

# 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 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
25TH DECEMBER 2025**

## BISHOP TOAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At Christmas this year we will bring to a close the Jubilee Year of 2025, so let us give thanks for the blessings received and the Spirit of Hope renewed. Through Advent that same Hope has been stirred up as we look forward with expectancy to the celebration of Our Saviour's Birth, and to the Lord coming again in glory and majesty. The Advent liturgies have called on us to be ready and watching so that we "may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope". Yes, we are indeed "Pilgrims of Hope", and each Christmas is a milestone on our earthly pilgrimage and an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in our personal faith and its practice in the community of the Catholic Church.

It was the 1700th Anniversary recently of the Council of Nicaea, whose great proclamation of the Christian faith we profess at Sunday Mass. We will also, with special fervour at the Christmas Masses, emphasising in particular the Lord's Incarnation, his birth at Bethlehem - "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man". We are a people of faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we are proud to profess it, particularly on Christmas Day. So let us be at Mass to do so!

Of course, we need to put our faith into action through our works of charity, our love for our neighbour, and Christmas is a time of generosity and sharing with those we love. Let us try also to extend our kindness to those who are more in need, both locally and further afield, recognising that the Lord asks us to do so in his name and with his compassion and self-giving. The Word did become flesh, and continues to dwell among us through those who show his love.

I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, praying especially that the Peace sung of by the Angels at Bethlehem may reign within and among us, and throughout the whole world.

May the Lord bless you, your families and friends, and keep you strong in faith, hope, and charity.

With my prayers and best wishes

Yours in Christ,

✠ Joseph Toal



# THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Thursday 25th December** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 11.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

**10.00am** **DAWN MASS OF CHRISTMAS** (St Mary's)

**12noon** **DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS** (Our Lady & St John's)

**Friday 26th December** (St Mary's closed; OLSJ closed)

No Mass in the parish

**Saturday 27th December** (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

**5.00pm** **Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (St Mary's)

**Sunday 28th December** (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

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

**12noon** **Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (Our Lady & St John's)

No 5.00pm Mass

**Monday 29th December** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

No Mass in the parish

**Tuesday 30th December** (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 30th December (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 31st December** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 8.15pm)

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

**10.00am** Holy Mass for 31st December (St Mary's)

**7.45pm** Vespers for the end of the Year (Our Lady & St John's)

**Thursday 1st January** (St Mary's closed; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

**11.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

**12noon** **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (OLSJ)

**Friday 2nd January** (St Mary's closed; OLSJ closed)

No Mass in the parish

**Saturday 3rd 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 Solemnity of the Epiphany** (St Mary's)



CHRISTMAS TIME



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR WYLLIE

As the celebrations for Christmas begin and our eyes and hearts are on the crib scene, we recall and celebrate the fact that God took on human flesh and brought our world a universal message of reconciliation and peace, asking us to open our hearts and homes to him and the love he has for each of us.

The celebrations here in our parish for this Solemnity, coming together to pray and give glory to Almighty God, have been enhanced and possible due to the hard work and efforts of so many people. I would like to thank publicly those who have worked behind the scenes over the past few weeks to make the churches so beautiful - the ladies in St Mary's and Our Lady & St John's who put up and decorated the Christmas trees, Suzanne for decorating the Parish Hall, the florists, the cleaners and the sacristans. Also, to those who have made the Masses a worthy and fitting celebration of the Lord's birth - the altar servers, musicians and cantors, the St John's Youth Choir, the readers, the extraordinary ministers and all those who played any part in our Christmas Masses.

Many thanks to those parishioners who have handed in cards and gifts for myself and Baloo. Your generosity, kindness and care are very much appreciated and never taken for granted. May God bless you all and be assured that you will be remembered at Mass over these days.

I wish all parishioners and their families a very happy, blessed and holy Christmas.

May God bless you all.



## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken up at all our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Those who Giftaid are asked to take a Christmas Collection envelope and put their name on it.

