

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie

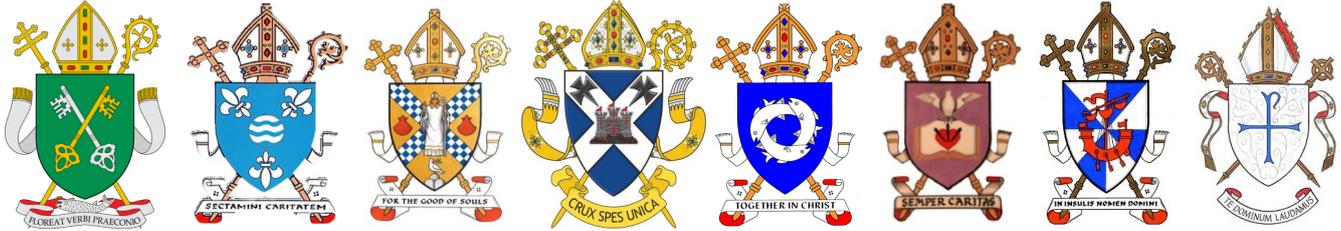


Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
3RD JULY 2022

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND



In the light of recent public debate on the subject of abortion, Scotland's Catholic Bishops offer this perspective to the people of Scotland:

"Whether we believe in anything spiritual or not, the life of each one of us lives is the only one we have, and to take life from the unborn, no matter how insignificant in size, cannot be right. The rights of a woman and the compassion and support due to her, and the circumstances of her pregnancy, are naturally of great concern to us, but an unborn life, once taken, can never be restored. This is what makes abortion such a profoundly important matter for all human beings.

"No matter what position we take, this belief in the profound importance of the issue is shared by us all. It is incumbent on us therefore to accept that deeply held and divergent opinions are at stake and that the conflict which arises from this should be handled with respect and civility.

"Those who do not believe human life begins at the moment of conception, invite the question: 'when does it begin?' while those who believe that it does, ask the question: 'what right have we to take a unique and unrepeatable human life?'

"If we are to be the caring and compassionate society we aspire to be, upholding the sanctity and dignity of all human life must be the foundational principal upon which that aspiration rests."

- ✠ William Nolan - Archbishop of Glasgow
- ✠ Joseph Toal - Bishop of Motherwell
- ✠ John Keenan - Bishop of Paisley
- ✠ Leo Cushley - Archbishop of St Andrew's & Edinburgh
- ✠ Hugh Gilbert - Bishop of Aberdeen
- ✠ Stephen Robson - Bishop of Dunkeld
- ✠ Brian Magee - Bishop of Argyll & The Isles
- William McFadden - Administrator of Galloway

FROM FR WYLLIE

It is worth noting in all the debate and publicity following the ruling from the Supreme Court of the United States of America on the reversal of Roe v Wade, that reports from the media and from the tweet of the First Minister of Scotland, are misleading as to what has actually happened. The final judgement from the Supreme Court ruled - "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives. 'The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations, upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting'". This means that elected representatives will decide, as is the case in almost every other country in the world.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 3rd July

10.00am

Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon

Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

5.00pm

Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 4th July

12noon

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Elizabeth of Portugal (St Mary's)

Tuesday 5th July

9.30am

Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 6th July

10.00am

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Maria Goretti (St Mary's)

7.00pm

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Maria Goretti (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 7th July

9.30am

Votive Mass in honour of the Most Precious Blood of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 8th July

10.00am

Votive Mass in honour of the Most Precious Blood of the Lord (St Mary's)

Saturday 9th July

4.45pm

Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)

5.30pm

Vigil Mass for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

IF YOU ARE RETIRED, OFF WORK OR ON HOLIDAY PLEASE CONSIDER COMING TO WEEKDAY MASS

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

4th July - Memoria of St Elizabeth of Portugal - St Elizabeth of Portugal was born in 1271, a Spanish Princess of Aragon, and was given in marriage to King Denis of Portugal. From her earliest days she had established a strong daily timetable of prayer. She used her position to found institutions to help the poor and needy. King Denis was well-known to be unfaithful, and she suffered much, but he later repented and she helped him die a good death. After he died she took on the habit of the Third Order of St Francis, continuing her life of prayer and charitable work. The Portuguese called her 'The Peacemaker' for her strenuous efforts to reconcile warring factions. She once rode a mule between opposing armies of her husband and son, to stop a civil war. She died in 1336 and is honoured as the patron of the Third Order of St Francis.

