

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**

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

THE SACRED LITURGY

Over recent months, Pope Leo XIV has offered the Church a beautiful and deeply spiritual catechesis on the Sacred Liturgy, reminding us that the liturgy is not simply something we attend, but the very place where Christ meets his people.



Drawing upon the Second Vatican Council's great Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Holy Father teaches that every celebration of the Mass is far more than a gathering of believers. It is the living action of Christ himself, who continues to sanctify, nourish and unite his Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the heart of Pope Leo's teaching is a simple but profound truth: the liturgy is the privileged encounter between heaven and earth. Through the prayers, the Scriptures, the sacred gestures and the Sacraments, we do not merely remember the saving work of Jesus - we enter into it. The mystery of his Death and Resurrection becomes present to us, allowing us to receive once again the grace won for us on Calvary.

The Pope has also reflected on the importance of signs and symbols within the Church's worship. Kneeling in adoration, making the Sign of the Cross, listening attentively to the Word of God, receiving the Eucharist and sharing the Sign of Peace are not empty customs or ceremonies. Each is a sacred language through which our bodies, minds and hearts participate in the worship of God. The liturgy speaks to the whole person and invites every one of us into a deeper communion with the Lord.

Perhaps one of Pope Leo's strongest invitations is to rediscover what the Church means by "full, conscious and active participation." This does not simply mean doing more things during Mass. Rather, it means praying the Mass from the heart: listening with faith, responding with devotion, singing with joy, offering our own lives alongside the bread and wine which are offered to God, and allow ourselves to be transformed by the Eucharistic sacrifice. True participation is an interior openness to the grace of God.

The Holy Father also reminds priests and all those involved in preparing the liturgy that reverence and fidelity are acts of love. The approved prayers and rites of the Church are not restrictions upon worship but precious gifts handed down through the generations, helping us remain united with the universal Church and with countless saints who have celebrated these same sacred mysteries before us. Priests were told very clearly not to improvise words or actions during Mass.

For us as a parish, this teaching is a wonderful invitation to renew our love for the Holy Mass. Each Sunday and each weekday Mass is an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ truly present in his Word, in his people and above all in his Body and Blood. When we gather around the altar, we are gathered not by our own efforts but by Christ, who calls us together as one family of faith.

May the words of Pope Leo XIV encourage us to approach every liturgy with renewed wonder, reverence and gratitude. May we never become merely spectators of the sacred mysteries, but faithful disciples who allow the beauty of the liturgy to shape our lives, strengthen our love and draw us ever closer to the heart of Jesus.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 27th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 7.30pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Monday 28th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 29th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 30th September (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)
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 Memoria of St Jerome (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 the Memoria of St Jerome (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 1st October (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am School Mass for the Memoria of St Therese of the Child Jesus (Our Lady & St John's)
12.30pm Lunch Club Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 2nd October (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am School Mass for the Memoria of the Guardian Angels (St Mary's)

Saturday 3rd October (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th September - Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael - Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael are the three Archangels recorded in Sacred Scripture. Michael, the leader of the heavenly host, a warrior against enemies, especially Satan and his angels; Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at the Annunciation; Raphael guided young Tobias. In a special way, the work of the three Archangels shows God's providence for all of us. St Michael is the patron saint of police officers, military personnel, soldiers, paramedics, and mariners. St Gabriel is the patron saint of messengers, postal workers, telecommunication workers, radio and television broadcasters, diplomats, and stamp collectors. St Raphael is the patron saint of travellers and blind people.

30th September - Memoria of St Jerome - St Jerome was born around 342, an ascetic and a scholar, ordained priest at Antioch in 279, he went to Constantinople where he and St Gregory Nazianzen became friends. In 382 he moved to Rome, becoming secretary to Pope Damasus and being known for his sanctity, learning and eloquence. He chose to live in Bethlehem in 386 and to complete his writings: letters, treatises, commentaries on Scripture and, especially, the 'Vulgate' translation of the Bible into Latin. He is one of the Fathers of the Church. He died in 420 and is considered the patron saint of translators, librarians, and biblical scholars

1st October - Memoria of St Therese - St Therese was born in Alencon in Normandy in 1873. She was permitted to enter the nearby Lisieux Carmel in her mid-teens. Not of robust health, she practised humility, simplicity and trust in God. In her autobiographical *Histoire d'une ame*, she writes of her 'Little Way' by which ordinary people can be saints through a child-like approach to God. She died in 1897, was canonised in 1925, declared a patron saint of France in 1947 and Doctor of the Church in 1997.

