

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
8TH MAY 2022

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - PRAYING FOR OUR PRIESTS

It is no secret that we do not have the number of priests we had in the past. As recently as 2003, the Diocese of Motherwell had eighty six active priests working in our parishes; today that number has dwindled to fifty one, with ten of them being over the age of 65. The Lord tells us that 'the harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest', and that is what we do this weekend, we implore the Lord to send us labourers to work in his vineyard so that his Sacraments may continue in the Church.

It's not all doom and gloom though! Over the past eleven years we have celebrated thirteen ordinations to the priesthood and we currently have the following seminarians studying at major seminaries at the moment:

Christopher Morris is a parishioner of St Bride's, Cambuslang and is in his final few months of studying in St Mary's College Oscott, Birmingham. He is due to be ordained as a priest in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral on 30th June.

Colum Martin is a parishioner of St Bernadette's, Motherwell. He is due to be ordained a deacon at the College Chapel of St Mary's College Oscott on 25th June. We keep him in our prayers.

Christopher Furmage is a parishioner of St Augustine's, Coatbridge and is now in his fourth year of formation for the priesthood in the Pontifical Scots College, Rome. He is due to be ordained a deacon in 2024 and then ordained a priest the year after.

Ronan McQuade is a parishioner of St Joseph's, Blantyre. He is in his third year at the Scots College and should be ordained a priest in 2026.

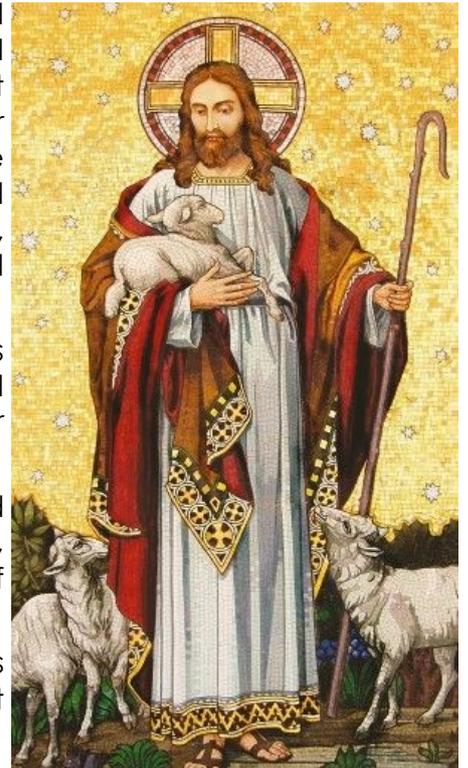
Kieran Burt is also a parishioner of St Joseph's, Blantyre and in his third year of formation for priesthood at the Scots College. He is due to be ordained a priest in 2026.

Christopher Igwe is Nigerian but has chosen to study for the priesthood in the Diocese of Motherwell. He is currently based in St Francis Xavier's, Carfin when he's home from seminary. He is in his first year at St Mary's College Oscott and should be ordained a priest in 2025.

There are two young men preparing for major seminary at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, Spain, with a view to beginning their studies in the summer of this year. **Matthew O'Neill** is from St Mary's Whifflet, Coatbridge and **Aidan Kelly** is from St Ninian's Hillhouse, Hamilton.

THINKING OF BECOMING A PRIEST?

If any young man would like to learn more about the Diocesan Priesthood he is asked to speak to Fr Wyllie or to contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Charlie O'Farrell, at Our Lady & St Anne's, Hamilton. Please pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, especially that young men from our own parish will answer the Lord's call to serve him and their brothers & sisters.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 8th May

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
2.30pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	May Devotions concluding with Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 9th May

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Tuesday 10th May

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 11th May

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 Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for an increase in vocations to the priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 12th May

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 Fourth Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 13th May

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Fatima (St Mary's)

Saturday 14th May

	NO MORNING MASS
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Today the whole Church throughout the world earnestly comes together to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. At all Masses we will offer our own prayers for an increase in vocations and ask the Lord to place into the hearts of many young men the desire to serve him as priests in our world today.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

A second collection will be taken up at all our Masses this weekend for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund. This fund assists with the care of those priests who have served the people of the diocese during their priestly ministry. Please be as generous as you always are.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

Our Parish Stall has a variety of First Holy Communion cards and First Holy Communion Gift bags for sale. The cards are priced at £1.00. Why not have a look after Mass today?

MAY DEVOTIONS

The Church traditionally dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is part of our Catholic tradition and heritage to celebrate May Devotions on the Sundays of May. These devotions include the Holy Rosary, Litany to Our Lady and concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

CONGRATULATIONS

This weekend Michael & Pat Simpson celebrate their 65th Wedding anniversary. We wish them our prayerful congratulations as they celebrate this important milestone. Ad multos annos!

GIFTAID APPEAL

If you pay UK Tax Fr Wyllie encourages you to sign up for this scheme which generates much needed funds for the parish. For every £1.00 you donate to the parish the Government gives us 25p. For example, if you donate £5.00 a week to the parish over the course of the year we receive £65.00 from the UK Government. If we have 100 people signed up to Giftaid we would receive around £6,500.00. Our Giftaid claim has been sent for the last financial year and we are hoping to receive this over the next few weeks.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£885.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£1,367.00
Votive Candles:	£80.00
TOTAL:	£2,332.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm Mass	112
10.00am Mass	103
12noon Mass	50*
5.00pm Mass	30*
Total	295

**The 12noon & 5.00pm Mass were impacted by football.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Congratulations to the seven boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on Saturday afternoon. They were a credit to their parents, families, school and our parish. We pray that they will always love and appreciate the great gift of Holy Communion throughout their lives and grow in their love for the presence of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Many thanks to Mrs Colgan, Miss McIvor and the staff of St Mary's Primary for preparing the children so well for the celebration of this Sacrament.

