

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
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St Mary's
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THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14TH SEPTEMBER 2025

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

On this day when the Church's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Gospel you have just heard reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that men might be saved (cf. Jn 3:16). The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:8). By his Cross we are saved.

The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgement on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. "In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!" said Saint Augustine (Treatise on Saint John, XII, 11). By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for mankind, for every man and woman. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew. On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty, he reveals to us that he is exalted in glory. Yes, "Come, let us adore him!" In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.

The Church has received the mission of showing all people this loving face of God, manifested in Jesus Christ. Are we able to understand that in the Crucified One of Golgotha, our dignity as children of God, tarnished by sin, is restored to us?

Let us turn our gaze towards Christ. It is he who will make us free to love as he loves us, and to build a reconciled world. For on this Cross, Jesus took upon himself the weight of all the sufferings and injustices of our humanity. He bore the humiliation and the discrimination, the torture suffered in many parts of the world by so many of our brothers and sisters for love of Christ.

We entrust all this to Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother, present at the foot of the Cross.

We adore thee, O Christ, and we praise thee, because by thy holy Cross thou hast redeemed the world.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 14th September	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 7.30pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
3.30pm	Reception of Body & Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 15th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
12noon	Requiem Mass for Betty Hamilton (St Mary's)
Tuesday 16th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Feast of St Ninian (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 17th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
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 Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (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 Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
Thursday 18th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.50am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
Friday 19th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Saturday 20th September	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

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 of Jesus and Mary on the road to Calvary - Jesus taken down from the Cross - Christ's burial.

16th September - Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Mary - 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. The Protestant Reformation devastated Whithorn with the church and monastery suppressed, St Ninian's shrine destroyed and the great cathedral stripped of its wealth and left to rot.

20th September - Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions - St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and St Paul Chong Ha-Sang and companions were Korean martyrs for the faith. St Andrew was a priest (the first Korean priest-martyr), St Paul a catechist; they and all the others (101 of them, 98 being Korean, some bishops and priests, most lay men and women) were martyred in the persecution of the Church in Korea in the 19th century. Religious freedom was eventually granted in Korea in 1883.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites everyone in the diocese to join him on Tuesday 16th September for a special Mass praying for vocations to the priesthood at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell. Please make a special effort to come together as a diocesan community to ask the Lord to send us good, faithful and holy priests to serve us into the future.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£915.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£320.00
Total:	£1,235.00
Ecclesiastical Students Fund:	£610.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

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**



ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS FUND

Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the second collection last weekend to support the diocese in the training of our future priests. The total forwarded from our parish to the diocese to help alleviate these costs was £610.00. May God reward your generosity.

MANY THANKS

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those involved in our Parish Forty Hours Adoration from after the 12noon Mass last Sunday through to the Closing Mass on Tuesday evening. A special word of thanks to the sacristan, florist, musicians, cantors, the Youth Choir, the Schola Benedicti, the readers, the SSVP, Fr John-Paul McShane, the ladies who prepared the tea on Tuesday evening, and to all those who came along either for private prayer throughout the three days and to those who came along to the Masses and liturgies over those days. May the Lord send down his graces and blessings upon all of us. It was wonderful to see so many of you visiting the church for private prayer over those days. May the time, dedication and love shown towards our Eucharist Lord over those days fill us and our parish with many graces and blessings in the weeks, months and years ahead.

HOMEMADE JAMS & SCONES

Louise and Bethany who have previously sold their delicious homemade jams and scones after the 12noon Mass will do so again on Sunday 21st September after the 12noon Mass. The girls are doing this to help raise funds for the Our Lady & St John's St Vincent de Paul. Please support these two young girls in their venture for such a worthwhile cause.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The SSVP Larkhall Conference are having an outing for the over 60's in the parish. The outing will be for a High Tea in the Garden Room at Garrion Bridge Garden Centre this Wednesday at 1.00pm. The SSVP will provide a bus departing St Mary's at 12.30pm. Please place your name on the list at the back of the church.

The SSVP will celebrate a special Mass for the Feast of St Vincent de Paul In St Columba's Viewpark on Monday 29th September at 7.00pm. Names on the list at the back of the church.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

The dignity and safeguarding human life at every stage of existence is a major moral concern for us as Catholics and each of us is called upon to play our part in speaking out in defence of those who are voiceless and most vulnerable in our society - the unborn, the youth, the sick, the disadvantaged and the dying. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children have two immediate goals at present - to stop the legalisation of abortion until birth (under Clause 191 of the Crime and Policing Bill) and to stop Kim Leadbeater's Assisted Suicide Bill progressing any further. Both pieces of legislation will now be going to the House of Lords. We are invited to lobby our Peers to protect human life and to lobby for dignity and respect for all human life. A list of the Lords for our area can be found with a simple search online, especially on the House of Lords webpage. Please consider contacting our local Peers to make our views known.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Patricia Weir, Betty Hamilton (Receiving Sunday 3.30pm; Requiem Mass Monday at 12noon), Anne Findon

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jim Somerville, Hilda Keane, Philip Bryson

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

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

An initial meeting will take place on Monday 6th October in St Mary's Parish House at 6.30pm for those who wish to begin the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday 2026 (Saturday 4th April) at the Solemn Easter Vigil. Please contact Fr Wyllie if you wish to begin this course.

PARISH STALL

Our Parish Stalls have a wide selection of cards, candles, rosaries and other religious items for sale. Why not have a look after Mass today? The stall in St Mary's is the room on the left as you leave the church and the stall in Our Lady & St John's is the room on the right as you're facing the altar.

MASS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

With the warfare and bloodshed of so many conflicts around our world continuing and the escalation of rhetoric and infringements into other countries borders, we can only pray for peace and justice for all the people of our world. Fr Wyllie proposes that we have a special Mass to come together as a parish community to implore the Lord for peace and justice in our world. This Mass will take place on Wednesday 24th September at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's. The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30pm until 6.55pm will conclude with a special prayer for peace. Please come along to this Mass and join our prayers together for our world.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The next Auchlochan Mass and Lunch to take place in Our Lady & St John's will take place on Thursday 25th September with Mass beginning at 12.30pm followed by a simple lunch in the Parish Hall. If you intend on attending the lunch please let Betty McGonagle know. Transport can be organised, please just ask. The dates for the remaining Auchlochan Mass and Lunches for the rest of this year are: Thursday 30th October and Thursday 4th December.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Our next Theology on Tap will no longer take place this month, unfortunately. We are hoping the next session will take place on Monday 20th October with the evening beginning at 6.30pm and the talk beginning at 7.00pm. Fr Wyllie is just waiting on confirmation of the speaker and the subject but will publish the details when we have them. Please put this date in your diary.



COULD YOU HELP?

The weeds at the front of Our Lady & St John's, running along the fence bordering Carlisle Road and at the gate pillars is rather over grown at present. If any parishioners could help to tidy up this area it would be greatly appreciated. Not only is this unsightly but it's good to do our bit in keep our community and street looking tidy and presentable. Every little helps.



PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME ALONG TO WEEKDAY MASS