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent** (St Mary's)
10.45am Confessions after the 10.00am Mass (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent** (OLSJ)
12.45pm Confessions after the 12noon Mass (OLSJ)
4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (OLSJ)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent** (OLSJ)
5.45pm Confessions after the 5.00pm Mass (OLSJ)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

14th December - Feast of the Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral - Motherwell isn't the most architecturally handsome place in Scotland, and you mightn't associate the town with beautiful buildings. But there's at least one. Motherwell Cathedral, or Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, opened in 1900 as a large parish church but was elevated to cathedral status in 1948, reflecting the town's growing importance as an industrial centre (which has since declined). The interior of the church has been reordered many times in the recent past and has lost its original beauty, elegant decoration and features, it feels far larger and brighter than you might guess from outside; look out for the stained-glass windows, large organ and ornate side chapels.

15th December - Memoria of St John of the Cross - St John of the Cross was born in Fontiveros, near Salamanca in 1542. He became a Carmelite friar in 1564, and in 1567 he met St Teresa of Avila who persuaded him to join her in reforming the Carmelites, male and female. He suffered much opposition, including a period of detention in a religious house. This was when he began to write deeply on spiritual things including using poetry. He is regarded as the foremost poet of the Spanish language. He experienced visions of Christ. He did a line drawing of Christ on the cross which inspired Salvador Dali to paint 'Christ of St John of the Cross' which was bought in 1951 by the City of Glasgow for the Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

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.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

A box will be available at the back of the church this weekend for donations toward the wonderful work carried out by St Andrew's Hospice. The Hospice currently needs £88,000 every week to provide the care they offer. Please be as generous as possible.

CATHOLIC TEACHERS

There has never been a better time to consider a career in teaching, and Catholic schools all over Scotland are looking for committed and ambitious new teachers. You can be a vital part of a community of faith and learning, making a real difference and helping future generations to believe and to achieve.

If you would like to teach in a Catholic school talk to your guidance teacher, contact your Diocesan Office or contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service at:

75 Craigpark,
Glasgow,
G31 2HD
0141 556 4727
mail@sces.org.uk



PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£905.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£300.00
TOTAL:	£1,205.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

**RETIRAL COLLECTION FOR ST ANDREW'S
HOSPICE THIS 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

Everyone is very welcome

Pay for tickets at the door on the evening.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

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CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Traditionally the Christmas Collection is when parishioners would make a monetary gift to the parish on top of their weekly contributions according to their own financial means. For those who contribute to the parish through standing order, **Christmas Collection envelopes** will be found at the back of the church from this weekend. Please take one and place it into the collection bag or drop it into the Chapel House. **If you pay Giftaid then please fill out the details on the back of the envelope.**

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)
6.00pm until 7.00pm (OLSJ) *Please note change of date

Tuesday 21st December

9.00am until 9.20am (OLSJ)
6.00pm until 7.00pm (SM)

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME TO CONFESSION AT ONE OF THESE TIMES

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - John Rosato (Australia), Pat Tierney, James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Rory Quigley, Vincent Bonfanti, Margaret Feenan (Shieldmuir), Samuel Ferris, Kathleen Cregg

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael Weir, Jim Sherry,

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

IF YOU WISH YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES REMEMBERED AT MASS OVER CHRISTMAS PLEASE PLACE THEIR NAMES IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED 'CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE' INTO THE CHAPEL HOUSE BY 23RD DECEMBER

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.

ALTAR SERVERS

In St Mary's we have four very dedicated and capable servers but we need more, so if you've made your First Holy Communion you can serve on the altar, please speak with Fr Wyllie after Mass. We currently have no servers from St Mary's Primary which is very sad, so could parents/carers please encourage the young people to offer themselves for this very special ministry.

In Our Lady & St John's we are very fortunate to have nine servers who are very dedicated and capable. There's still room for more, so if you have made your First Holy Communion please speak with Fr Wyllie after Mass. Again, parents and carers are asked to encourage.

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

In some parishes in the past, it was customary to have a Church Workers Social, to which all those who worked in the church, house, hall and grounds would be invited as a thank you for all the voluntary work they carry out over the year. It would be impossible to have this before Christmas, so the plan would be for this to take place early in the new year, probably a Friday evening at the end of February in the Parish Hall. Fr Wyllie is currently exploring various options for the evening, but it will probably include a meal, bar and some form of entertainment. A bus will be provided for those from St Mary's to attend. Those who are eligible to come along to this evening are:

Church Cleaners, Musicians, Cantors, Florists, Sacristans, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers
Church Covid Stewards
Church Gardeners/Grounds Workers
Hall Bar Staff
SSVP Members
Children's Liturgy Leaders
Members of the Pastoral & Finance Committee
Collection Counters & Stall Workers
More details will be available soon.

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.

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