

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



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

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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
3RD MARCH 2024**

RESPECT MY FATHERS HOUSE

In the Liturgy of the Word this weekend, we listen together to a famous and beautiful passage from the Book of Exodus, in which the sacred author tells of God's presentation of the Decalogue to Israel. One detail makes an immediate impression: the announcement of the Ten Commandments is introduced by a significant reference to the liberation of the People of Israel. The text says: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20: 2).

Thus, the Decalogue is intended as a confirmation of the freedom gained. Indeed, at a closer look, the Commandments are the means that the Lord gives us to protect our freedom, both from the internal conditioning of passions and from the external abuse of those with evil intentions.

There is a second dimension of the Decalogue that should also be emphasised: by the Law which he gave through Moses, the Lord revealed that he wanted to make a covenant with Israel. The Law, therefore, is a gift more than an imposition. Rather than commanding what the human being ought to do, its intention is to reveal to all the choice of God: He takes the side of the Chosen People; he set them free from slavery and surrounds them with his merciful goodness. The Decalogue is a proof of his special love.

Today's liturgy offers us a second message: The Law of Moses was totally fulfilled in Jesus, who revealed God's wisdom and love through the mystery of the Cross, "a stumbling block to Jews and an absurdity to Gentiles; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1: 23-24).

The Gospel refers precisely to this: Jesus drove the merchants and money-changers out of the temple. Through the verse of a Psalm: "Zeal for your house has consumed me" (cf. Ps 69[68]: 10), the Evangelist provides a key for the interpretation of this significant episode. And Jesus was "consumed" by this "zeal" for the "house of God", which was being used for purposes other than those for which it was intended.

To the amazement of everyone present, he responded to the request of the religious leaders who demand evidence of his authority by saying: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (Jn 2: 19). These are mysterious words that were incomprehensible at the time; John, however, paraphrased them for his Christian readers, saying: "Actually, he was talking about the temple which is his body" (Jn 2: 21).

His enemies were to destroy that "temple", but after three days he would rebuild it through the Resurrection. The distressful "stumbling block" of Christ's death was to be crowned by the triumph of his glorious Resurrection. In this Lenten season, while we are preparing to relive this central event of our salvation in the Easter triduum, we are already looking at the Crucified One, seeing in him the brightness of the Risen One.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 3rd March

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Reception of Body (St Mary's)



Monday 4th March

12noon	Requiem Mass for Michael Simpson (St Mary's)
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NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS
NO EVENING MASS

Tuesday 5th March

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 6th March

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)

NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
NO EVENING MASS

Thursday 7th March

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 Memoria of St Perpetua & St Felicity (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass with the Sacrament of Confirmation (St Mary's)

Friday 8th March

NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS

9.30am	
10.00am	Requiem Mass for Paul Murphy (St Mary's)



Saturday 9th March

4.00pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

7th March - Memoria of St Perpetua & St Felicity - St Perpetua & St Felicity were among a group of catechumens (preparing to be received into the Church) arrested in Carthage in 203. They were baptised in prison. Perpetua had just given birth and her father pleaded unsuccessfully for her to renounce her new faith. Felicity was a slave and pregnant. They were both thrown to the lions. They are both considered patrons of expectant mothers.

PARISH MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Please note that there will be no early morning Masses or evening Masses this week due to Fr Wyllie being away from the parish from Monday afternoon until Wednesday evening. Fr Hugh Kelly will celebrate the normal morning Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Last week the second collection for the Diocese of Motherwell was taken up to help with the care of our sick and retired priests. Thanks to your generosity we forwarded £716.00 to the diocese to help with the costs associated with the care of the priests who served our diocese for many years. May God bless you all for your kindness.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH STALL

Our stalls have a selection of cards for First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, why not have a look after Mass this weekend. All cards are priced at £1.00 and all proceeds from the stall goes to helping the parish. You will also find First Communion giftbags, First Communion Missals and Baptism and Wedding cards too.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£934.00
Standing Orders:	£264.00
Stall:	£75.00
Total:	£1,273.00
Sick & Retired Priests:	£716.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**
Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**
Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

SCIAF SUNDAY

Next weekend we observe in the Catholic Church in Scotland, SCIAF Sunday. It is a day when we pray for the work done all around the world on our behalf by SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund). There will be a second collection at all Masses for the work SCIAF does to help our poorest brothers and sisters in the developing world. Please give as generously as you always do. There have been many calls on your generosity over the past few weeks, so please just give whatever you can.

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** or speak to Suzanne.



