

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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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18TH JANUARY 2026**

THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

At his General Audience at the Vatican on 7th January, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV framed the beginning of the new year as the start of a renewed journey for Catholics throughout the world. The Pope directed the Church's attention back to a defining moment of the twentieth century, announcing a fresh rereading of the documents of the Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II (2).



Pope Leo presented this renewed engagement with Vatican II as an exciting invitation. He emphasised that the Council is not a closed chapter of history but a great grace entrusted to the Church, one that continues to offer light, wisdom, and prophetic guidance for every generation. In doing so, the Holy Father underscored that the Church does not move forward by abandoning her roots, but by drawing more deeply from them with faith and discernment.

The Pope noted that nearly seventy years have passed since the Council fathers first promulgated these documents. The Council was convened in 1962 and ended in 1965. Many of the Catholics who lived through that moment, who received the Council's teachings firsthand, are no longer with us. This reality, he explained, makes a renewed reading not only timely but necessary. Each generation must receive the Council anew, as a living source of guidance for the Church's mission today.

Pope Leo highlighted the enduring themes of Vatican II, particularly its encouragement of dialogue and engagement with the modern world. The Council called the Church to foster authentic interreligious dialogue, to pursue unity among Christians through ecumenism, and to collaborate with all people of good will in the service of truth and the dignity of the human person. These principles, the Pope reminded the faithful, were never meant to dilute Catholic identity, but to express it more clearly and charitably in a complex and often divided world.

Returning to the documents of Vatican II, Pope Leo explained, is both an act of fidelity and an act of renewal. It is a return to the Church's recent heritage and a recommitment to her evangelical mission. The Council sought to help Catholics love the Lord more deeply, serve His Church more faithfully, and carry the light of Christ into the world with confidence and humility. That mission remains unchanged, even as the circumstances surrounding it continue to evolve.

The Holy Father's message challenges Catholics to resist the temptation to see Vatican II through purely ideological lenses (conservative and liberal; left and right). Instead, Pope Leo called for a reading rooted in prayer, guided by the Magisterium, and attentive to the Holy Spirit, who continues to animate the Church.

As the new year begins, Pope Leo's call sets a clear tone for the months ahead. By returning to Vatican II with fresh eyes and faithful hearts, Catholics are invited to rediscover their identity as joyful evangelisers and courageous witnesses of justice and peace.

From next week and all through Lent we will learn more about the documents and wishes of the Second Vatican Council through this cover page of the bulletin and other materials.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 18th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

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

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

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



Monday 19th January (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 Monday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 20th January (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 Second Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 21st January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

10.00am Requiem Mass for Lara Markson (St Mary's)

6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

6.30pm Confessions until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Agnes (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 22nd January (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 Second Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 23rd January (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 First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Saturday 24th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

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

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

21st January - Memoria of St Agnes - St Agnes was born in 291 to a noble Roman family. She was about thirteen years old when she suffered martyrdom by being stabbed in the throat, after refusing to be married to a pagan in 304. She was buried on the Via Nomentana in Rome. She is often depicted with a lamb, a symbol of her purity and also a play on her name (which in Greek means 'chaste') and the Latin word 'agnus' (meaning 'lamb'). She is honoured as the patron saint of young girls, chastity, virgins, engaged couples, gardeners, and survivors of rape.

24th January - Memoria of St Francis de Sales - St Francis de Sales was born in Thorens, Savoy (France) in 1567 and trained as a lawyer before being ordained a priest. He became bishop of Geneva in 1602 which had become a strong centre of the Protestant Reformation and did much to combat Calvinism. He won back many to the Faith by his gentle and patient nature which even won the respect of his opponents. He also founded the Order of the Visitation, with St Jane Frances de Chantal, and produced popular spiritual works such as Introduction to the Devout Life. His flock called him 'the Gentle Christ of Geneva'. He died in 1622 and was proclaimed patron saint of journalists and writers in 1923.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The young people who have been enrolled for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation have all received a Mass Passport for the weeks leading up to the celebration of the Sacraments. This is to encourage our young people and their families to open their hearts and minds to come along to Mass, grow in their faith and become a full part of our parish community. We pray for the young people and their parents/carers over this time of preparation and also for the school staff who will prepare them and help them in this path.

