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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8TH NOVEMBER 2026

SAINT LEO THE GREAT



What makes a person truly great? The world often measures greatness by wealth, influence or popularity. In the saints, we discover a greatness rooted in faithfulness to Christ and the courage to serve others. Pope St Leo the Great offers us a powerful example.

Leo served as Pope from 440 until 461, during a period of upheaval as the Roman Empire weakened and invading armies threatened its people. Amid this uncertainty, he worked to strengthen the Church's unity, defend her teaching and care for those in need.

One of his greatest contributions was his defence of the truth about Jesus Christ. When disputes threatened to divide the Church, Leo taught clearly that Jesus is truly God and truly man: one divine Person with two natures, divine and human. His famous letter, the Tome of Leo, helped shape the teaching of the Council of Chalcedon in 451. When it was read, the bishops acclaimed: "Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo". A reference to St Peter, the first Pope.

Leo also strengthened the ministry of the Pope as successor of St Peter, serving the unity of the whole Church. Through letters and representatives, he guided bishops and addressed disputes. A gifted preacher, he helped people connect the Church's worship with everyday Christian living, encouraging fasting to bear fruit in generosity towards the poor.

His pastoral courage extended beyond Church affairs. In 452, he joined a delegation that persuaded Attila the Hun to withdraw from Italy. Three years later, although unable to prevent the Vandals from plundering Rome, he intervened to protect its people and holy places. He also encouraged care for those suffering from hunger, poverty and displacement.

The faith Leo defended reaches into our own lives. The Jesus we worship knows human weariness, sorrow and suffering. He has entered our condition and drawn close to us. Because he is truly God, he can save us; because he is truly man, we can approach him knowing that our struggles are understood.

For our parish, Leo's example offers a gentle but searching challenge. How well do we know the faith we profess each Sunday? Do we make time to deepen our understanding of Christ, or allow our faith to remain something remembered from childhood? A living relationship with the Lord needs nourishment through prayer, the Scriptures and the Sacraments.

His concern for people in distress also invites us to examine how we serve. There are neighbours who need practical help, bereaved who need companionship. Each encounter gives us an opportunity to put our faith into practice.

We may never face an invading army, but we all face moments when love requires courage. We all have the option to work for God and his greater glory by using the talents, gifts and skills that God has blessed us with. Let's use them for God's greater glory and the building up of our parish.

May St Leo the Great help us to know Christ more deeply, to profess our Catholic faith with confidence, and to make our parish a place where others encounter him through our lives.

St Leo the Great, pray for us.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Sunday 8th November *(St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)*
10.00am **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)
1.30pm Cemetery Service (Lesmahagow)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 9th 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 the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena to St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 10th 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 Leo the Great (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 11th 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 Memoria of St Martin of Tours (St Mary's)
7.00pm Annual Requiem Mass for Deceased Parishioners (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 12th 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 the Memoria of St Josaphat (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 13th 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-Second Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Saturday 14th 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 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK



9th November – Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Following the Emperor Constantine granting freedom of worship to the Catholic Church in 313, the church was built beside the palace of the Laterani family and consecrated in 324. This church is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome and, until 1309, the popes lived nearby. Its original dedication is to the Most Holy Saviour; in the Middle Ages, the names of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist were added. The basilica bears the description: '*Omnium Urbis et Orbis terrarium Mater et Caput'* (Of All the Churches in the City and the World, the Mother and Head).

11th November – Memoria of St Martin of Tours – St Martin was born in 316 in Pannonia (Germany) and was a soldier in the army of the Roman Empire. Later, he was a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers and founded a monastery near there, before being dragged forcibly to become bishop of Tours. He was famed for his holiness. It is said that St Ninian of Galloway, made bishop in Rome and returning to Scotland, visited St Martin of Tours. It is a coincidence that this day, the day that ended World War I, is the feast of a saint born in Germany who became a bishop in France. He died in 397 and is the patron saint of soldiers, the poor, tailors, winemakers, horses, and conscientious objectors.

