

# 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



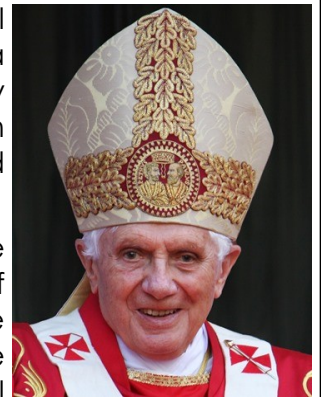
St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
1ST JANUARY 2023**

## HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope Benedict XVI was born Joseph Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany, the youngest of three children. His father was a policeman and his mother a hotel cook (before she married). His family moved frequently among villages in rural Bavaria, a deeply Roman Catholic region in Germany, as the Nazis strengthened their stranglehold on Germany in the 1930s. His family were determined anti-Nazi.

As a defence against the Nazi regime, the young Joseph viewed the Church as, "a citadel of truth and righteousness against the realm of atheism and deceit.". He entered preparatory seminary in 1939. But he could not avoid the realities of the day. He was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth in his early teens after membership became mandatory for all German young people in 1941. In 1943, Ratzinger and fellow seminarians were drafted into the anti-aircraft corps. He was sent home and then called up again before deserting in late April 1945. He was captured by American soldiers and held as a prisoner of war for several months.



Joseph returned to the seminary at the University of Munich in the autumn of 1945 and was ordained a priest in 1951. Two years later, he earned his doctorate at the University of Munich. He earned his teaching licentiate in 1957 and became a professor of Freising University in 1958, teaching dogma and fundamental theology. He became a professor at the University of Bonn in 1959. Later, he moved to the University of Munster (1963-66) and took a chair in dogmatic theology at the University of Tübingen then he returned to the University of Regensburg.

At the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), he served as a chief theological expert to Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, Germany. He was viewed as a reformer during this time. In 1972, he helped found the theological journal *Communio*, which became one of the most important journals of Catholic thought. In March 1977, he was named archbishop of Munich and Freising and, three months later, was named a cardinal by Pope Paul VI. In 1981, Pope John Paul II named him prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In 1998, he became vice dean of the College of Cardinals and was elected dean in 2002. He strenuously defended and reaffirmed Catholic doctrine in face of much opposition from within and out-with the Church.

Upon the death of Pope John Paul II, the cardinals gathered in Rome, elected Cardinal Ratzinger pope and he celebrated his Papal Inauguration Mass five days later. Known for his conservative views on Catholicism, he surprised everyone with his inclusive and gentle manner as pope. He done much to promote and defend Catholic teaching while at the same time working to build up relations with the Orthodox Church, Anglican and Protestant communities and other religions, particularly Judaism & Islam. Throughout his papacy the young people, particularly young seminarians, religious and priests, showed a great love and respect for him, and he always sought to spend time with them, particularly at World Youth Day. The media termed him 'God's Rottweiler, but he proved to more of a gentle 'German Shepherd'.

Pope Benedict XVI will be remembered as a gentle shepherd, an ardent servant of God and his Church, one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century, a scholar, a prophet and defender of tradition and truth. He died at the age of 95 at Vatican City. May he rest in peace.

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Sunday 1st January** *Both churches close after Mass*  
**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Our Lady & St John's)

**Monday 2nd January**  
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

**Tuesday 3rd January** *OLSJ opens at 11.30am and closes after Mass*  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 4th January** *Churches open at 9.00am; St Mary's closes at 4.00pm, OLSJ after Mass*  
**10.00am** Holy Mass for 4th January (St Mary's)  
**7.00pm** Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI (Our Lady & St John's)

**Thursday 5th January** *Churches open at 9.00am and close at 4.00pm*  
**9.30am** Holy Mass for 5th January (Our Lady & St John's) *This may change due to Pope's Funeral*

**Friday 6th January** *Churches open at 9.00am and close at 4.00pm*  
**10.00am** NO MASS IN THE PARISH

**Saturday 7th January** *St Mary's opens at 9.00am and closes after Vigil Mass*  
**5.00pm** Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (St Mary's)

**Sunday 8th January** *St Mary's opens 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.30am until after Mass*  
**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**2nd January - Memoria of St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen** - St Basil lived from 330-379 and St Gregory from 329-389 and both were born and brought up in Eastern Mediterranean lands and became friends. Both became bishops and spent a large part of their time and energy combatting the Arian heresy which denied that Christ was 'consubstantial with the Father'. St Basil is the patron of hospital administrators and St Gregory is the patron of harvests & poets.

