

# 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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**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9TH FEBRUARY 2025**



St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## THE STORY OF LOURDES

The story of Lourdes is well known. Between 11th February and 16th July, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in that small town located in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains of southern France.

Bernadette could neither read nor write and spoke only the Occitan dialect of her area. Her family was sinking into poverty, and the day the first apparition took place she went to gather firewood along the bank of the River Gave.

Her attention was drawn to the noise of rustling bushes near the Grotto of Massabielle, from the French *vieille masse* meaning ancient mass. Then Bernadette saw a beautiful young woman. She described this woman as "dressed in a white robe, girded at the waist with a blue ribbon. She wore upon her head a white veil which gave just a glimpse of hair. Her feet were bare but covered by the last folds of her robe and a yellow rose was upon each of them. She held on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses."

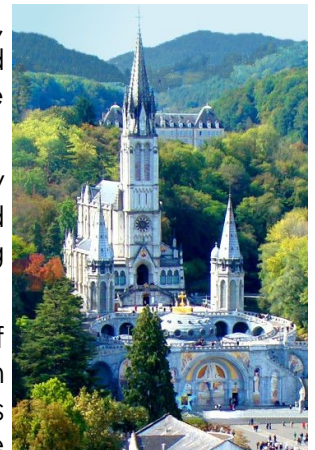
Bernadette knelt and began to pray the rosary. At the end of the rosary the woman smiled and disappeared. The young visionary returned and on 18th February Our Lady began her message telling young Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this life but in the next." On 24th February, Mary asked for penance and prayer for the conversion of sinners and the following day, she instructed Bernadette to dig the ground near the grotto. From that a spring came forth which to this day is used for the baths by pilgrims to Lourdes.

At the apparition of 2nd March, Bernadette was instructed by Our Lady to "tell the priests that people should come here in procession and that a chapel should be built on the site." On the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March, the Blessed Virgin told Bernadette in the dialect of Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception." This dogma had been defined by Pope Pius IX just a few years earlier on 8th December 1854.

The Basilica at Lourdes was consecrated in 1876 and the faithful, countless in number, have flocked in pious pilgrimage to the holy grotto over the years. It is there that they recommit themselves to conform their lives to the Christian message. There, as well, miraculous favours are granted and healings, both physical and spiritual, have taken place. Great emphasis is placed on the Eucharist and just as at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary points to her Son.

On 25th March 1958, an enormous underground basilica which can hold 25,000 pilgrims at any one Mass or Liturgical celebration was opened. There are three basilicas within the domain, with countless chapels, churches and outdoor altars for the 4-6 million pilgrims who visit each year.

Bernadette entered the Sisters of Notre Dame at Nevers in 1866 and was given the name of Sister Mary Bernarda. She worked there as sacristan and avoided publicity as best she could. She referred to herself as "a broom which Our Lady used, but now I have been put back in my corner." She died on 16th April 1879 at the young age of thirty-five, was beatified in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and canonised by him on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December 1933.



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Sunday 9th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)  
**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

**Monday 10th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
**No Rosary & Mass today**

**Tuesday 11th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
**No Rosary & Mass today**

**Wednesday 12th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
**No Confessions, Adoration or Mass today**

**Thursday 13th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
**No Confession, Adoration or Mass today**

**Friday 14th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
**No Rosary & Mass today**

**Saturday 15th February** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)  
**4.15pm** Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)  
**5.00pm** Vigil Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**10th February - Memoria of St Scholastica** - St Scholastica was born in 480, the twin sister of St Benedict. She set up a community of religious women near his monastery at Monte Cassino. She is honoured as the female members of the Benedictine Order. She died in 543 and is the patron saint of education.

**11th February - Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes** - The Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes commemorates the eighteen apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 in her home village in the south of France. Our Lady called for pilgrims to come and pray and do penance. Pope John Paul II made this a Day of Prayer throughout the whole Church for all who are sick, connecting with the prominent place given to sick people in Lourdes.

**14th February - Feast of St Cyril & St Methodius** - St Cyril was born in 826 and St Methodius was born in 815, brothers who were born in Thessalonica, Greece, who went on to spread the Faith in Moravia. They translated liturgical texts into Slavonic, using the Cyrillic alphabet which they devised. Cyril died, aged 43, on a visit to Rome. Methodius became a bishop and worked in Pannonia and the present-day Czech Republic, where he is buried at the great shrine of Velehrad. Saints Cyril and Methodius were named as Patrons of Europe by St John Paul II in 1980.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will take place on Monday 17th February beginning at 6.30pm with the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Doctor Valerie Fleming, a Judge on the Scottish Marriage Tribunal which deals with the Nullity Process for marriages. This is a subject which generates much interest and can be clouded by intrigue and speculation, so please come along and learn more about Annulments and the Nullity Process and support this event.



