

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

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Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood
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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11TH JANUARY 2026

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate today, is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that?



Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. And He gave power to every forthcoming act of repentance others would make, even until today. When we repent today, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance.

It was not only the Eternal Son Who was present at that baptism of repentance, but the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father's voice spoke to acknowledge His oneness with His Son. Therefore, every time we make a humble act of repentance, such as when we combine the crucifixion, the Trinity, and holy water upon entering a church and blessing ourselves, we not only meet our Lord but also receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and share more fully in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father in Heaven.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.

This weekend you will find little bottles of Holy Water to take home with you, please feel free to take one home with you and keep at home and to use it to bless yourself or put near your front door so that you can bless yourself when entering and leaving your house, reminding yourself of the crucifixion, the Holy Trinity and your own Baptism.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 11th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am **Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (St Mary's)

12noon **Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (OL SJ)

No 5.00pm Mass



Monday 12th January (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 Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 13th January (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 Feast of St Kentigern (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 14th January (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 Holy Mass for Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

6.30pm Confessions until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 15th January (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)

9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 16th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

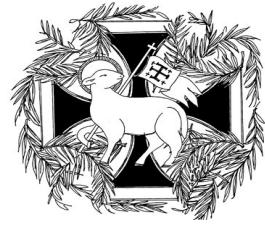
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Saturday 17th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

12th January - Beginning of Ordinary Time - The season of Ordinary Time is devoted to the unfolding of the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. This season focuses on the three-year period of our Lord's public ministry, and the Gospel passages, particularly on Sundays, recount his teachings, miracles, exorcisms, and other deeds during this time. All of these teachings and events engender great hope in the mystery of salvation. We focus on the life he shared with mankind during his time on this earth, the life we share now with him in the community of the Church and through his sacraments, and we look forward to sharing everlasting life with him perfectly in Heaven. Green, the colour of Ordinary Time, symbolises this hope and life.

13th January - Feast of St Kentigern - St Kentigern was born in 518, his mother, St Enoch, was a Lothian princess who became pregnant as a result of a sexual assault. Her father had her cast off into the Firth of Forth in a coracle (a small boat). She landed on the opposite shore at St Serf's monastic school at Culross. It was he who nicknamed him Mungo. He became the first Bishop of Glasgow. He was forced out by pagan opponents and spent some time in England and Wales. He returned to spend many more years preaching the Word until he died in 603.

ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

Many thanks for your very generous response to the Crib Collection this year. The total forwarded to St Margaret's Adoption Society from our parish is £731.00. May God reward you all.

JUSTICE & PEACE

The box at the back of the church last weekend for the Justice & Peace Commission Scotland raised a total of £350.00. This has now been forwarded to Justice & Peace. Many thanks.

No 5.00pm Mass today. Please note Monday Mass is at 10.00am.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£980.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£1,782.00
Stall:	£30.00
	£2,792.00

Crib Collection:	£731.00
Justice & Peace:	£350.00

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**



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

The Feast of St John is celebrated on 27th December, when the schools are on holiday. Therefore, each year we celebrate the Feast of St John for the staff and pupils of St John's Primary in January with a special Mass. This year the Mass will take place on Tuesday 27th January with Mass at 9.30am. Everyone welcome.

HELP NEEDED!

The Parish Hall is a great venue for parish functions, private hires and parties while also bring in great revenue for the parish. Last year the Parish Hall had an income of £30,000.00. We really need to try and keep this going to provide a space for parishioners to come together and also to provide much needed income for the parish. We need a Personal License Holder for the bar which will enable the Hall to continue functioning as a licensed premises. If we do not have someone with this license then many of the ventures, events, bookings and functions we have at present would have to cease. This would be a great shame both socially and financially for our parish and would hinder us in planning events or taking bookings at short notice. If you would be willing to learn more about what's involved or would be willing to take on this task, please speak to Fr Wyllie or a member of the Hall Team - Suzanne Sherry, John Higgins, Margaret Laird, Stevie Reilly, Matt & Christine Dobbin or John & Fiona Gibney.

PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS



The Parish Hall

**EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
2.00PM - 9.00PM**



PARISH LUNCH CLUB



The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY



THEOLOGY ON TAP



The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm

Fr John McFadden on Life in the Missions



PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL



The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm - Late

List for those attending available this weekend.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Louise Gonnella, Jane Hamilton, 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)

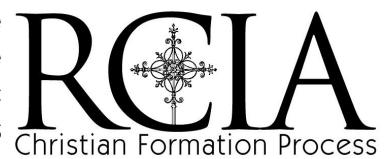
RIP - Danny Anderson (Uddingston), Chris Ferris (Wishawhill)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael Canavan, Martin Gibney, John C. Gowans

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

RCIA PROGRAMME

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme will resume on Monday 12th January in the Parish House for those who are preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church this Easter. Please keep the four candidates in your prayers as they journey towards this important moment in their lives.



THE 100 CLUB

For many years now the 100 Club has given parishioners the opportunity to win some cash prizes and also help support work in the parish. Just last year, the 100 Club paid for the painting of the interior of St Mary's. For just £5.00 a month, which should be paid directly through bank transfer to the account, it gives parishioners the chance of winning a monthly prize. There is a list at the back of the church for you to select your number and place your name and phone number beside it. Once you have done so please set up a standing order for the: **Larkhall 100 Club**, Sort Code - **80-22-60**, Account Number - **17418369**. Although the account is named Larkhall 100 Club, the fund which generates £4,000.00 a year for the parish will be used for projects in both Larkhall and Blackwood. Each month you'd be in with a chance of winning £100.00.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

In January of each year all parishes are required to complete a Safeguarding Audit which helps to maintain good safeguarding practices in our parishes. Fr Wyllie will shortly meet with both Safeguarding Co-Ordinators from our parish, Nigel Davies (Blackwood) and Angela Douglas (Larkhall). There were some PVG updates which had to be completed by the beginning of December, just one or two have not been returned. Could those who received a PVG update form last year and haven't handed it in, please ensure you contact the Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator to complete this form by the end of next weekend. The diocese requires these forms to be completed and returned to them as soon as possible.

BURNS DAY LUNCH

St Mary's Conference of the St Vincent de Paul are having a Burns Day Lunch for senior parishioners (aged over 60 years) on Sunday 25th January at 1.00pm in Raploch Bowling Club, Larkhall. If you wish to attend please enter details (one name per line) on the list on the notice board by 12th January. The SSVP hope to see as many as possible there.

OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

The generosity of parishioners to the offertory collection each week and also those who make their offerings to the parish through standing order is very much appreciated, especially at a time when the cost of living is so expensive. As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall is closing, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. For example, if you donate £10.00 a week, then you would set up your standing order with your bank for £40.00 to come out of your account on the date of your choosing every month. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page two of this bulletin.