6th July - Memoria of St Maria Goretti - St Maria Goretti was born in 1890 into a poor farming family. Because of their poverty, they had to share a home with the Serenelli family, a Nettuno, south of Rome. Alessandro Serenelli, aged twenty, made persistent approaches which she always resisted, being a prayerful and spiritual girl. Her refusal on the final occasion led to a frenzied attack with an awl (a sharp tool for making holes in leather or wood). She died the next day aged only eleven, forgiving her attacker. He was sentenced to thirty years in prison, unrepentant. Maria appeared to him while in prison, offering him flowers. This changed him, and on his release his first act was to visit Maria's mother and ask forgiveness. Maria was canonised a saint by Pope Pius X in 1947 with her mother, four of her siblings and her attacker in attendance. She is honoured as the patron of chastity, rape victims, girls, youth, teenage girls, poverty, purity, and forgiveness

9th July - Feast Day of Our Lady of Aberdeen - Devotion to Our Lady of Aberdeen stems back at least to Bishop Gavin Dunbar (1514-1531) when a statue of the Madonna and Child was placed by him in a chapel near the Bridge of Dee. It was saved from destruction during the Reformation, and eventually found its way to Brussels. It continues to be venerated there under the title of Notre Dame du Bon Succes (Our Lady of Good Success). A number of copies are the object of devotion here in Scotland, including in our own Cathedral, which is placed under her patronage with the title 'Our Lady of Good Aid' and her statue is placed in the centre of the sanctuary wall.

PETER'S PENCE

Today at all Masses a second collection will be taken up for Peter's Pence, our annual offering to help the Holy Father operate and fund the many works which are undertaken by the Holy See at the Vatican. Please only give if you are able to do so.

SPENDING TIME WITH THE LORD

Both our churches will continue to be open throughout the summer months. If you are passing by then please make an effort to pop in and spend some time in prayer with the Lord, light a candle or just sit and appreciate the stillness and quiet of the church. Both churches are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 5.30pm, St Mary's is open on a Saturday from 9.00am until after the Vigil Mass and both churches are open on a Sunday, St Mary's from 9.00am until 6.00pm and Our Lady & St John's from 11.00am until after the 5.00pm Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£745.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£240.00
Votive Candles:	£280.00
Stall:	£15.00
TOTAL:	£1,280.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our prayerful congratulations to Kieran Lyons & Leanne Berry who were married in St Mary's yesterday (Saturday). May the Lord strengthen their love through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and give them the graces and blessings they need for their married life together.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year we will celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the opening of Our Lady & St John's Church on **Friday 13th October with a special Mass at 7.00pm** celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Toal. Please keep this date free in your diary for the special Mass of Thanksgiving and for the reception afterwards in the Parish Hall.

We will also celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Parish of St Mary's with a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Thursday 8th December at 7.00pm**. His Lordship Bishop Toal will celebrate this Mass of Thanksgiving. Please keep this date free in your diary for this special Mass and for the reception afterwards in St Mary's Primary School.

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet after the summer holidays to arrange and plan for these important milestones.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We offer our prayerful congratulations to Joao Nunes who received his First Holy Communion at the Vigil Mass this weekend. We pray that Joao will always love, appreciate and treasure the wonderful gift of Holy Communion, the gift of Christ himself to us his people. May God bless him and his family.



COMPLETED WORKS

The following work has been completed around our parish properties: The decking around St Mary's House has been replaced. In Our Lady & St John's the panelling around the church has been revarnished, the refurbishing of the pews which were damaged due to Covid cleaning materials has begun, and the de-mossing of the Hall roof is finished. The roof and guttering which was causing the leak in Our Lady & St John's House has also been repaired as well as the large crack on the gable end of the house too.