2nd October - Memoria of the Holy Guardian Angels - The Church teaches that God assigns an angel or angels to guard us during our life on earth. The belief illustrates God's providential care for each of us.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£779.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£130.00
Digital Giving:	£234.50
Stall:	£16.00
	£1,159.50

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**



BLESSING OF PETS

The Memoria of St Francis of Assisi takes place each year on 4th October, but this year as it falls on a Sunday, the Sunday takes precedence. However, Fr Wyllie proposes that after the 10.00am Mass in St Mary's and the 12noon Mass in Our Lady & St John's he will bless parishioners' pets on the feast day of St Francis, patron saint of pets and animals. All pets are more than welcome to be blessed in the carpark, however no pets are invited to the Mass (in case Baloo gets jealous!).



OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

October is the month dedicated to praying the Holy Rosary. In our parish we pray the rosary on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday before our Masses. During this month we will also pray the rosary with the traditional October Devotions on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm. Please make a special effort to come along and pray the rosary during this month. Also, please try to say at least a decade of the rosary. The young people in our schools will gather together to learn about the rosary and to pray the rosary too.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of people seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith in our country and throughout the world. In 2024 there were a recorded 92,000 adults received into full communion with the Catholic Church worldwide, with 7,500 last year in Britain alone. If you, or someone you know, are thinking of becoming a Catholic or would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak with Fr Wyllie to organise an initial and informal chat. Six young adults have already approached Fr Wyllie but it would be good to have another informal chat before the beginning of October. Please speak with him after Mass or email: ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk to arrange a short meeting.



ST ANDREW'S NIGHT WITH THE TRIBUTE BAND 'BROCLAIMERS

Our parish will celebrate St Andrew's Day with a special event on Saturday 28th November from 7.00pm until late. Tickets priced at £10.00 and can be obtained by emailing: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com or speaking to Fr Wyllie, Fiona Gibney or Christine Dobbin. The live band will be the 'Broclaimers' a Proclaimers tribute band. Please reserve your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

LANARKSHIRE CANCER CARE TRUST VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

If you could help on a part-time basis transporting patients to the treatments they need, receiving a refund on your fuel costs, please give a call to 01698 355137.

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

The QR code can also be used to donate to the parish through your phone. Just open your camera app, hold the camera to the QR code and follow the instructions. It's simple and easy to use. Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parish.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Margaret McCaughey, Lily Dodds, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming, Robbie Frew

RIP - Janet Cosgrove, Owen Horisk, Margaret Cameron (Hamilton), Liz Craig (East Kilbride)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Edward O'Mara, Tom & Rena Mooney, Lara Markson, Jimmy Lavery, Ella Lavery

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

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

The St Peter Claver Sisters will visit the parish next weekend to sell their 2027 calendars to support the missionary work of the Church around the world. Please be as generous to the sisters and the great work they do throughout the world as you always are.

ALMA YOUTH GROUP - DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2027

We're looking for volunteers (S6-28) to join the ALMA Group and help with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 12th - 19th July 2027. An information evening will take place at the Diocesan Centre in Motherwell on Tuesday 29th September at 7.00pm to find out more.

PARISH MEETINGS

Now that the summer is well and truly over, Fr Wyllie would like to meet with the various groups which operate in our parish over the next few weeks to touch base and to discuss various topics in each specific area:

Parish Catechists (RCIA)	Wednesday 30th September	10.30am	Parish House
Parish Lunch Club Team	Thursday 1st October	3.30pm	Parish Hall
Parish Finance Team	Tuesday 6th October	2.30pm	Parish House
Parish Pastoral Team	Tuesday 6th October	7.00pm	Parish House
Parish Hall Team	Wednesday 7th October	7.30pm	Parish Hall
Parish Safeguarding Reps	Monday 19th October	6.30pm	Parish House
Parish School Reps	Monday 19th October	7.15pm	Parish House
Parish Music Ministries	Tuesday 20th October	6.30pm	Parish House
Parish SSVP Presidents	Tuesday 20th October	7.30pm	Parish House



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Mass at 12.30pm, Lunch after in Parish Hall



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

7.00pm - Late



PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclairmers

