

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



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

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - catholicparishourladyoffatima

Twitter - OLOFP parish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
8TH MARCH 2026**

NOSTRA AETATE

Nostra Aetate (translated as *In Our Time*) is the Vatican Two Declaration on the Church's approach to non-Christian religions, especially Judaism. It was proclaimed by Pope Paul VI on 28th October 1965. This was an intensely debated document, opposed by 88 of the assembled bishops, particularly the bishops of the Middle East. It is the shortest of all the documents produced by the Council but the one which marked a major shift in the Church's attitude.

This declaration emerged during a period of significant social and religious change, reflecting a growing awareness of the need for inter-religious dialogue and understanding, particularly in the years immediately following the Holocaust.

The short document deals with five main themes:

Common Humanity: Nostra Aetate recognised and emphasised that all people share a common origin and destiny, created by God and made in his image and likeness. It acknowledged the fundamental questions of human existence that religion seeks to answer, such as the meaning of life, moral goodness, and the nature of suffering, saying, "The Church exhorts her children, that through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions, carried out with prudence and love, and in witness to the Christian faith and life, they recognise, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among these people."

Relationship with Judaism: The declaration highlights the unique bond between Christians and Jews, affirming the continuing validity of God's covenant with the Jewish people. It explicitly rejects the notion of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus, condemning anti-Semitism as a sin against God.

Relationship with Islam: As well as acknowledging the hostilities between Christians and Muslims over the centuries, the declaration also highlights common bonds - the Muslim's reverence for Christ as a prophet, their honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day of Judgement and resurrection of the body, and worship of God through prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

Respect for other Religions: Nostra Aetate encourages Catholics to engage with people of other religions. It calls for mutual understanding and respect, promoting dialogue as a means to foster peace, cohesion and cooperation among different religious communities.

Interreligious Dialogue: The document serves as a foundational text for interreligious dialogue, urging Catholics to collaborate with followers of other religions. It acknowledges the spiritual heritage shared among various religions and encourages a respectful approach to understanding their beliefs and practices.

On the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate Pope Leo XIV said to the representatives of world religions gathered at the Vatican: "This historic document, therefore, opened our eyes to a simple yet profound principle: dialogue is not a tactic or a tool, but a way of life - a journey of the heart that transforms everyone involved, the one who listens and the one who speaks... We walk this journey not by abandoning our own faith, but by standing firmly within it".



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 8th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

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)



Monday 9th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 7.45pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 5.30pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)

12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

5.00pm Receiving of Body (Our Lady & St John's)

6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for Monday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 10th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Requiem Mass for Bernard Cosgrove (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 11th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 8.30pm)

8.30am Brief Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent (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 Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)

7.00pm Confirmation Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 12th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

8.30am Brief Mass for Thursday of the Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Requiem Mass for Joan Meade (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 13th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)



Saturday 14th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

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

SCRUTINIES

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place for those who are to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter. This is a special moment when the catechumens and candidates are prayed over and are made known to the parish community. This Easter we will welcome Andrew, John and Shellanna into the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers over these final weeks of preparation.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST PEREGRINE

St Peregrine is honoured as the patron saint of those who suffer from cancer and those who suffer from incurable and life-threatening illnesses. All of us will know or have known someone who has or had cancer. A novena will take place each Monday after the 12noon Mass to St Peregrine, praying for all those who have been diagnosed with cancer, for their families, for consultants, doctors and for the nurses who treat those patients. Please come along and pray for all those who need our prayers.



RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in our parish on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm with the Bishop visiting the parish to confer this sacrament on the young people who have been preparing over several months by coming to Mass, learning more about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and putting their faith into action in school, in the parish and in the wider community. We keep the young people in our prayers as they are confirmed in their faith.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the second collection last weekend for the sick and retired priests. The total collected was £780.00. May God reward you for your generosity.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,000.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£2,104.00
	£3,104.00
Sick & Retired Priests:	£780.00

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**



ST PATRICK'S NIGHT

The Parish St Patrick's Night will take place this coming Friday (13th March). If you have your name on the list and haven't paid could you please do so by the end of this weekend. You can either put your money in an envelope with your name and number of tickets marked on the front of the envelope or you can pay on the evening. Tickets are priced at £10.00. If you haven't placed your name on the list but intend on coming, please place your name on the list today.

LENTEN MASSES & SERVICES

Lent is a season when we are called to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There are lots of opportunities for confessions, Masses and traditional devotions in our parish over the weeks of Lent. Why not try to come along to one or two extra things each week to give time to the Lord and grow in our love for him.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00PM - 9.00PM



PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late

Bar & Live Music **Tickets £10.00** - Includes a Pie. Names on list



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm

Fr Philip Caldwell - *The Last Seven Words of Jesus*



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH



PARISH EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Stephen Neal, Marjory McMurray, Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, 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 - Bernard Cosgrove (*Requiem Mass Tuesday 10th March 9.30am*), Joan Meade (*Requiem Mass Thursday 12th March 9.30am*), Moira McNutt (Burnbank), Sandra Grant (Cambusnethan), Matt Byrne (Coatbridge), Ellen Florence, Brendan McGinn

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Raymond Holmes, Minnie Sinclair

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

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Fr Philip Caldwell will be in the parish on Tuesday 24th March to lead the Theology on Tap which will focus on the seven last phrases of Jesus from the cross (often called 'the seven last words'). Please make a special effort to come along and support this event.

OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall has closed, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page two of this bulletin. Very many thanks to those parishioners who have already set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

MOTHERS DAY

Mothers Day will be observed as usual on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 15th March. At Masses that weekend there will be a special blessing of mothers at the conclusion of Mass. There will also be the Mothers Day Remembrances in the bulletin that weekend. If you wish your deceased mothers name included in the remembrances please ensure that the envelope marked 'Mothers Day Remembrances' is with Fr Wyllie before 12noon this Thursday (12th March).

EASTER HAMPER

At the back of the church over the next few weeks, raffle tickets will be on sale for the wonderful Easter Hamper that has been prepared to be raffled at the Parish Easter Sunday Social. Tickets are priced at £1.00. To be in with a chance of winning the hamper please buy a raffle ticket after Mass this weekend. Raffle tickets will be on sale until Palm Sunday.



SCIAF SUNDAY

Sunday 15th March is SCIAF Sunday, a day when we are called upon to pray for the work of SCIAF in the poorest countries in our world and also when we are asked to help their work by our financial contributions. A second collection will be taken up for SCIAF at all Masses that weekend. As the aid agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland please be as generous as you always are to this special collection.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Both our churches are open for private visits and prayer throughout the week. You can find the times that both churches are open on page two of the bulletin, listing the times that both churches are open each day. Why not try to pop in and pray before the Blessed Sacrament?

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to those who have cleared the grounds of litter and leaves and also to those who helped with the clearing of the garages at St Mary's.