**3rd January - Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Jesus** - Jesus was named officially when he was presented in the Temple, his name means 'God saves'. Devotion to the Holy Name was popularised in the fifteenth century by St Bernardine of Siena and St John Capistrano, who both carried the monogram of Jesus (IHS) with them on their preaching tours. We honour the Holy Name not only because it is the name of our Saviour but because it is, in itself, a powerful prayer.

**7th January - Memoria of St Raymond of Penyafort** - St Raymond was born around 1175 and belonged to a noble Catalanian family and joined the Dominican Order. He worked for many years in Rome, codifying Canon Law in five books of Decretals, and in 1238 became the Order's third Master-General. He is particularly remembered for promoting the fruitful celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and for his care of Christian slaves. He is the patron saint of lawyers.

## A BIG THANK YOU

Fr Wyllie would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parishioners who handed in cards and gifts for his and Baloo, the large number of gifts and cards that were handed in is very humbling and your support and generosity is very much valued and appreciated, especially at a time when so many people are finding it difficult with the cost of living. Fr Wyllie will offer up Holy Mass for you all in the new year in thanksgiving for the generosity and kindness he has received from all those who give so generously to him and to the building up of our parish. Many thanks to those who came out in such great numbers to our Christmas Masses last weekend, it was wonderful to see both churches so busy for the celebration of Mass. A particular word of thanks must go to the servers, florists, the organists, musicians and cantors, those who cleaned and decorated the churches, those who built our cribs, the sacristans, the SSVP from Our Lady & St John's for providing the selection boxes for the young people, and to those who helped with the St John's Feast Day Mass and party in the Parish Hall, it was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by everyone who came along. May God bless you all!

**NO MASS THIS FRIDAY AS FR WYLLIE WILL BE ATTENDING MRS MCCART'S MUM'S FUNERAL**

## MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023

The Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 14th - 21st July. Fr Wyllie is keen to take a group from the parish on this pilgrimage. If you would like to take part in this pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrine in Lourdes, France, then please speak with Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks. Anyone who would need assistance with mobility or doesn't keep good health should travel with the Hospitalité rather than the parish group. If you will have completed sixth year by the summer or you are 18 - 25, you are invited to join the Youth Pilgrimage. All young people are invited to join the pilgrimage as helpers, for a life-changing and worthwhile experience. Any young person who would wish to join the Youth Pilgrimage is asked to get in contact with Fr Mark O'Donnell, the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, at frodonnell@rcdom.org.uk or attend a meeting in St Aloysius Chapelhall on Thursday 2nd February at 7.00pm.

### PARISH FINANCES

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Collection & Donations:           | £2,591.00        |
| Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: | £360.00          |
| Votive Candles:                   | £235.00          |
| Stall:                            | £35.00           |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                     | <b>£3,221.00</b> |

**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**

*All UK Taxpayers can join the Giftaid scheme.*

### RETIRAL COLLECTION FOR JUSTICE & PEACE NEXT WEEKEND

#### REQUIEM FOR POPE BENEDICT XVI

**A Diocesan Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Toal. Everyone is encouraged to come along.**

**Our Parish Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's.**

#### THANK YOU FROM OLSJ SSVP

Our Lady And St John's SSVP would like to thank all the parishioners who have so generously donated throughout the year. They would also like to thank the pupils and staff of Holy Cross High School who once again came to our aid with a fabulous donation. In Particular, Mrs Sarah Whitefield who raffled a Celtic shirt raising £530.00. This tremendous generosity enables them to reach out to many families, helping with heating, food and clothing. Many thanks.

### APPEAL FROM ST MARY'S SSVP

St Mary's SSVP are appealing for donations of clothing for the *Adult Warm Clothing Initiative* at the Drop in Centre in Hamilton. If anyone has any suitable clothing could they please bring along to church on the weekends of 7/8th and 14/15th January. Once collected the SSVP will arrange drop off to the centre. Any donations gratefully received. Please place donations at the back of the church.

