

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 PENTECOST
24TH MAY 2026**

PENTECOST SUNDAY

This weekend, the Church celebrates Pentecost, one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and ten days after his ascension into heaven. Because Easter is a moveable feast without a fixed date, and Pentecost depends on the timing of Easter, Pentecost can fall anywhere between 10th May and 13th June.

The timing of these feasts is also where Catholics get the concept of the Novena – nine days of prayer – because in Acts 1, Mary and the Apostles prayed together “continuously” for nine days after the Ascension leading up to Pentecost. Traditionally, the Church prays the Novena to the Holy Spirit in the days before Pentecost.



The name of the day itself is derived from the Greek word “*pentecoste*,” meaning fiftieth.

In tradition, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room. A “strong, driving” wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so that they could understand each other. It was such a strange phenomenon that some people thought the Christians were just drunk – but Peter pointed out that it was only the morning, and said the phenomenon was caused by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit also gave the apostles the other gifts and fruits necessary to fulfil the great commission – to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. It fulfils the New Testament promise from Christ (Luke 24:46-49) that the Apostles would be “clothed with power” before they would be sent out to spread the Gospel.

The main event of Pentecost (the strong driving wind and tongues of fire) takes place in Acts 2:13, though the events immediately following (Peter’s homily, the baptism of thousands) continue through verse 41.

It was right after Pentecost that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to Jews and other non-believers, in which he opened the scriptures of the Old Testament, showing how the prophet Joel prophesied events and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He also told the people that the Jesus they crucified is the Lord and was raised from the dead, which “cut them to the heart.” When they asked what they should do, Peter exhorted them to repent of their sins and to be baptised. According to the account in Acts, about 3,000 people were baptised following Peter’s sermon. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church – Peter, the first Pope, preaches for the first time and converts thousands of new believers. The apostles and believers, for the first time, were united by a common language, and a common zeal and purpose to go and preach the Gospel.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 24th May (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 25th May (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 Mary, Mother of the Church (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 26th May (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 the Memoria of St Philip Neri (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 27th May (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 Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (St Mary's)
6.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary & May Devotions (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 28th May (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am NO ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS
9.30am NO 9.30AM MASS
12.30pm Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 29th May (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (St Mary's)

Saturday 30th May (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 the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

25th May - Memoria of Mary, Mother of the Church - The parallels between the Blessed Virgin Mary and Holy Mother Church are spiritually rich and deeply biblical. Our Blessed Lady is a virgin who conceived the physical body of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation. In a parallel way, Holy Mother Church is the Mystical Body of Christ who gives every Christian rebirth through the power of the Holy Spirit received at Pentecost. Pope Francis inscribed the Memoria of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church in the Roman Calendar in 2018 hoping to remind all Christ's disciples that, if they want to grow and be filled with the love of God, it is necessary to plant their lives firmly in three great realities: the Cross, the Eucharist, and the Mother of God.

26th May - Memoria of St Philip Neri - St Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515 but went to Rome, aged 18, where, for 17 years as a layman, he evangelised people on the streets and in their homes. He became part of a confraternity which cared for poor pilgrims and patients discharged too early from hospital. He was ordained priest, aged 35. He, and a growing number of followers, gathered each evening for prayer, music, and readings from Scripture and the Church Fathers, which was the beginning of the Oratorian Order. They started parish missions across Rome. He had a great sense of humour, was hugely influential, and is known as the 'Third Apostles of Rome' after Saints Peter and Paul. He died in 1595. He is the patron saint of joy, humour and laughter.

27th May - Memoria of St Augustine of Canterbury - St Augustine of Canterbury was sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 595 to evangelise Kent and to organise the Church already existing in large parts of England. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. The style of missionary outreach he established bore much fruit after his death. He is known as the 'Apostle to the English'. He died around 605AD.

New sets of Giffaid envelopes available at the back of the church.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£810.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£370.00
Stained Glass Collection:	£570.00
Digital Giving:	£367.00
Stall:	£30.00
	£2,147.00

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 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**

**BOOK
ONLINE**



HALL TEAM MEETING

The Hall Team will meet on Wednesday 27th May after the 7.00pm Mass in the Parish Hall. The members of this team are: Fr Wyllie, Christine & Matt Dobbin, Fiona & John Gibney, John Higgins, Margaret Laird, Pauline Martin, Bob McDermott, Stevie Reilly, Vivien Stewart & June Walker.

PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Team will take place on Tuesday 9th June at 2.30pm in the Parish House. Members of this team are: Fr Wyllie, Gerry McCaughey, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick & Margaret Weir. Any points you'd like raised, please speak with one of them.

COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION

Many thanks to the parishioners who contributed to the box at the back of the church last weekend for Communications Sunday. The total forwarded to the National Office for Communications and Evangelisation is £365.00. Many thanks for your generosity.

THE MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is traditionally the month we turn to Our Lady asking her to pray with us and for us by reciting the Holy Rosary. Please try to say at least a decade of the Rosary in these final few days of May. The times of the parish Rosary can be found on page 2 of this bulletin.

A letter for all parish readers can be picked up from the sacristy after Mass today.



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 28TH MAY

Mass at 12.30pm

Followed by lunch in the Parish Hall



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm

Card Payments preferable



PARISH LADIES DAY

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

12noon - 6.00pm

Includes the Abba tribute duo, prosecco Tea & Bar.

TICKETS - £20.00

Available by emailing: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Raymond Hart, Margaret Mitchell, Meg Finlayson, Cathy Caven, Sheila Coffield, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Louise Gonnella, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Councillor Lesley McDonald, Tom Filan (Roscommon), John Smith (Shieldmuir)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Hugh McCluskey, Agness May

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

DIOCESAN SYNODAL MEETING

Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is sustainable. Bishop Toal invites you to participate in the forthcoming diocesan gathering in St Bride's Centre, Coursington Road, Motherwell, ML1 1PP, on Monday 25th May at 7.00pm. All welcome.

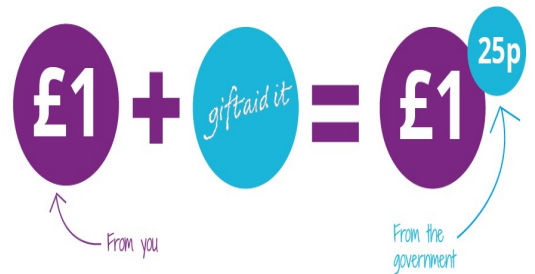
REFERENCES FOR CATHOLIC TEACHERS

At this time of year many vacancies, full-time positions and promoted posts within our Catholic schools are filled. If you are a Catholic teacher who lives and practices their faith in this parish and require a reference then Fr Wyllie is more than happy to provide you with a reference, but please do not seek a reference if you are not regularly attending Mass here in the parish.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL MOBILES & DEVICES ARE SWITCHED TO SILENT IN CHURCH

GIFTAID

Gift Aid is one of the simplest ways for Catholic churches in the UK to increase voluntary income. When an eligible donor who pays UK tax gives to a parish and completes a valid Gift Aid declaration, the church can **reclaim an extra 25p from HMRC for every £1.00 donated**. This means donations go further **at no additional cost to the giver**, helping to support worship, ministry, outreach and the upkeep of parish buildings.



To claim Gift Aid, the parish or relevant Catholic charity must be recognised by HMRC for tax purposes, and the donor must be an individual who has paid enough UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in that tax year to cover the amount reclaimed. In most cases, the donor also needs to provide a Gift Aid declaration (available on the table at the back of the church), as long as the required details are recorded. Accurate record-keeping is essential, because HMRC may ask to see declarations and donation records.

Gift Aid can also help with certain small cash or contactless donations through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, even where no declaration has been completed, provided the relevant rules are met. This can be especially useful for plate collections, visitor donations and similar small gifts. Used well, Gift Aid is a practical stewardship tool that allows Catholic churches to make the most of the generosity of their congregations and supporters.

Last year we received an amazing £14,244.01 from the Giftaid scheme, and we thank all those parishioners who have signed up for this, but there are parishioners who pay UK Tax on their wages, pensions or savings who could be signed up and are not. It's so easy and costs nothing.

All you have to do is sign a Giftaid Declaration form, with your name, address and National Insurance number, and if you wish to donate to the parish through standing order then fill out the second part of the sheet with the address of your bank, your bank details and the amount you wish to contribute each month and hand the form back to the parish.