ORDINARY TIME

For parishioners who use missals at Mass, the prayers and readings are for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. We stay in Ordinary Time until the First Sunday of Lent, 22nd February.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £960.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £355.00
Stall: £30.00
£1,345.00

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**



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

The Feast of St John is celebrated on 27th December, when the schools are on holiday. Therefore, each year we celebrate the Feast of St John for the staff and pupils of St John's Primary in January with a special Mass. This year the Mass will take place on Tuesday 27th January with Mass at 9.30am followed by a Coffee Morning in the school. Everyone welcome.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is a great venue for parish functions, private hires and parties while also bring in great revenue for the parish. We need a Personal License Holder for the bar which will enable the Hall to continue functioning as a licensed premises. If we do not have someone with this license then many of the ventures, events, bookings and functions we have at present would have to cease. This would be a great shame both socially and financially for our parish and would hinder us in planning events or taking bookings at short notice. If you would be willing to learn more about what's involved or would be willing to take on this task, speak to Fr Wyllie.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
2.00PM - 9.00PM



PATRONAL FEAST DAY COFFEE MORNING

St John's Primary School

TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm
Fr John McFadden on Life in the Missions



PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm - Late



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Louise Gonnella, 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

RIP - Lara Markson (*Requiem Mass - Wednesday 21st January at 10.00am*), Brian Peacock, Briege Coyle (Glasgow), Joe Murphy (Dubai), Clare McCunnie (Viewpark)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary & Michael Vernal, Patrick Corrigan, Margaret Corrigan, John & Annie Connor, Marie Connor

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

THE 100 CLUB

For many years now the 100 Club has given parishioners the opportunity to win some cash prizes and also help support work in the parish. Just last year, the 100 Club paid for the painting of the interior of St Mary's. For just £5.00 a month, which should be paid directly through bank transfer to the account, it gives parishioners the chance of winning a monthly prize. There is a list at the back of the church for you to select your number and place your name and phone number beside it. Once you have done so please set up a standing order for the: **Larkhall 100 Club**, Sort Code - **80-22-60**, Account Number - **17418369**. Although the account is named Larkhall 100 Club, the fund which generates £4,000.00 a year for the parish will be used for projects in both Larkhall and Blackwood. Each month you'd be in with a chance of winning £100.00. **There is a list at the back of the church for you to place your name beside the number(s) which you would like.**

PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

On Friday 13th February we will hold our annual Church Workers Social as a way of thanking those who give of their time and talents in the various aspects of parish life. Those who are invited to the evening are: adult servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians and cantors, florists, cleaners, grounds workers, stall workers, collection counters, bar volunteers, catechists, those who clean the sacred vessels, brasso, clean the altar linen, bar volunteers, the members of the Parish Pastoral Team, the Finance Team, the Wellspring Team, the Parish Hall Team, the SSVP, the Lunch Club helpers, housekeepers and those who open and lock the churches. The evening will include the bar, DJ and a chip van which will serve the food. **The menus are available at the back of the church, please fill one out if you intend on coming along and hand it back before 1st February.** This is a great occasion for us to come together as one parish community to enjoy some socialising and food, and also to recognise the many roles and responsibilities carried out by parishioners. All those who are involved in the above are very warmly invited.

BURNS DAY LUNCH

St Mary's Conference of the St Vincent de Paul are having a Burns Day Lunch for senior parishioners (aged over 60 years) next Sunday at 1.00pm in Raploch Bowling Club, Larkhall. Many thanks to all those who have signed up on the notice board before Monday 12th January. A great afternoon will be had by all who come along.

OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall has closed, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page two of this bulletin.

PRIMARY 5 RETREAT

The boys and girls of Primary 5 from both schools will be on retreat this Thursday in the Parish Hall from 9.30am Mass until 2.00pm, spending time in prayer before and learning about the Eucharist.