

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](https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishourladyoffatima)

Twitter - OLOFParish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SECOND SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT
7TH DECEMBER 2025**

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico as the pregnant Mother of God to Blessed Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, on 9th, 10th and 12th December 1531. She left a Miraculous Image of her appearance on his cactus fibre cloak, or tilma, which still exists today in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. 10 million converted as a result.

The Image of Our Lady is actually an Aztec Pictograph that was read and interpreted quickly by the Aztec Indians. Looking at the image we can see several signs which may go unnoticed:

The Lady stood in front of the sun: She was greater than their dreaded sun-god "Huitzilopochtli". *Her foot rested on the crescent moon:* She had clearly vanquished their foremost deity, the feather serpent "Quetzalcoatl." *The stars strewn across the mantle:* She was greater than the stars of heaven that they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on 12th December 1531 for the stars that she wore are the constellation of stars that appeared in the sky that very day! *The blue-green hue of her mantle:* She was a Queen for she wears the colour of royalty. *The black cross on the brooch at her neck:* Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her Son. *The black belt:* She was with child for she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt. *The four-petal flower over the womb:* She was the "Mother of God." The flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity - the centre of the universe. *Her hands are joined in prayer:* She was not God but clearly there was One greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross on her brooch. *The design on her rose coloured garment:* She is the "Queen of the Earth" for she is wearing a map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place.



The image, to this date, cannot be explained by science. The image shows no sign of deterioration after almost 500 years! The tilma or cloak of Juan Diego on which the image of Our Lady has been imprinted, is a coarse fabric made from the threads of the maguey cactus. This fibre disintegrates within 20-60 years! There is no under sketch, no sizing and no protective over-varnish on the image. Microscopic examination revealed that there were no brush strokes. The image seems to increase in size and change colours due to an unknown property of the surface.

According to Kodak of Mexico, the image is smooth and feels like a modern day photograph. (Produced 300 years before the invention of photography). The image has consistently defied exact reproduction, whether by brush or camera. Several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin. It is believed to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zummaraga, Juan Gonzales - the interpreter and others. The distortion and place of the images are identical to what is produced in the normal eye, which is impossible to obtain on a flat surface. The stars on Our Lady's mantle coincide with the constellation in the sky on 12th December 1531. All who have scientifically examined the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe over the centuries confess that its properties are absolutely unique and so inexplicable in human terms that the image can only be supernatural!

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 7th December (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 6.30pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the **Second Sunday of Advent** (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the **Second Sunday of Advent** (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the **Second Sunday of Advent** (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm Vespers & Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 8th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** (St Mary's)

ADVENT

Tuesday 9th December (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 Holy Mass for Memoria of St Juan Diego (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 10th December (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 Our Lady of Loreto (St Mary's)
10.30am Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (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 Rorate Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 11th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

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)
9.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the Second Week of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)

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

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Guadalupe (St Mary's)



Saturday 13th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the **Third Sunday of Advent** (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

8th December - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - This dogma is a mystery of our Faith. It is one of several points where Our Lady was treated in a privileged way by God, emphasising her unique place in His plan. As a doctrine of the Church it was only promulgated in 1854, but had been a strong popular belief for centuries. Our own Blessed John Duns Scotus was one of the greatest champions of this dogma in the 13th and 14th centuries. It is under this title that St Mary's and St Mary's Primary are officially dedicated.

9th December - Memoria of St Juan Diego - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin was born in 1474 and was brought up in the Aztec religion, but converted to Catholicism with his wife in 1524 when Franciscan missionaries arrived in their region. In 1531, Our Blessed Lady appeared to him instructing him to tell the local bishop she wanted a church built on Tepeyac Hill, now part of Mexico City. As a proof of her authenticity, Our Lady imprinted an image of herself on his cloak, or 'tilma'. Until he died in 1548, he lived beside the church serving all who visited. He is the patron saint of the indigenous people of the Americas.

10th December - Memoria of Our Lady of Loreto - The sanctuary of Our Lady of Loreto is in the small town of Loreto, near Ancona in Italy. The sanctuary is a large baroque basilica containing a 'Holy House' thought to be the very house in Nazareth where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived after they returned from Egypt. The shrine is a place of pilgrimage for Italians and those from further afield.

12th December - Memoria of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Our Lady of Guadalupe was the title chosen by Our Blessed Lady by which she was to be invoked by those who visit her shrine on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City, where she appeared to St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin. She is also honoured as the 'Empress of the Americas', protectress of the unborn and patroness of the pro-life movement.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£925.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£1,572.00
Stall:	£102.00
	£2,599.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

Education Collection:	£600.00
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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**



VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Three men have been accepted by the bishop to begin formation to the priesthood by participating in the 2026 Propaedeutic period in the Royal Scots College, Salamanca, Spain. There will be another gathering at the Cathedral House, Motherwell on Sunday 14th December at 7.30pm for those considering a vocation to the priesthood. Those who attended previously will be most welcome, along with any others who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood. Please contact your parish priest or Fr Charles O'Farrell at frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Pope Leo XIV recently expressed his desire for parishes to pray the Divine Office (Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer) together. In response to the Holy Father's express desire, we will have Evening Prayer (Vespers) in Our Lady & St John's this evening at 6.00pm followed by Adoration & Benediction, and in St Mary's next Sunday at 6.30pm followed by Adoration & Benediction. Please make a special effort to come along and join in this prayer with the whole Church throughout the world in praying for the Church and the world.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

A second collection will take place at all Masses this weekend for St Andrew's Hospice. The hospice does such important and necessary work in caring for the terminally ill and dying and relies heavily on donations to continue their work.

MANY THANKS

The SSVP of Our Lady & St John's would like to thank everyone for the amazing response to their appeal last weekend. Please continue to support the SSVP through the box at the end of Mass.

RECONCILIATION MASSES

During Advent we are asked to avail ourselves of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Confession. Special Reconciliation Masses will take place in our parish during Advent. St Mary's on Monday 15th December at 6.30pm followed by Confessions and Our Lady & St John's on Wednesday 17th at 6.30pm followed by Confessions. Please note that only individual confession is offered.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Fr Andrew Robinson will be in the parish to lead our December Theology on Tap on Tuesday 16th beginning at 6.30pm with the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The talk will be on the Christmas story in the Gospels. This is a perfect way for us to learn more about the Christmas narrative as portrayed in the Gospels. Fr Wyllie encourages and invites all parishioners to make a special effort to come along and support this event. All welcome.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

All parishioners, parents/carers and families are warmly invited to the patronal Mass on Monday at 10.00am in St Mary's and the coffee morning afterwards to celebrate this special day.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Veronica Hood (Hamilton), Jane Hamilton, 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, Joe Murphy (Dubai)

RIP - Patricia Kelly (Lanark), Fr Patrick Gaffney CSSp

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael Travers

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

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Bambinelli Sunday, Sunday 14th December, is when people, especially children, are invited to bring the figure of the baby Jesus from their cribs to be blessed in church. All welcome to do so.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025



CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24th December

5.00pm - Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

8.30pm - First Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12.00am - Midnight Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25th December

10.00am - Dawn Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12noon - Day Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

No Mass on 26th December



PATRONAL FEAST DAY COFFEE MORNING

St Mary's Primary School

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

After the 10.00am Mass



PARISH DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 2.00PM - 9.00PM

SUNDAY 28TH DEC AFTER 12NOON MASS



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm

Fr Andrew Robinson on the Christmas Narrative



PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.30pm - 1.30am

Ticket - £10.00 (glass of prosecco & a pie), under 16's free

