

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT  
28TH NOVEMBER 2021**

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls.

The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptised; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581 designated that from 11th November (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to Britain. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential nature.

The Church gradually formalised the celebration of Advent. The Gelasian Sacramentary, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (died in 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I (died in 604) enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses. Pope St. Gregory VII (died in 1095) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year.

The Catechism stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: *When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming (524).* Despite the sketchy history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning coming.)

Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back and are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's first coming into this world. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the Creed that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him.

In all, during Advent we strive to fulfil the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. Let us make Advent a time of spiritual renewal for ourselves by participating in all that is happening in our parish.



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## Sunday 28th November

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the First Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the First Sunday of the Season of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the First Sunday of the Season of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Monday 29th November

- 11.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for Monday of the First Week of Advent (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 30th November

- 9.00am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)  
**9.30am** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Andrew, Patron of Scotland (Our Lady & St John's)  
**6.30pm** Reception of the Mortal Remains of Mark McTaggart  
**7.00pm** Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)

## Wednesday 1st December

- 10.00am** Requiem Mass for Mark McTaggart (St Mary's)  
**6.30pm** Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Our Lady & St John's)  
**7.00pm** Holy Mass for Wednesday of the First Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Thursday 2nd December

- 9.00am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)  
**9.00am** Confessions until 9.20am (Our Lady & St John's)  
**9.30am** School Mass for Thursday of the Second Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

## Friday 3rd December

- 9.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
**10.00am** School Mass for the Memoria of St Francis Xavier (St Mary's)

## Saturday 4th December

- 10.00am** Rorate Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)  
**4.45pm** Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)  
**5.30pm** Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)

## Sunday 5th December

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (OLSJ)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent (OLSJ)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**30th November - Solemnity of St Andrew** - St Andrew was an apostle of the Lord and is honoured as the patron saint of Scotland. Born at Bethsaida, he was formerly a disciple of St John the Baptist and then followed Christ, to whom he brought his brother Peter. With Philip he introduced the Gentiles to Christ and he was the apostle who pointed out the boy with the loaves and fish. Tradition has it that after Pentecost he preached the Gospel in many different places and finally suffered death on a cross in Achaia, in Greece. As well as being patron of Scotland he is also the patron of Greece and Russia.

**3rd December - Memoria of St Francis Xavier** - St Francis Xavier was born in the royal castle at Javier in the Basque country in 1506. He went to university in Paris in 1525, where he met his countryman, Ignatius of Loyola, and the other five original members of the Society of Jesus. In 1542 he was sent to India and he spread the Faith to many territories between there and Japan. Poised to enter China, he died in 1552, aged 46. The unfinished nature of his work inspired St Guido Conforti to found the Xaverian Fathers in 1895 for the Chinese mission. His extensive missionary journeys made many compare him to St Paul, and Pope Pius XI named him a Patron of the Missions.

## FOODBANK COLLECTION

This weekend we will hold our monthly collection for our local foodbank. As we embark on our Advent journey of welcoming the Christ Child at Christmas, we are asked to deepen our service to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Donations of groceries will be very welcome as will any monetary donations you wish to give.

## PARISH STALLS

In St Mary's you will see the display as you enter the church and in Our Lady & St John's in the former sacristy to the right of the sanctuary. Please have a look after Mass today and help us to keep Christ in Christmas while supporting the parish. Boxes of 18 cards at £4.00, ornate cards pack at £4.00, small packs of cards at £2.00 and Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards at £2.00.

### ST MARY'S MINI VINNIES

The Mini Vinnies met for the first time since before lockdown on Thursday of last week. Another move towards parish life getting back to normal. They are arranging a Christmas Raffle for a Christmas goodie hamper, for their chosen charity. Raffle tickets, £1.00, will be on sale after Mass this weekend to help the children in their efforts to raise funds. Please be as generous as possible.

### ST MARY'S PATRONAL FEAST DAY

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the Patronal Feast Day of both St Mary's Church and St Mary's Primary School. On that day a special Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am. Further details will be included in next weeks bulletin. Please make a special effort to celebrate this very special day.

### OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we begin a new Liturgical year, we will bring back the Offertory Procession at our Sunday Masses. It would be wonderful to have young parishioners and their families to bring the Offertory Procession to the altar during our Masses, so please be generous in accepting this role if asked by the SSVP. At the 12noon Mass the Children's Liturgy will organise this.

### WRAPPING UP

Now that the weather is getting very cold and we are still obliged to keep the doors open for good ventilation, parishioners are reminded to wrap up against the draughts that will inevitably come through the church during Mass. The heating is on but please wrap up.

## CONFESSIONS TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

<b>Saturday 18th December</b>	3.45pm until 5.15pm; immediately after the Vigil Mass (SM)
<b>Sunday 19th December</b>	9.15am until 9.45am; immediately after the 10.00am Mass (SM) Immediately after the 12noon Mass; 4.00pm until 4.45pm and immediately after the 5.00pm Mass (OLSJ)
<b>Monday 20th December</b>	Immediately after the 12noon Mass (SM)
<b>Tuesday 21st December</b>	9.00am until 9.20am (OLSJ) <b>6.00pm until 7.00pm (SM)</b>
<b>Wednesday 22nd December</b>	After 10.00am Mass (SM). <b>6.00pm until 6.30pm (OLSJ)</b>

### PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,482.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£60.00
Votive Candles:	£180.00
Stall:	£265.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,987.00</b>
Catholic Education Service:	£705.00
<b>Many thanks for your very generous support</b>	

### DIOCESAN CHOIR CAROL CONCERT



St Mary's Larkhall

Thursday 16th December 2021

7.00pm

Tickets: £4.00 for adults, free for children

With St John's & St Mary's Primaries taking part

Pay for tickets at the door on the evening.

### SUNDAY OBLIGATION

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland have sent out a letter to be read at all Masses this weekend notifying all Catholics in the country that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will be reinstated on Sunday 2nd January, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. This means that for the first time since March 2020, when the Bishops rescinded the obligation to attend Mass due to Covid, all Catholics are now required to attend Mass on a Saturday night or a Sunday from that date.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - John Rosato (Australia), Pat Tierney, James Ferguson, Murray Brown, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Rory Quigley, Janet McIntosh, David Hillhouse, Annette Thomson, Liz Rees OCV, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Gerard Lyons, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

**RIP** - Mark McTaggart (*Reception to the Church on Tuesday 30th November at 6.30pm, Requiem Mass on Wednesday 1st December at 10.00am*), Neil Hollands, Terry Pein

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Maisie & Jockey Kane

**Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for on their anniversaries & months mind**

### OLSJ SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The SSVP are conscious that many families will be struggling at this time of year especially as a result of high gas prices and the loss of £20 a week from their benefits. If anyone needs assistance then please contact Our Lady & St John's SSVP on the telephone number below: 07522925723.

### ST MARY'S SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

For uplift & delivery enquiries please call the Furniture Unit on 07483904658 or 07483363888 on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11.00am until 3.00pm. If you know of anyone in the community who would like a visit from members of the SSVP please let Fr Wyllie or any conference member know.

## CHRISTMAS 2021

Below you will find the programme for Masses in our parish over those days:

### Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

**5.00pm** Vigil Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)  
**8.30pm** First Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)  
**12.00am** Midnight Mass (St Mary's)

### Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

**10.00am** Dawn Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Day Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

### Sunday 26th December - Feast of the Holy Family

**10.00am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass (OLSJ)

### Monday 27th December - Feast of St John

**12noon** Holy Mass (OLSJ)

### Tuesday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents

**12noon** Holy Mass (OLSJ)

### Wednesday 29th December

**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

### Thursday 30th December

**12noon** Holy Mass (OLSJ)

### Friday 31st December

**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**6.30pm** Adoration followed by Vespers at 7.00pm & Benediction (OLSJ)

### Saturday 1st January - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

**11.30am** Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Solemn Mass  
**5.30pm** Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Epiphany

### Sunday 2nd January - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (OLSJ)

