

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11TH SEPTEMBER 2022

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Throughout the course of her unprecedented reign, Queen Elizabeth II spoke frequently about her personal Christian faith. Delivering her first Christmas address in 1952, the Queen requested prayer for her upcoming coronation.

"I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day", she said, "to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life".

The Queen's faith was more than the product of polite deference to historical tradition. Throughout her reign, she articulated the importance of her faith and recommended it to her subjects. "For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life", she said in 2000. "I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example".

At the invitation of the Queen, the archbishops of Westminster, Edinburgh or Glasgow and Cardiff were regular attenders at royal ceremonies, including weddings and services of thanksgiving. She met with Popes Pius XII, John XXIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.

From the beginning of her reign, the Queen consistently cited references from Scripture, particularly in her annual Christmas broadcasts. "To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn", she asked, "than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?".

The Queen's love of the Bible and its gospel message led to her participation in the publication of a special book to commemorate her 90th birthday. Titled 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves', co-authored by Catherine Butcher and Mark Greene, this overview of Her Majesty's Christian faith was published by Bible Society UK, for whom the Queen served as patron. Her Majesty personally wrote the foreword, thanking readers for their prayers and good wishes. "I have been - and remain - very grateful to... God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness", she wrote. Queen Elizabeth II was a monarch who bridged the 20th and 21st centuries, modernity and postmodernity, Her Majesty credited her personal faith in God and belief in Christ as her anchor amid the many storms, both public and private, that she endured. To the very end, she fulfilled her sacred coronation vows to God.

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

To His Majesty the King, Charles III - Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I offer heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty, the Members of the Royal Family, the People of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen's eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises. Commending her noble soul to the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 11th September

- 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)

Monday 12th September

- 11.30am Recitation of the Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Mary (St Mary's)

Tuesday 13th September

- 8.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Chrysostom (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am Recitation of the Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Chrysostom (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 14th September

- 8.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (St Mary's)
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 the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (St Mary's)
6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 15th September

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 16th September

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Ninian (St Mary's)

Saturday 17th September

- 4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

PROJECT GAMBIA

After Mass this weekend there will be a bucket collection outside the church for us to contribute to the work Project Gambia are doing in The Gambia. A member of Project Gambia will give us an update on their work at all Masses this weekend.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

13th September - Memoria of St John Chrysostom - St John Chrysostom was born in 347. The adjective 'Chrysostom' by which he was known means 'golden mouthed', i.e. eloquent. He trained as an advocate but, after six years as a monk, took holy orders - deacon, priest and, in 398, archbishop of Constantinople. He built hospitals, reformed the clergy, sent monks to be missionaries and, for criticising the vices of rulers, was deposed and banished in 403. Still in exile, he died four years later in 407. He is the patron of Constantinople, education, epilepsy, lecturers, orators, preachers.

14th September - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross - The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was instituted for the dedication in 335 of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, built by Emperor Constantine. In it, was placed the Holy Cross, discovered by the Emperor's mother, St Helena.

15th September - Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows - Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows is centuries-old; the present liturgical feast was instituted in the 19th century. The Seven Sorrows (sometimes called 'Dolours') are Simeon's Prophecy - Flight into Egypt, Loss in the Temple, Meeting on the way to the Cross, At the Cross of Calvary, Jesus taken down from the cross and placed in Mary's arms, and his burial.

16th September - Feast of St Ninian - St Ninian was born in Cumbria about the year 360 and was ordained Bishop in 394 in Rome, probably by Pope Siricius. He landed in Whithorn in 397 and built a church called Candida Casa (White House). This church was a centre from which he and his disciples preached the Gospel in Scotland, South-East of the Highland line. He died about 432 and was buried in Whithorn.

A BIG THANK YOU

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those parishioners who supported our Parish Forty Hours of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament over the course of last week. It was wonderful to see so many people taking part in the Blessed Sacrament Procession, watching before the Blessed Sacrament throughout the three days, attending the Choral Vespers, the Mass for the Sick, the Holy Hour for Families, the Closing Mass and the many parishioners who availed themselves of the Sacrament of Confession over those days. It was truly a time of grace for us all. In a particular way, he would like to thank Fr Gavin Landers, who led us beautifully in reflection and prayer over those days, his time with us was much enjoyed by so many of you, we hope he will come back soon. Also, a word of thanks must go to the sacristan, the organists, the cantors, the readers, the canopy bearers, the Schola Benedicti, the servers, the florist, the SSVP for assisting with the Mass for the Sick and to all those who played any part in making this time of prayer such a success.



PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£800.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£270.00
Ecclesiastical Students Fund:	£940.00
Votives:	£96.00
TOTAL:	£2,106.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Vigil:	88	10.00am:	101
12noon:	77	5.00pm:	23
Total for first weekend in September: 289			
August:	288	July:	245
June:	312	May:	295

PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Many thanks to those who made our Parish International Night such a success. It was a great evening that was enjoyed by everyone who came along. Many thanks to those who came along in such great numbers to support this event and also to those who cooked dishes and provided the food, it was a great spread and brought us all together in a special and unique way. Fr Wyllie is hoping that we can make this an annual event, or something along the same lines.



EARLY MORNING MASSES

It was suggested at the Parish Pastoral Planning Team that an early morning Mass be introduced to both churches to allow parents, pupils and teachers of our schools and parishioners to attend an early morning Mass at least once a week. Fr Wyllie is very happy to try this and see how it goes. Our Lady & St John's will have Mass on a Tuesday morning at 8.30am and St Mary's will have Mass on a Wednesday morning at 8.30am beginning from this coming week. Please support these extra Masses.

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Last week it was announced that the minutes of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team would be available for parishioners to take home with them this weekend. Due to the busy nature of last week, Fr Wyllie has been unable to sit and type them up. Hopefully next week!

UPDATE ON WORKS

Work is well under way on the new Parquet flooring which has been laid in Our Lady & St John's, just another few days and it will be completed. We are on schedule to have the tiled flooring laid and the church reopened for Sunday 25th September.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

On Sunday 25th September, the Bishops of Scotland together with priests from across the country will celebrate Mass in Carfin Grotto at 3.00pm. All Scotland's Catholics are invited to attend Mass and venerate the relics of St Bernadette. A list for a bus from the parish can be found at the back of the church. **NO 5.00PM MASS THAT DAY.**

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Vocations Awareness Week begins today, when we, as a Church, plead with God to send us vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We will pray the Holy Rosary before Masses that week (except when there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) asking Our Lady to intercede on our behalf that more young men and women will answer the Lord's call to serve him as priests and religious in our world today. Please keep this intention in your prayers every day, not just this week, but every day.

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 - Tom Morrison (Kilsyth), Gerald Dickson, Queen Elizabeth II

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary Gallacher, John Gowans, Rosina Canavan, Michael Canavan, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Jim Somerville

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

SAINT BERNADETTE RELICS AT CARFIN GROTTA

Saturday 24th September

10.30am Holy Rosary
11.00am Arrival of the Relics
11.30am Holy Mass
5.00pm Parish Vigil Mass
6.00pm All-night Vigil
Throughout the night there will be priests available to hear confessions.
7.00pm Evening Prayer
9.00pm Holy Rosary
12.00am Holy Rosary
3.00am Holy Rosary
5.00am Holy Rosary
7.00am Morning Prayer
7.30am Holy Mass

Sunday 25th September

9.00am Holy Mass
11.00am Holy Mass
3.00pm Scottish National Pilgrimage
6.00pm Torchlight Procession
9.00pm Night Prayer
10.00pm Church closes

Monday 26th– Friday 30th September

8.00am Church opens
9.00am Confessions
9.15am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Rosary
10.00am Holy Mass & veneration of the relic
11.00am Confessions
12.30pm Holy Rosary
12.30pm Confessions
1.00pm Holy Mass & veneration of the relic
3.00pm Liturgy of Water (Grotto)
8.00pm Torchlight Procession
(Tuesday-Friday)
9.00pm Holy Mass
10.00pm Church closes

Saturday 1st October

7.00am Holy Mass
8.00am Relics depart

Diocese of Motherwell's Pilgrimage day is Friday 30th September. More details to follow.

WEEDING & TIDYING UP THE PARISH GROUNDS

It would be wonderful to get a team of volunteers to weed and tidy up the grounds around the church and carpark in St Mary's (particularly behind the church), and also at Our Lady & St John's around the church, house and hall. Please speak with Fr Wyllie if you could help.

VENERABLE MARGARET SINCLAIR

The 2022 National Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place on Sunday 18th September from 2.00pm to 6.00pm at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1NA. 2.00pm - Rosary; 2.20pm - Confessions & Adoration & Benediction; 3.15pm - Talk by Dr John Watts; 3.30pm - Free Time; 4.30pm - Holy Mass. Refreshments available.

THE LITTLE CHILDREN'S MARKET

The Little Children's Market is coming to Larkhall. We bring you quality, preloved baby & children's items to support the local community. Our next event is in Larkhall Leisure Centre on Sunday 9th October, 11.00am - 12:30pm. Parishioners from St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's are invited to pop along and support this event. We are also collecting baby toiletries to help families in need which can be handed in on the day. If anyone would like to book a table, please contact Dana Hill on 07841610100. Your support is greatly appreciated.