SPONSOR A TILE

It is the intention that the work on the new tiled floor will be completed for the 140th anniversary Mass on Friday 13th October. If you would like to sponsor a tile, as a family or individual, for a deceased loved one or in gratitude for something, then please place a donation of £25.00 per tile in an envelope clearly marked 'SPONSOR A TILE' with the names of the those you would wish the tiles dedicated to inside. Please hand in all sponsor money by Sunday 7th August.

There are samples of the new parquet flooring in the stall, before and after sanding, for you to have a look at the flooring which will be laid below the pew areas of the church. This work will be completed in August.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

The Parish is on various social media outlets and we would like to advertise and promote this. So, if you are on any of these social media pages then please follow the parish:

Facebook - [catholicparishourladyoffatima](#)

Twitter - [OLOFParish](#)

Instagram - [olofparish](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Colum Martin who was ordained a deacon for our diocese last Saturday in St Mary's College Oscott and to Christopher Morris who was ordained a priest for our diocese in the Cathedral on Thursday.

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

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Catherine Kennedy, John Creechan, Thomas Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, John Maxwell Canning, Doreen & Graham Murphy, Mary Dawson, Alice Watters, Pat O'Donnell

PARISH BARBECUE & SOCIAL

Fr Wyllie is hoping to hold a Parish Barbecue in the grounds of St Mary's on **Saturday 13th August**, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary from after the Vigil Mass. If you would be able to help with organising this or being active on the evening to cook and help serve the food then please speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible so that plans can be made. All parishioners, from St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's, are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the evening, especially young families. There will be a list at the back of both churches during July and a bus will be booked if enough uptake. Many thanks to those who have volunteered so far. **A planning meeting will take place on Monday 25th July at 6.30pm.**

PARISH INTERNATIONAL MASS & NIGHT

A Parish International Night would be an opportunity for us to get to know our parishioners who come from various countries throughout the world. We are very fortunate to have parishioners from different countries in Europe, Oceania, Africa and Asia. What a great blessing that is and one that we should really appreciate more. The evening would include food and snacks from the various countries, traditional dress, music and other entertainment in the Parish Hall. If you would be interested in helping to organise this event or taking part in this event then please speak with Fr Wyllie. **This will hopefully take place on Friday 9th September at 6.30pm.**

WHY DOES THE PRIEST NOT SAY 'GOOD MORNING/EVENING' AT MASS?

Scots meeting each other on the street will typically begin their encounter with a friendly "hello", a word probably derived from a German word used to hail a ferryman. But, in other language groups, different greetings are used. Italians greet each other cheerfully with "ciao". Both Jews and Arabs greet one another with "peace". Albanians say "long life". The people in Bhutan ask, "is your body well?" In Taiwan, the traditional greeting is, "have you eaten?" In fact, if you wanted to say "hello" in all the different languages, you'd have to learn at least 2,796 greetings.

Each language has its own way of greeting to begin a conversation. So no surprise, therefore, that when we begin Mass, there is a greeting. After all, the Mass is a conversation. God speaks to us in His Word and we respond. However, the greeting at the beginning of Mass is ritualised. It is not left to the priest simply to begin by saying "hello" or "good morning". And this is for an important reason. When someone comes into the presence of the Queen, a slight bow or curtsy is expected along with the proper address, "Your Majesty". Civilised people observe proper etiquette. These are formal occasions and they require a ritualised greeting. So too at Mass, for we are coming into the presence of God.

The Mass is not an informal gathering of a group of people. It is a sacred moment before God. This is why the Missal gives the formal, stylised greeting that the priest is expected to use. After the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass, the priest normally greets the people with the simple and familiar greeting "The Lord be with you", "*Dominus vobiscum*". He uses this same greeting before the reading of the gospel, at the beginning of the preface and before the final blessing. This simple greeting, therefore, conveys a most profound truth. When the priest uses this greeting, the priest's words remind us that we are in the presence of God. Our gathering is not something that we do on our own. God Himself is calling us together. God is making Himself present to us in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord, our Bread for the journey, our Sacrifice and Communion. How profound are the simplest greeting and response used by priest and people at Mass! When the greeting is given in the Liturgy, "The Lord be with you" and the response "And with your spirit" is made, both priest and people are expressing our faith that God is active among us in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.