JUSTICE & PEACE

Fr Wyllie has been in contact with Justice & Peace, and Anne-Marie Clements, the Catholic Social Teaching Engagement Officer for Justice & Peace will speak at all the Masses next weekend to give us a flavour and insight into the work they do and also to encourage parishioners to set up a Justice & Peace Group in our parish. If you would be willing to be part of a Justice & Peace group in the parish please listen to Anne-Marie next weekend and then either give your name to her or to Fr Wyllie and we can hopefully set up a Justice & Peace group in due course. This group could meet once a month or once a quarter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish Hall Team are looking for volunteers to help with shopping for bar stock. If you drive and would be able to help out on occasion then please speak with Fr Wyllie or Suzanne Sherry. It would be good to have a few people volunteer so that the workload would be shared rather than left to one or two individuals. Many thanks to those who have volunteered so far.

PARISH CONFIRMATIONS

Bishop Toal will visit our parish this Thursday to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our young people at a special Mass in St Mary's at 7.00pm. As the boys and girls prepare to receive this sacrament we keep them, together with their parents, families and sponsors, very much in our prayers. It has been wonderful to see so many of our confirmandi attending Mass with their parents/carers and families and also by themselves over the past few weeks, it is our prayer and our hope that they will continue to join us for Mass each weekend.



SACRAMENTS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Congratulations to the boys and girls from St Mary's who received the Sacrament of First Confession last Tuesday afternoon. They were a credit to their parish, their parents and their school.

Saturday 11th May at 12noon the boys and girls of St John's Primary will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for the first time; the boys and girls from St Mary's Primary will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18th May at 12noon. Please pray for them all.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

12noon - 69

5.00pm - 54

Total - 123

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Douglas Russell, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Janet McIntosh, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Anne O'Neil (Belfast)

RIP - Michael Simpson (*Receiving today 6.30pm; Requiem Mass Monday 12noon*), Paul Murphy (*Requiem Mass Friday at 10.00am*)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Anthony George Fernandes, Concencio de Souza, David Yardley Kennedy, Mary & Michael Vernal



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



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION & READERS

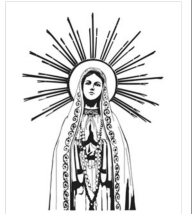
If any Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or Reader hasn't managed to collect a letter from Fr Wyllie, please pop into the sacristy today after Mass to get one. This letter is to ensure that we have a consistent approach for Extraordinary Ministers, adhering to Church guidelines and also to help readers to perform their ministry at Mass.

PROJECT WELLSPRING WORKING GROUP

Fr Wyllie is delighted to announce that the members of this team are: **Fr Wyllie, June Walker, Marie Beacom, Jonathan Lyons, Harvey Perrie and Sylvia Brown**. This group will meet for the first time on Tuesday 12th March at 6.30pm in the Parish House at Larkhall. This initial meeting will aim to begin setting out a plan of renewal for our parish. Once this team has been able to meet a few times, there will be a 'Parish Conversation' when the whole parish will be invited to gather in order to discuss the five areas which we are hoping to focus on in this time of renewal: Liturgy, Adult Formation, Youth Formation, Poverty Relief & Education. Although this small group will spearhead the renewal project it will involve all of us in varying degrees to see this project become a success in our parish. Please pray to Our Lady of Fatima each day for our parish as we embark on this project.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LISBON

Many thanks to all those who have paid their £150.00 towards the cost of the pilgrimage which will take place from 2nd-9th July. The final balance will be due 10 weeks before departure, on or before 24th April. A meeting has been arranged with Anne Marie Cairns to go through the pilgrimage, this meeting will take place on **Wednesday 20th March in the Parish Hall after the 7.00pm Mass**. All pilgrims are invited to attend.



ECUMENICAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Many thanks to the parishioners who came to the World Day of Prayer Service last Friday. It was a good opportunity to come together with other Christians in the area to pray for Palestine.

CATECHESIS GROUP

Fr Wyllie called a meeting last year of those who would be willing to help catechise our young people, particularly those who are preparing to receive the sacraments. If you would be willing to be involved then please contact Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks so that we can prepare a catechesis programme for the young people who will receive the sacraments in 2025.

CHURCH WORKERS' SOCIAL

The annual Church Workers' Social will take place in the Parish Hall on Friday 12th April. All those who perform ministries at Mass, are members of the various groups and teams within the parish, who work in the church, houses or hall are very warmly invited to come along. The menu is available at the back of the church and all those who intend on coming along are asked to fill out their choices and get them back to Fr Wyllie by Sunday 24th March.