# 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

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
**15TH NOVEMBER 2026**

# OUR PARISH, OUR FAITH, OUR ONE MISSION




One of the great blessings of parish life is the wonderful variety of people, gifts and talents that make up our community. Each of us has something to offer, and each of us has a part to play in the life and mission of the Church. A parish is not simply a place where we come to Mass on a Sunday, but a living community of faith, united in our love of Christ and our desire to make him known to others.

Over the generations, countless parishioners have given generously of their time, energy, resources and talents to build up the parish community we are privileged to inherit today. Our churches, our traditions, our organisations and our strong sense of community did not happen by accident. They are the fruits of the faith, sacrifices and dedication of those who have gone before us. We owe them a great debt of gratitude, but we also have a responsibility to build upon what they have handed down to us, ensuring that our parish continues to flourish for generations yet to come.

Our great hope is that Our Lady of Fatima Parish will continue to grow as a vibrant, welcoming, dynamic and successful Catholic community, where everyone feels that they belong, and everyone recognises that they have something worthwhile to contribute.

There are so many ways to become involved in parish life. Some may feel called to assist in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy as readers, altar servers, musicians or helping with the singing. Others may wish to help with the care and upkeep of our churches, the cleaning and preparation of our buildings, the arrangement of flowers, the maintenance of our grounds, or the many practical responsibilities that allow parish life to run smoothly.

There are also wonderful opportunities to become involved in the spiritual, charitable and social life of the parish: helping with Children's Liturgy, the formation of young people, visiting the sick, housebound and bereaved, supporting parish events, assisting in the Parish Hall, welcoming newcomers, fundraising, or simply offering a helping hand whenever one is needed. No contribution is too small, and no act of service is insignificant when it is offered for the greater glory of God.

Of course, the responsibility for the life and mission of our parish cannot rest upon the shoulders of a small number of faithful volunteers. Nor should it be seen as the responsibility of the priest alone. We are all members of the Body of Christ, and through our Baptism we share in the mission of the Church. St Paul reminds us that although there are many different gifts and forms of service, it is the same Lord whom we serve *(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)*.

I am deeply grateful to those who already give so much of themselves to our parish, often quietly and without recognition. Their generosity is an inspiring example of Christian service. However, I would also warmly encourage those who have perhaps never been involved before, or who have stepped back over the years, to consider whether now might be the time to offer something of themselves.

We should never underestimate what can be achieved when a parish pulls together with a common purpose. Working together strengthens friendships, creates a deeper sense of belonging and allows us to reach out to those who might feel distant from the Church. Everything we do, whether at the altar, in our churches, in the Parish Hall or out in the wider community, must ultimately have one purpose: the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls. Please give generously of yourself!

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



**Sunday 15th November** *(St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)*
**10.00am** **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)
**12noon** **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)
**5.00pm** **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)

**Monday 16th November** *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am – 4.00pm)*
11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St Margaret of Scotland (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena to St Peregrine (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 17th November** *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Elizabeth of Hungary (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 18th November** *(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am – 8.00pm)*
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 Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul (St Mary's)
10.30am Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots (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 an increase in vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

**Thursday 19th 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-Third Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

**Friday 20th 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-Third Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



**Saturday 21st 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 Solemnity of Christ the King** (St Mary's)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**16th November – Feast of St Margaret of Scotland** – St Margaret was born in 1045 in Hungary to an exiled family who, when they returned to England, had to flee to Scotland. Young and pious, she married King Malcolm III at Dunfermline; they had eight children. Noted for her generosity to the poor and recognised for her exemplary way of life as wife and mother, she also worked to bring the old Celtic Church into the mainstream of the Church in the rest of Europe. She was a much-loved queen and noted for her saintly qualities. She died in 1093 and is the secondary patron of Scotland.

**17th November – Memoria of St Elizabeth of Hungary** – St Elizabeth was born in 1007, the daughter of Andreas II of Hungary, was betrothed aged four, married Louis IV of Thuringia when aged fourteen, bore three children, windowed when twenty (her husband dying while on crusade). Accused of wasting the state's wealth by her charity to the poor, she was deprived of the regency and exiled. She lived in a convent for a time, then retired to a cottage. Throughout her life, she was noted for her constant prayer and generous almsgiving. She died in 1031 and is the patron of bakers, beggars, brides, charities, and parents who have experienced the death of children.

**18th November – Memoria of the Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul** – The Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul are two of the four major basilicas of Rome. The original church of St Peter was built in 323 by the Emperor Constantine over the apostle's tomb; the present basilica was dedicated by Pope Urban VIII in 1626. The first church of St Paul was built over his grave in 324, enlarged in 395, burnt down in 1823 and replaced by the present building, dedicated in 1854.

**21st November – Memoria of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – The Presentation of Mary in the Temple as a young girl is based not on the New Testament but on an account in the apocryphal Gospel of James. In being presented in this way, the Blessed Virgin dedicated herself to the service of God and kept herself open to God's will. The feast prepares us for Advent and Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of her Divine Son into the world.

## WORKS HAPPENING THIS WEEK

We will begin clearing the gutters and downpipes at both churches, both Parish Houses and the Parish Hall. A slate dislodged from the roof of St Mary's during the storm a few weeks ago, and a hole above one of the extractor fans at the Parish House, will also be repaired this coming week. The Parish Hall kitchen and porch need repainting, and sections of the main hall walls require touching up. A quotation for this work will be obtained this week. This Parish House boiler was repaired last week.

## DEFENDING THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children has 'five asks' of the Scottish Government concerning the dignity of every human being, from conception to natural death. Please pick up a postcard from the table at the back of the church today, sign it and leave it there for delivery to our MSP's office in Hamilton this coming week.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

**Altar Serving** – Any young person who has made their First Holy Communion is invited to become an Altar Server in our parish. We have a great team of servers in both churches. Please speak to Fr Wyllie.

**Caritas Award** – We have ten sixth year pupils currently on the Caritas Award in our parish. Please let Fr Wyllie know which areas of parish life you would most like to get involved with.

**Pass Keeping** – A number of our young people help at the back of the church. More helpers needed.

**Youth Choir** – Always looking for new members singing at Our Lady & St John's. Speak to Jana.

## PARISH FINANCES

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|---|---|
| Offertory Collection & Donations: | £1,245.00 |
| Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: | £395.00 |
| Digital Giving: | £163.00 |
| Stall: | £50.00 |
| | **£1,853.00** |

**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 hires 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 or information about the hall, speak with a member of the Hall Team or contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**

## SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRES

Both our primary schools will be holding Christmas fayres to raise funds for our young people. St John's Christmas Fayre will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 22nd November, after the 12noon Mass. St Mary's Christmas Fayre will take place in the School Hall on Sunday 6th December, beginning at 11.00am. All parishioners are warmly invited to come along and support our schools. Please keep these dates free in your diary.

## ST ANDREW'S NIGHT TICKETS

Tickets for St Andrew's Night in the Parish Hall are selling fast. If you plan to join us for an evening with The Broclaimers, the UK's premier Proclaimers tribute act, please call into the Hall on Fridays between 2.00pm and 9.00pm to collect and pay for your tickets. Fr Wyllie appreciates that these collection times may not be convenient for everyone, but collecting tickets in advance helps the Hall Team confirm how many people will be attending. We look forward to welcoming you!

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE**

## 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 for your continued generosity to the parish.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** –Murray Brown, Margaret McCaughey, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Stephen Fleming

**RIP** – Rebecca Mooney (Becky O'Donnell) – *Requiem 23rd Nov 12noon*, Danny Smith, Pat Whalin

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** – Thomas Steele, John Holton, Louise Gonnella, Private John McCorry (WW1), Captain Charles McCorry (WW2), Nancy O'Neill, David O'Neill, Gerard Wyllie

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

## DIOCESAN EDUCATION MASS

The annual Diocesan Education Mass will take place in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral *(Coursington Road, Motherwell, ML1 1PP)* on Thursday 19th November at 7.00pm. Bishop Toal extends an invitation to all teachers, school staff, parents, carers, pupils and anyone who contributes to the life of Catholic education in our diocese to this special Mass.

## A BIG THANK YOU

Sincere thanks to the two gentlemen who generously gave their time and energy to clear leaves and weeds from the lawns and car park at St Mary's, and to clear the many fallen leaves from the lawn, car park and areas around the church and Parish House at Our Lady & St John's. We are also grateful to those who began clearing the leaves last Sunday. Thanks to their efforts, the grounds are much tidier and safer for parishioners coming to and leaving Mass. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Our parish stalls offer a wide selection of Christmas cards, gifts, cribs and other seasonal items to help us keep Christ at the heart of Christmas. A selection is on display on the tables at the back of both churches. Why not take a look after Mass today?

## ENROLLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Parents wishing to enrol their children for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion or Confirmation are asked to collect an enrolment form from the sacristy after Mass today, ahead of the Enrolment Masses next weekend. Please return all completed forms to the Parish House.




## PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

## EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

**2.00pm - 9.00pm**







## PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

## SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclaimers. Tickets going fast

**Tickets can be obtained from the Hall on Fridays from 2.00pm – 9.00pm**






## PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

## THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER

Beginning with Mass at 12.30pm






## PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

## THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.00pm – 2.00am

**Tickets priced at £10.00, includes snacks & glass of prosecco & raffle ticket**