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

The dates and topics for the Theology on Tap over the next few months have been organised and Fr Wyllie would like to share them with you. Please make a special effort to come along to these events to grow in your Catholic faith and your understanding of various aspects of the faith:

17th February	Dr Valerie Fleming	The Annulment Process - Dispelling the myth
24th March	Anne Marie Clements	Catholic Social Teaching - Love one another
10th April	Fr Andrew Robinson	The Passion Gospel of Luke - Luke's perspective
19th May	Anthony Horan	Church & State - Separate or not?
16th June	Still to be confirmed	

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£845.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£1,627.00
Church Building Fund:	£740.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£3,212.00</b>

**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**



## CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Many thanks to those who contributed to the second collection at Mass last weekend. This collection for the Church Building Fund will be used to help alleviate the £5,000.00 cost of the repairs to our parish buildings after the storm a few weeks ago. The total collected was £740.00.

## MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

On the first weekend of every month we take a census of the numbers attending Mass in our parish. 231 over the weekend in Larkhall and 147 in Blackwood. Here are the figures:

5.00pm - 107      10.00am - 124      12noon - 92      5.00pm - 55      **Total - 378**

## CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The annual Church Workers Social will take place on Friday 21st February beginning with a drinks reception at 6.45pm. This is a great opportunity for those who perform ministries, responsibilities and roles in our parish. Menus are available, please complete and hand in by next Sunday.

## ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Parent Council of St John's Primary School are looking to raise funds to help alleviate the costs for the Primary 7 Leavers Hoodies. They are organising a raffle of signed Celtic merchandise to raise funds for this endeavour. Tickets will be sold after Masses over the next few weekends.



## CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

### FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Drinks Reception beginning at 6.45pm



## AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The Parish Hall

### THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Mass at 12.30pm followed by Lunch in the Parish Hall



## PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

### FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

2.00pm - 7.00pm



## LIGHT BITE AFTER MASS

The Parish Hall

### SUNDAY 2ND MARCH



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Marilyn McLearn, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew

**RIP** - Anne Marie Whyte, Irene (Catherine) Kennedy, Rosemary Piacentini, Anne Murphy (Carmyle)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Sadie Girvan, Michael Simpson, Paul Murphy, Jim Grant, Helen Grant, Thomas McDonagh, Patrick & Ann Grant, Jack Hastie, Mary & Tony Goodwin, The Brolly Family (N.I)

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

## BURNS DAY LUNCH

St Mary's Conference of the St Vincent de Paul would like to thank those who took part in the recent Burns Day Lunch. It was great to see so many new faces to the event which was enjoyed by everyone. The SSVP would also like to thank all parishioners who support the work of the Conference throughout the year both spiritually and financially.



## MOTHERWELL TO ST ANDREW'S

As part of the Holy Year celebrations, a walking pilgrimage will take place from Motherwell Cathedral to St Andrew's, a distance of about 110 miles, walking the route in 10 stages, every Thursday, starting on Thursday 3rd April, and each day will involve a walk of about 10-12 miles. The route follows the Ladywell Way from Motherwell and, after North Queensferry, follows the Fife Pilgrim Way to St Andrew's. For more information please contact Jim at [j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk](mailto:j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk)

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The boys and girls in Primary 7 of both St John's Primary & St Mary's Primary will be on a special Confirmation Retreat on Tuesday 11th February led by the Caritas pupils from Holy Cross High School. This retreat will concentrate on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and will give the young people to be Confirmed a wonderful opportunity to meet, learn and pray together before the Confirmation Mass on 12th March. Please keep the young people in your prayers.

## PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The Parish Finance Team will meet on Tuesday 18th February at 2.45pm at the Parish House in Larkhall. This meeting will be to analyse and sign off the accounts for 2024. If you have any questions, queries or ideas you would like brought to this meeting please speak with Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick, Gerry McCaughey or Patricia Weir.

## PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team will take place on Tuesday 11th March at 7.00pm in the Parish House at Larkhall. If you have any items you would like discussed at the meeting please speak with Fr Wyllie, Laura Steele, Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Scott Smith, Mary McDermott or Ciaran Reilly.

## CONGRATULATIONS

As a parish we extend our congratulations and prayerful good wishes to Jamie, Aaron and Ryan who were all baptised in Our Lady & St John's last week, and to their parents and godparents. May they always know their dignity as children of God and heirs to everlasting salvation.

## CRUCIFIX & CELTIC CROSS NECKLACES

Our stalls have crucifix and Celtic cross necklaces for sale which would make a perfect gift for a child who is to receive their First Holy Communion, First Confession or Confirmation. The crucifix is 18 carat plated gold, the Celtic crosses are small and silver. Why not have a look after Mass today?

