

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

**SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING
23RD NOVEMBER 2025**

JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Our liturgical year is ordered in such a way as to lead us through the entire mystery of salvation won for us in Christ. Each liturgical year begins with Advent, when we ponder the Incarnation that leads us to the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Following Christmas we enter into the public ministry of Christ during Ordinary Time, which begins with the feast of His Baptism. In the midst of Ordinary Time, we enter the deepest paschal mystery of Lent and Easter, culminating with the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The Easter Season concludes with Christ's Ascension and Pentecost, the beginning of the Church. Finally, after the rest of Ordinary Time, we come to the great Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly referred to as Christ the King.



The liturgical feast of Christ the King was added to the Church calendar in 1925, when Pope Pius XI instituted it with his encyclical *Quas Primas*. At the time Pope Pius XI instituted it, the world was in political and social chaos. After World War I ended in 1918, secularism began to grow worldwide, and communist and fascist ideologies emerged, leading many to question and even abandon their faith. The unity of faith and civil governance, which had been part of the make-up of Europe since the fourth century, slowly crumbled, and God's sovereignty over the world was readily dismissed. Though the concept of the separation of the Church and State can be helpful to both the Church and the State, if God's authority and laws are excluded from human governance, man is left to his own designs and inevitably goes astray.

Upon seeing the social and political culture of the 1920s devolve, Pope Pius XI felt that he needed to remind the Church and the world that there is only one King, and that King is not only the King of Catholics, He is the King of humanity, of the entire Universe.

When Jesus walked the earth, He chose not to forcibly impose His divine authority and rule upon nations, even though many of His followers wanted Him to do so. Instead, He instituted the Kingdom of God as a spiritual reality in which we are all called to voluntarily participate, for now. Those who do participate are called to work to establish Christ's Kingdom on earth, here and now, by governing according to the mind and will of God. The modern-day concept of the separation of Church and State is helpful insofar as the Church must be free from political interference and control. However, this separation should never lead to an exclusion of the King of the Universe from human governance. Rather, human beings must give themselves over to the control and dominion of the Great King, and then govern according to His mind and will.

Only in Christ do we find peace, unity, harmony, and true purpose.

Today's feast points us to the end of time when Jesus, the great King, will return in all His splendour and glory to establish His unending Kingdom on earth, when He unites Heaven and earth into the new and resurrected Kingdom yet to come. As we celebrate this glorious solemnity, the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year, deepen your faith in the mystery it celebrates, and strengthen your resolve to embrace the Kingship of Christ in your life, so that through you, His Kingdom will become all the more present in the world all around you.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 23rd November (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King with Enrolment (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King with Enrolment (OLSJ)
3.00pm Lesmahagow Cemetery Service (Lesmahagow Cemetery)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King (OLSJ)



Monday 24th November (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 Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions (St Mary's)

Tuesday 25th November (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 Tuesday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 26th November (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 Wednesday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (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 Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Thursday 27th November (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 Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 28th November (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 Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Saturday 29th November (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

24th November - Memoria of St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions - In the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, Christians were severely persecuted in Vietnam and many thousands were executed. Today's Memoria honours the 117 martyrs between 1625 and 1886; 21 were French and Spanish, some bishops, the others priests; and 96 were Vietnamese priests, laymen and laywomen. St Andrew Dung-Lac who lived between 1795 and 1839, was a Vietnamese diocesan priest who was beheaded at Hanoi. St Andrew Dung-Lac is the patron saint of Vietnam.

29th November - Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent - In Advent the Church prepares for the Nativity of the Lord Jesus, when we recall Christ's first coming. As we remember so also we look forward to his Second Coming at the end of time. It is a period of joyful hope. The hope of Advent is expressed during the first part of Advent with the concentration on the Second Coming while the first coming is recalled particularly from the 17th December, when Christ is seen as the fulfilment of the hope of Israel. Throughout Advent, violet (purple) is used for liturgies. The use of flowers and musical instruments should be restrained until Christmas. The Gloria is not sung or said at Sunday Mass. It is the first Sunday of the Church's new liturgical year. We enter Liturgical Year A on this Sunday and during the week we move to Liturgical Year 2.

CONFESSIONS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The P4-P7 pupils from our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for Christmas. The pupils of St John's will receive the sacrament during the school day on Tuesday 25th November, and the pupils of St Mary's will receive the sacrament during the school day on Wednesday 26th November. All confessions will be heard in the church in the confessional box.

TO CONSERVE HEAT PLEASE KEEP THE CHURCH DOORS CLOSED.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£991.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£265.00
Building Fund Collection:	£904.00
Stall:	£165.00
Total:	£2,325.00

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**



PRAYING FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

Many thanks to those who attended the Larkhall Cemetery Service last Sunday. The **Lesmahagow service will take place this afternoon at 3.00pm**. An additional service will take place at the **Co-Op Funeral Home, Larkhall, on Thursday 27th November at 7.00pm** for those whose funerals have been carried out by the Co-Op over the past year. This service will be an ecumenical service led by Fr Wyllie and the Reverend Fiona Anderson of Dalserf Parish Church. There are still November Lists for you to record the names of your beloved dead with Mass being celebrated each day during November for all those recorded on those lists. "It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for our dead".



ENROLMENT MASS FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The Enrolment Masses for the young people being enrolled for the sacraments of First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation will take place this weekend, the Solemnity of Christ the King, St Mary's at 10.00am Mass, St John's at the 12noon Mass. All enrolment forms should be returned to the Parish House by Thursday of this week. If any child requires to be baptised before receiving their First Confession please speak with Fr Wyllie asap, certainly before Advent begins.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This weekend, the Solemnity of Christ the King, a box is available at the back of the church for the **Scottish Catholic Education Service** to coincide with Catholic Education Sunday and the Enrolment Mass for the young people being enrolled for the sacraments.

A second collection will take place on 7th December at all Masses for **St Andrew's Hospice** which does such marvellous work in caring for the terminally ill and dying.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

St John's Primary Partnership Group invite you to the Christmas Fayre after the 12noon Mass in the Parish Hall on Sunday 30th November. Entry is free. This will be an opportunity to soak up the festive cheer as you get some Christmas shopping by purchasing some locally made arts and crafts, support charities (such as the Mini Vinnies & Glainne Mara), have a shot at our raffle, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with home baking and (for the young/young at heart) a chance to meet Santa. All proceeds will go to St John's Primary, so please dig deep and support this venture. Any donations of raffle prizes would be gratefully received (raffle prizes can be handed into the school reception or at the back of the church).

FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection of foodstuffs and donations for the local foodbank will take place next weekend, the First Sunday of Advent, 29th/30th November. Bags of groceries and monetary gifts can be left at the back of the church before being taken to the foodbank on the Monday.

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

Many thanks for your contributions to the Building Fund collection. The total was £904.00.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Baby Ada Rose McColgan (New York), 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 - Pat Lambie (Viewpark), Michael Ellison (Preston), James Sinclair, Florin Dutican

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Catherine Tyrrell, Janice Mulhearn, Annie Mulhearn, Elizabeth Murphy

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

PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

The Patronal Feast day of St Mary's and St Mary's Primary School is celebrated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday 8th December. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10.00am, rather than 12noon, followed by a celebratory Coffee Morning in the primary school. All parishioners, parents/carers and families are warmly invited to this special Mass and the coffee morning afterwards to celebrate our patronal feast day.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT ON FRIDAY CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST.



PARISH LIGHT BITE AFTER MASS

The Parish Hall

TODAY AFTER 12NOON MASS

After the 12noon Mass. All welcome.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

THIS FRIDAY 2.00PM – 7.00PM



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Mass 12.30pm followed by Lunch & Social



PATRONAL FEAST DAY COFFEE MORNING

St Mary's Primary School

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

After 10.00am Mass



PARISH THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

6.30pm Fr Andrew Robinson on the Christmas Narrative



PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.30pm - 1.30am

Ticket - £10.00 (includes a glass of prosecco & a pie)

