

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

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
12TH OCTOBER 2025**

THE SACRAMENTS - CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is the sacrament that completes Baptism; in it the gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us. Anyone who freely decides to live a life as God's child and asks for God's Holy Spirit under the signs of the imposition of hands and anointing with chrism receives the strength to witness to God's love and might in word and deed. They are now a fully fledged, responsible member of the Catholic Church.

In the Old Testament, the People of God expected the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Messiah. Jesus lived his life in a special Spirit of love and of perfect unity with his Father in heaven. This Spirit of Jesus was the "Holy Spirit" for whom the people of Israel longed; this was the same Spirit whom Jesus promised to his disciples, the same Spirit who descended upon the disciples fifty days after Easter, on the feast of Pentecost. And it is again this same Holy Spirit of Jesus who descends upon everyone who receives the sacrament of Confirmation.

In the Acts of the Apostles, which were written a few decades after the death of Jesus, we see Peter and John travelling about to confirm new Christians by imposing hands on those who previously "had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus", so that their hearts might be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Confirmation the soul of a baptised Christian is imprinted with a permanent seal that can be received only once and marks this individual forever as a Christian. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the strength from above in which this individual puts the grace of their Baptism into practice through their life and acts as a "witness" for Christ.

Any Catholic who has received the sacrament of Baptism and is in a "state of grace" can be admitted to Confirmation. To be in a state of grace means not to have committed any serious sin (mortal sin). By a serious sin a person separates themselves from God and can be reconciled with God only by making a good confession.

The sacrament of Confirmation is normally administered by the bishop. For some reasons when necessary, the bishop can also delegate a priest to do it. In danger of death, any priest can administer Confirmation. The oil of Chrism is used at Confirmation.

The oil of Chrism is an ointment made out of a mixture of olive oil and balsam. On the morning of Holy Thursday, the bishop consecrates it at the Chrism Mass, so that it can be used in Baptism, Confirmation, priestly and episcopal (bishops) ordination, and also the consecration of altars, churches and bells. Oil is a symbol of joy, strength, and health. People anointed with chrism are to spread "the aroma of Christ", they have been anointed and set apart by God.

As the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Pentecost, so the Holy Spirit comes to every baptised person for whom the Church requests the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety & Fear of the Lord.



THIS WEEK & NEXT WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 12th October	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
3.00pm	October Devotions concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 13th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Tuesday 14th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 15th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Teresa of Jesus (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Teresa of Jesus (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 16th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
NO MASS IN THE PARISH TODAY	
Friday 17th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Ignatius of Antioch (St Mary's)
Saturday 18th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Sunday 19th October	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 20th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Tuesday 21st October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 22nd October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
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 John Paul II (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 Memoria of St John Paul II (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 23rd October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
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 Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 24th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Saturday 25th October	<i>(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken up next weekend at all Masses for the Missions.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£965.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£475.00
Stall:	£120.00
Total:	£1,560.00

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**



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK & NEXT WEEK

15th October - Memoria of St Teresa of Jesus - St Teresa of Avila was born in 1515, also known as Teresa of Jesus (her religious name), she became a Carmelite nun in Avila. Chosen as mother general of all Carmelite communities internationally, she reformed their rule, established many new convents, was a mystic and contemplative who was also highly active and practical, travelling often to visit convents throughout Spain besides writing much on spirituality and prayer. She died in Alba de Tormes, near Salamanca in 1582. She is the patron saint of headaches and migraines. She was canonised in 1622, and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970.

17th October - Memoria of St Ignatius of Antioch - St Ignatius was born around 35AD and is thought to have been a disciple of St John, and was the second Bishop of Antioch. On his way to Rome (and martyrdom), he wrote some letters which are still in existence; they extol the importance of the office of a bishop, especially the bishop of Rome (the pope), the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and warn against Judaism and Docetism (which held that the human form of Jesus was merely a semblance, with no true reality). He died around 107.

18th October - Feast of St Luke - St Luke was the writer of a Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He was a companion of St Paul (on his second missionary journey) and is called by him "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). There is a further mention of him with Paul in Rome (2 Timothy 4:11). He is thought to have been a native of Antioch in Syria. Details of his death are unknown although tradition holds that he was crucified on an olive tree at the age of 84.

22nd October - Memoria of St John Paul II - St John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland in 1920. He was ordained a priest in 1946 and taught in the universities of Krakow and Lublin. He became a bishop in 1958 and had to fight for the right of his people against the communists. He was elected pope in 1978, the first non-Italian pontiff in over 450 years. He travelled the world in 104 foreign trips to every corner of the globe and produced a series of important teaching documents on lots of issues. Despite a near fatal assassination attempt and years of declining health, he remained focussed of his ministry as Successor of St Peter, until his death on 2nd April 2005. He was a pope, philosopher, poet, actor, playwright and sportsman.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Suzanne Sherry will stand down as Hall & Events Co-Ordinator at the end of this year. We need someone or some people to replace Suzanne, who will take on the following jobs: Keep a diary of events for the Parish Hall & float for the till; Respond to calls/emails seeking hire of the Hall; In conjunction with the Parish Priest/Premises License holder, accept or decline private hires and functions; Rota bar volunteers for functions with a bar; Replace/order items/furnishings needed for the Hall, bar and kitchen; Ensure that training is given and refresher courses for all bar staff; Lay out and decorate the Hall for functions; For events and functions which require tablecloths and chair covers, allocate volunteers to help with the tablecloths and chair covers.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

It has been quite some time since the Extraordinary Ministers had a retreat and/or a refresher training day. Fr Wyllie proposes that this will happen after the 7.00pm Mass on 22nd October. All Extraordinary Ministers are asked to attend this meeting which will last just over an hour.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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 - John Coyle & Annie O'Donnell (Donegal), Ellen McKay (Viewpark), Barrie McGarva

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Patrick Grant, Ann Grant, Jim & Helen Grant, Jack Hastie, Thomas McDonagh, Annette Thomson, Mary & Tony Goodwin, Nancy O'Neill, David O'Neill, Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss, Joseph Wedlock, Chrissie Lynch, Margaret McStravock, Chris Crumley

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday 29th October we will begin the novena in preparation for Christmas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This novena will be prayed after the 10.00am Mass in St Mary's each Wednesday up to Christmas Eve. This is a very special way to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Lord's birth at Christmas. Please try to come along on those Wednesdays and join together in asking Our Lady to pray for us and for the intentions we carry in our hearts.

PARISH FINANCE TEAM MEETING

The Parish Finance Team will meet on Tuesday 21st October at 6.00pm in St Mary's Parish House. Topics for discussion will be the parish finances for January - September, the Pastoral Investment Fund which we have with the diocese, remedial works to the current flooding at St Mary's and other repairs and electrical works around the buildings at St Mary's and around the house at Our Lady & St John's. Any other matters you wish raised, please speak with a member of the team.



THEOLOGY ON TAP
The Parish Hall
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
Bar open 6.30pm; Talk at 7.00pm



PARISH LUNCH CLUB
The Parish Hall
THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Please let Betty McGonagle know if you are attending



ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNING
St Mary's Primary School
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER
Please join us for a coffee morning after the 10.00am Mass



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS
The Parish Hall
EVERY FRIDAY
2.00pm - 9.00pm
All welcome



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY
The Parish Hall
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER
7.00pm - Late
Music, Halloween Fun & Games, Prize for best costume