12th November – Memoria of St Josaphat – St Josaphat was born in 1580 and lived in eastern Europe (present day Ukraine) where there was great rivalry and often violence between those who were faithful to Rome and those who were Orthodox. Josaphat was bishop of Polotsk and his life was frequently marked with dissension, rivalry and fighting. Eventually, he himself, faithful to the pope, was brutally murdered in 1623 and is honoured as a martyr. He is the patron saint of Ukraine.

ENROLLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE SACRAMENTS

For parents/carers wishing to enrol their child(ren) for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion or Confirmation, please pick up an enrolment form from the sacristy after Mass over the next two weeks before the Enrolment Masses on Sunday 22nd November.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2027

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 12th – 19th July 2027. Flights direct from Prestwick to Lourdes and return, accommodation at the Hotels Mediteranee and Alba priced at £995.00 per person full board based on twin/treble rooms, single supplement £280.00. Full programme throughout the week. £350.00 deposit required at time of booking. If you intend on travelling, please place your name on the list at the back of the church this weekend or next weekend.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

The Annual Requiem Mass to pray for the deceased priests who have served our parish, those parishioners who have died over the years particularly over the past twelve months, will take place this Wednesday at 7.00pm in Our Lady & St John's. All parishioners are invited to come along and offer our prayers for those who have gone before us in faith.

SIGN-UP SUNDAY

A number of parishes over the past few months have held what is known as 'Sign-Up Sunday'. It gives parishioners the opportunity to volunteer for various roles and responsibilities in our parish. Contained in this bulletin is a little booklet with a brief description of the various roles and responsibilities which we would welcome new recruits to be a part of. There is so much work that is done behind the scenes which ensures the smooth running of our parish, please be generous with your time and talents in the service of God and our parish community. The lists will be available at the back of both churches next weekend.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,605.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£2,519.00
Digital Giving:	£205.00
Votive Candles:	£410.00
Stall:	£35.00
	£4,447.00

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**

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

As previously communicated a number of weeks ago, both our schools will hold Christmas Fayres to help raise funds for our young people. St John's Christmas Fayre will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 22nd November from after the 12noon Mass. St Mary's Christmas Fayre will take place in the School Hall on Sunday 6th December starting at 11.00am. All parishioners are very warmly invited to these Fayres. Please keep the dates free in your diary.

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT TICKETS

The tickets for the St Andrew's Night in the Parish Hall are selling fast. If you intend on coming along to enjoy the 'Broclaimers', the UK's premier Proclaimers tribute act, please pop into the Hall on a Friday between 2.00pm and 9.00pm to collect and pay for your tickets. Fr Wyllie understands that this isn't very practical for some parishioners to get to the Hall on a Friday afternoon/evening to collect tickets, but it ensures that the Hall Team know how many are coming along. All welcome.

OFFICIAL CENSUS TAKEN ON 25TH OCTOBER RECORDED WE HAD 349 PEOPLE AT MASS THAT WEEKEND

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 – Bishop John Keenan, Murray Brown, Kevin Brown, Margaret McCaughey, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming

RIP – Rebecca Mooney (Becky O'Donnel), John Martin (Blantyre)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES – Hugh Blair Jnr, John McKeaveney, Charles Donnelly, Neil Smith

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.

TIDYING UP OUR PARISH GROUNDS

As the leaves come off the trees around our parish grounds, they are creating a mess around both churches and when wet they are rather dangerous underfoot. It would be great to have a team of able-bodied volunteers to help with the clearing of these leaves to make the carpark and walkways safe for parishioners coming to Mass. Many hands make light work. If you would be able and willing to help with this task, please speak with Fr Wyllie over the coming days.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Many thanks to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have submitted an up-to-date list of those they take Holy Communion to and when. If you haven't let Fr know the names and addresses of those you visit with Holy Communion and when you visit, please do so by next weekend. You can either write this on a slip of paper and hand it into Fr Wyllie at the sacristy or through the letter box of the Parish House, or you can email him at ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

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 five 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. All welcome.



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 HOGMANAY PARTY

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.00pm – 2.00am

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