Saturday 21st May - First Holy Communions at 12noon for the pupils of St John's Primary in Our Lady & St John's Church.

SPONSOR A TILE

The carpet in the body of the church in Our Lady & St John's is in need of replacing. It has been mentioned before about possibly tiling the church floor rather than laying another carpet. To help offset the cost of tiling the floor and the work which would be involved, we are hoping that parishioners will sponsor a tile. The cost of each floor tile would be £25.00 and a family or individual could sponsor one or more of the tiles. The tiles would be placed in the central aisle as well as the back and front of the church. The carpet under the pews would be replaced with a vinyl. There will be a sheet at the back of the church from the beginning of June to gauge support for this venture.

LIGHT BITE AFTER 12NOON MASS

Fr Wyllie is hoping to have the first Light Bite after the Sunday 12noon Mass in Our Lady & St John's on Sunday 5th June, the Solemnity of Pentecost. If you are willing to help to plan and organise this event then please speak with him to get the ball rolling for making arrangements and plans for how the afternoon will go. Many thanks to the six adults who have volunteered to help with the cooking and organising of this event. We hope you can all make it after Mass to have some time to chat.

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet this Monday at 7.00pm in St Mary's Chapel House to discuss the responses to the Synod Questionnaire and to begin to make plans to implement the suggestions and ideas which were expressed. The members of the group would be pleased to hear your opinions and suggestions so please speak to them before the meeting. The members of this group are: Fr Wyllie, Russell McAllister, Suzanne McCaughey, Scott Smith, Laura Steele (Kennedy), Ciaran Reilly & Suzanne Sherry.

RCIA

The RCIA programme will begin again after the summer holidays, so if you know of anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church then please ask them to speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible. An information evening will take place soon, when we know if there is anyone interested in going forward to being received into the Catholic Church next Easter.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Tuesday 17th May at 3.00pm. If you have anything you would like raised at the meeting then please speak to Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Gerry McCaughey, Patricia Weir or Irene McGoldrick before then so it can be discussed at the meeting.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - John Leonard (*Requiem Mass on Monday 16th May at 12noon*), Canon William Dunnachie

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jim Dow, Ian Quinn, Robert Maguire, Isabella Freeland, John Gowans, Michael Weir, Jim Craighens Jnr, John Beckett, Betty & Eddie McCabe, Joseph & Garry Burgess

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This time last year, Fr Wyllie proposed establishing several groups in the parish, and would like to begin to take this forward before the summer holidays. Below is a list of various groups which he would like to be established in the parish. If you would be interested in helping to form one of these groups or being a part of one or more of these groups then please speak with him soon.

Gardening/Grounds Team - We are very blessed at both churches to have gardens and considerable grounds, but with that also comes the responsibility to maintain them and keep them tidy and presentable. If you can sweep, weed, mow the lawn or generally keep the grounds tidy then please consider joining these groups which look after our parish grounds.

Men's Group - Fr Wyllie is keen to set up a Men's Group in the parish for men of all ages to come together for some socialising, prayer and to take part in various other activities.

Young Adults Group - Before the first lockdown we were all set to have our first meeting of the Young Adults Group, but sadly that never happened. This group will be a mixture of socialising, praying and getting to know more about the Catholic Faith. This group will be for those aged 17-35 (or a wee bit older).

Pro-Life Group - The greatest scandal of our society today is the discarding and murder of the innocent baby in the womb. It would be good to have a group in our parish to meet frequently to pray for this issue and to organise events to raise funds for the promotion of life.

Caritas - Sadly, the interaction we have had with our secondary school parishioners has been very limited but if there are any young people in our parish who are looking to sign up to the S6 Caritas Award for next year, please contact Fr Wyllie.

Women's Group - To bring women of all ages together from our parish for prayer, socialising, outings and other activities.

Church Cleaners - We currently have a great group of volunteers who clean our churches on a regular basis. If you have some spare time then please contact Mary McDermott (Our Lady & St John's) or Kitty Steele (St Mary's) if you could lend a hand to clean our churches.

Bar Staff for Parish Hall - We currently have a pool of volunteers who serve and run the bar in the Parish Hall for various functions. If you'd be willing to help please speak to Fr Wyllie or Angela.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTO

A pilgrimage for our parish will take place to Carfin Lourdes Grotto on **Thursday 2nd June**. All parishioners are invited to come along and to share in this day of pilgrimage to the very special and beautiful Grotto at Carfin dedicated to Our Lady & Lourdes & St Therese of Lisieux. **A list is available at the back of the church for you to place your name down for the bus and for the lunch.** The itinerary for the day is as follows:

10.00am Bus leaves Blackwood
10.20am Bus leaves Larkhall
10.45am Bus arrives at Carfin
10.50am Tea & Coffee with biscuits or cakes at the Xavier Centre?
11.20am Rosary Procession from the Lourdes Shrine
12noon Visit to the Reliquary
12.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel
1.45pm Lunch at the Xavier Centre
3.45pm Leave for Larkhall & Blackwood

