

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
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**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
21ST JUNE 2026**

THE EUCHARISTIC FAST

A part of Catholic life that has been forgotten in recent times is that Catholics are required to fast from food and drink in preparation for Holy Communion. The 1983 Code of Canon Law, no. 919, states, "Whoever is to receive the blessed Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from all food and drink, with the sole exception of water and medicine."

The law uses the word "abstain" rather than "fast," but the meaning is the same. One may drink plain water or take medicine within the one-hour fasting period, however.

It's worth noting that the canon stipulates "at least one hour." This is a way of encouraging us to go beyond the legal limit and prepare ourselves for Holy Communion by fasting for a longer period of time. In fact, the one hour is a modern concession when it comes to receiving the Most Holy Sacrament.

By the fifth century, St Augustine spoke about it as a nearly universal practice, apparently thinking that it was divinely inspired. He wrote, "Must we therefore censure the universal Church because the sacrament is everywhere partaken of by persons fasting? No, truly, for from that time it pleased the Holy Spirit to appoint, for the honour of so great a sacrament, that the body of the Lord should take the precedence of all other food entering the mouth of a Christian; and it is for this reason that the custom referred to is universally observed."

We have evidence that a fast was definitely universally practiced in the Middle Ages. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, the fast began at midnight. In 1953, Pope Pius XII, in his Apostolic Constitution *Christus Dominus*, reminded Catholics that fasting in preparation for Communion pays "due honour to our Divine Redeemer". In 1957 Pope Pius XII reduced the fast to three hours. In 1964, Pope Paul VI further reduced the fast to one hour, the current discipline.

One hour "before Holy Communion" hardly seems difficult, apart for the elderly and infirm. If you arrive a decent time before Mass begins, and especially if the priest is a long-winded preacher, almost an hour will have elapsed before Communion.

People will often ask whether coffee, tea or soft drinks break the fast. Coffee, tea and soft drinks are not water even if they are mostly water. That goes for other beverages, too.

For those wondering about chewing gum or sweeties or something that has no calories, these are still food. The need to prepare to receive Christ in your body and soul is a testament to our belief that Jesus Christ is truly and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist.

Pope Benedict XVI taught that since it is Christ Who gives Himself completely to us, should we give ourselves to Him in a total self-offering. St Francis of Assisi taught, "The Master of the universe, God Himself and Son of God humbles Himself so far as to hide Himself for our salvation under the feeble appearance of bread! See brothers the humility of God . . . keep nothing of yourselves for yourselves, so that He may possess you entirely, who has given Himself wholly for you."



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 21st June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)



Monday 22nd June (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Fisher & St Thomas More (St Mary's)

12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

1.30pm Primary 7 Leavers Mass for the pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)

Tuesday 23rd June (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 Primary 7 Leavers Mass for the pupils of St John's (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 24th June (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 Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist (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 Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 25th June (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)

9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 26th June (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 Friday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Saturday 27th June (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

22nd June - Memoria of St John Fisher & St Thomas More - St John Fisher was born in England in 1469 and became the Bishop of Rochester in Kent and was recognised as a man of prayer who showed great pastoral care for his diocese. He defended Queen Katherine of Aragon in her case against King Henry VIII wishing to divorce her in order to marry Anne Boleyn. St Thomas More was born in 1478 and was also a man of prayer, married with four children. He rose through the legal profession to be Lord Chancellor of England, gaining a reputation for honesty and integrity. He was a close friend of King Henry VIII but both saints incurred the anger of the king when they opposed his plan to divorce Queen Katherine of Aragon. Judged guilty of treason, Bishop Fisher was beheaded on this date in 1535 and Thomas More on 6th July 1535. St John Fisher is the patron saint of the Diocese of Rochester, New York, and St Thomas is patron saint of politicians, statesmen, lawyers and civil servants.

24th June - Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist - St John the Baptist, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, lived in the desert where he led a life of austerity and penance, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; like the new Elijah, humble and strong, he prepared his people to receive the Lord. Jesus said of him: "of all the children born to women, there is no one greater than John". He baptised Jesus reluctantly because he considered himself unworthy "to undo the strap of his sandals" (Mark 1:7). He knew the nature of his mission: "he must grow greater; I must grow smaller" (John 3:30).

DAY OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Today in Scotland, England & Wales, and Ireland, we observe the Day of Prayer for Life, praying for a greater respect for the gift of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. There will be an opportunity for parishioners to support the invaluable work of the pro-life movement by donating to the box available at the back of the church.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £765.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £360.00
Digital Giving: £289.00
£1,414.00

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**



STAINED GLASS

The Diocesan Fabric & Finance Committee approved the stained glass window project last Tuesday. This project will cost in the region of £50,000. If you are in a position to make a contribution to the cost of this work it would be very greatly appreciated indeed. These beautiful windows have been in place from the opening of the church, they are a rich part of our history and heritage. Please be as generous as you always are in supporting your parish.

GIFTAID SCHEME

If you pay UK Tax why not join the Giftaid scheme? For every £1.00 donated we receive 25p at no extra cost to the donor. Giftaid forms are available at the back of the church and can be completed and returned to the parish. Please consider joining the Giftaid scheme.

PARISH SUMMER SCHEDULE

From Monday 29th June we will follow a parish summer schedule. No adoration and confessions on weekdays and no Wednesday 7.00pm Mass. There will be no 5.00pm Sunday Mass in July.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WHITHORN

A two day trip has been organised for 29th/30th August to join the National St Ninian's Pilgrimage to Whithorn. We will be accompanied by Bishop Toal and will be staying overnight at the Premier Inn in Dumfries. The cost of the trip is £159pp for a twin/double room and £189pp for a single room. The price includes coach travel from Motherwell, dinner, bed and breakfast, and fish and chips on the return journey. For more information, contact Jim McKelvie on 07957847290 or email pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS
The Parish Hall
EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
2.00pm - 9.00pm
Card Payments preferable



SCOTLAND V BRAZIL
The Parish Hall
WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE
Kick off 11.00pm; Bar open from 9.00pm



PARISH LUNCH CLUB
The Parish Hall
THURSDAY 25TH JUNE
Mass at 12.30pm, Lunch after in Parish Hall



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Raymond Hart, Margaret Mitchell, Meg Finlayson, Cathy Caven, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Jim Bain (Wishaw), Charles Kennedy, Eileen (Murray) Brown (Shieldmuir)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Betty (Betina) Feeney, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn

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

FATHERS DAY REMEMBRANCES



This Fathers Day, we pray that the following will be at peace with the Father:

James (Jim) McLaughlin; Cornelius Weir; Gordon Wilson Gardner Hotchkiss, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, James Hotchkiss, Louis Baron Weller, John McCluskey, Alexander Young, Robert Kennedy; Jim Sherry; Gerard Wyllie, John Deerin, Hugh Wyllie, Jim McShane; Jim Somerville



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 to all parishioners for your continued generosity to the parish.



PRAYING FOR THE SICK

The list of those who are sick and needing prayers in our bulletin is growing. Some names have been on the list for a long time and may now have recovered or even possibly are no longer with us. In order to keep the list up-to-date please resubmit the names of those you wish prayed for by next Sunday. Please note that it is essential for the sick person to have given their express permission before their name can be added to the sick list.

PETER'S PENCE

This year we celebrate the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul next Sunday, Sunday 28th June. As is customary on this day, we will take up a second collection at Mass for Peter's Pence, the proceeds of which will be sent to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV to assist him in his task as successor of St Peter in running the Holy See and to help him send aid to the suffering Church throughout the world. Please be as generous as you always are to this collection which shows our solidarity with, and respect for, the Holy Father as the Bishop of Rome and successor of St Peter.

CONGRATULATIONS

On Friday evening Deacon Kieran Burt was ordained a priest in his home parish of St Joseph's Blantyre. Fr Kieran is the Diocese of Motherwell's newest priest and we send him our prayerful congratulations and very best wishes as he sets out on his life as a priest of our diocese. Please keep Fr Kieran and all the priests of our diocese in your daily prayers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd June	P7 Leavers Mass	St Mary's	1.30pm
23rd June	P7 Leavers Mass	OLSJ	9.30am
16th August	Solemnity of the Assumption	Parish Masses	All Masses
22nd August	Parish BBQ	The Parish Hall	6.30pm - Late
11th September	Parish International Night	The Parish Hall	Mass at 6.30pm
13th September	Parish Forty Hours Adoration	St Mary's	10.00am Mass
30th October	Parish Halloween Party	The Parish Hall	7.00pm - Late
27th November	Parish St Andrew's Night	The Parish Hall	2.00pm - 9.00pm
31st December	Parish Hogmanay Party	The Parish Hall	8.00pm - 2.00am