## TODAY IS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

[A]t the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war... The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices. Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war... What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognising that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Joyce Heeley, Phyllis Nicholson, Selina Gold, Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Isabella & Walter Freeland, Catherine Devine, Georgina & Philip Maguire, Michael Canavan, Rosina Canavan, Esther Keane, Sam McTaggart, Jacky McGowan, Eddie & Margaret Love

## ✠ CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES ✠

Betty, Eddie, Wullie & Margaret McCabe, The Sweeney & McCabe Families, Kathleen McGeoch, Buntie Kane, Margaret McGeechan, Millicent Lynch, Frank Campbell, Alice, Cornelius Weir & Family, John & Jane McMurray, Philip & Ida Holton, Amelia & Ken Gough, Jim & Mary Dow, Alexander Young, David Yardley Kennedy, Robert Kennedy Snr, Robert Kennedy Jnr, Baby Robert Daniel David Kennedy, Christina McCluskey, Christina Weller, Christina Fuller, Margaret Hotchkiss, James Hotchkiss, Maureen Hutchens, Margaret McGeechan, Vincent Connan, Geared Griffin, Robert Russell, James & Catherine Sweeney, Frank McCorry, James & Catherine McLaren, Monica & Charles McCorry, The McLaren, McCorry, Wedlock & Payne Families, The Morrison, Maguire & McStay Families, The Boyle & Walker Family, Jim Walker, Agnes Morrison, John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, The Kennedy Family, The Creechan Family, The Gowans, Connachan, Williamson & Connor Families, John McManus, John & Jane McMurray, Members of the Reilly & McManus Families, Cathie Deerin, Chrissie Ferris, Frank Lyons, Ellen Mullen, Gerard Wyllie, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, George Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, Annie Mulhearn, David James, Jim Hoey, Margaret Douglas, Jim McShane, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Very Reverend William Canon Dunnachie, Very Reverend Giles Canon Goward, Very Reverend Harry Canon McGinn, Jim Somerville, Alan Rennie, Annie McNally, Charlie McNally Snr, Charlie McNally Jnr, Johnnie McNally, Stan & Mary Kos, Elizabeth Wightman, The Grant Family, Thomas McDonagh, The Goodwin Family, Jim Higgins, The Melville Family, The McKenna Family, Chris Crumley, John & Betty Connachan, Joseph & Margaret Cassidy, Maureen Crawley, John & Letty Gonnella, John & Emily Leonard, Cathie & Tommy Tierney, Martin Gibney, Ann McConville, Peter McLaughlin, Mary McLaughlin, Mary Smillie, May Duncan, Archie Duncan, Andrew Rooney, Veronica McLaughlin, John Tamburrini, Mary Dawson, The Burgess, Dawson & Fleming Families, Canon McGinn, John Dickson, Pat O'Donnell, Maureen Hutchens, Alice Watters, Jean Gordon, Babs McGurk, Margaret & Jimmy Smith, Doreen & Graham Murphy, Agnes Murdoch, Michael Farrell, John Kennedy, Helen Kennedy, Bernadette Kennedy, Peter Farrell, Jerry Dunn, Marion Houston, Desmond Houston, Jim & Elizabeth Sherry, Logan Ross, Mary Hay, Bernard Hagen, Stacy McLaughlan, Thomas Donnellan, David Kinnie, Eleanor Morrison.

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

On the last day of term, Friday 23rd December, Mrs Colgan, head teacher of St Mary's Primary, left the school to spend more time with her family and to pursue new endeavours. As a parish we thank her for all that she did for the young people of St Mary's and for her support for the life and mission of the parish. We wish her every happiness in the future.



On the Thursday before the schools broke up for the Christmas holidays, Mrs McCart's, head teacher of St John's, mum sadly died after a short illness. We keep Mrs McCart very much in our prayers at this time. There will be no Friday morning Mass in St Mary's as Fr Wyllie will be attending the Requiem Mass for Mrs McCart's mum that morning.

## PARISH HALL NEWS

At some point this month the Parish Hall will receive a fresh coat of paint in the main hall, the kitchen, the foyer and the toilets.

At present we are in the process of getting a personal license for alcohol to be sold at functions held in the hall. We hope this will be organised by the end of the month.

We currently have an issue of water getting into the Hall kitchen, this will hopefully be rectified over the next few days.

We seem to have a problem with some of the downpipes and the gutters at the Hall and the house, so this is something which needs to be investigated and rectified over the next few weeks. The downpipe at the front door of the Hall is constantly overflowing and the same with one at the back of the Hall.