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £940.00  
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £180.00  
Stall: £75.00  
**£1,195.00**

**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**



## CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

This Christmas bulletin will cover this coming weekend. A separate bulletin will be available again for the weekend 3rd/4th January. If you have any intimations, announcements or names for the bulletin please hand in by Wednesday 31st December at 11.00am.

## ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

Every Christmas Season in parishes across the dioceses of Motherwell, Glasgow, Paisley and Galloway a box is available at the crib to support the marvellous work done by St Margaret's Adoption Society. This year there are over 1000 children who are in need of a stable and loving family home. Any donation you can make to the crib collection would be very gratefully received by St Margaret's. There is a QR code on the donations box for those with no cash.

## PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY NIGHT

Many thanks to those who paid their ticket money for the Parish Hogmanay Party which will take place on Wednesday 31st December. The evening will begin at 8.30pm and finish at 1.30am. If you have not placed your name on the list but would like to come along then please email Suzanne at BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com for more information.

## JUSTICE & PEACE

A box will be available at the back of the church on the weekend of 3rd/4th January, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, for the work of the Justice & Peace Commission here in Scotland.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will take place on Tuesday 17th February beginning at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Fr John McFadden, a Holy Ghost Father, on life in the mission lands. All welcome.

## PARISH FESTIVE DRINKS

The Parish Hall

**26TH DECEMBER 2.00PM - 9.00PM**

**28TH DECEMBER AFTER 12NOON MASS**

**2ND JANUARY 2.00PM - 9.00PM**



## PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY NIGHT

The Parish Hall

**WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER**

**8.30pm - 1.30am**

Ticket - £10.00 (glass of prosecco & a pie), under 16's free  
*Please email BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com*





## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Louise Gonnella, Jim Melville, Anne Connor, 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** - James McKernan, Jean Lundie (Coatbridge), Veronica Hood (Hamilton), Kathleen Hood, Annie Weir (Bellshill), Chris Ferris (Wishaw)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jerry Dunn, Mary Somerville, Esther Keane, Ernie Girvan



## CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES



*This Christmas we remember those who have gone before us in faith.  
May they be at peace with the Lord who was born & died for them:*

John & Jane McMurray, Philip & Ida Holton, Ken & Millie Gough, Jim & Mary Dow, Jim Dow Jnr; John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Annie & Michael Creechan, Margaret & Eddie Love, Cathie & George Gibney, Catherine Ann Bews, Kennedy Family, Creechan Family; Gerard Wyllie, John & Catherine Deerin, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, Kevin Wyllie, George Wyllie, David James, Ellen Mullen, Chrissie Ferris, Jim McShane, Frank Lyons, Anne Findon, Marion Hoey, Very Reverend Giles Canon Goward, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Very Reverend William Canon Dunnachie, Eleanor Morrison; Elizabeth Gold, The Sweeney & McCabe Families, Margaret Curley Foix, Janet McIntosh, Pat Grace, Kathleen McGeoch, Buntly Kane, Margaret McGeechan, Frank Campbell, Milly Lynch; Alice & Con Weir & Family; Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, Christina Weller, Louis Baron Weller, Christina McCluskey, Teresa McCluskey, John McCluskey, David Yardley Kennedy, Robert Kennedy Snr, Robert Kennedy Jnr, Sharon Campbell, Barry Myles, Alexander Young, Christina Fuller, James Hotchkiss, Margaret Hotchkiss, John McStea; Jamie Dunn, Jerry Dunn, Marion Houston, Desmond Houston, Houston Family, Campbell Family; Members of the McAuley, McIvor, McIntosh & Gallacher Families; Rose & George Rodger, May & Tommy McMahan; Michael Simpson; Chris Crumley; John McMurray, John & Jane McMurray, Members of the McManus & Reilly Families; Betty Hamilton, Hugh Dawson, Mary Dawson; John Corr, Mary Corr, Jennifer Cochran, William Tait; Jim & Mary Somerville, Alan Rennie, Robert Brown, Jim & Margaret Matthews, Charlie & Margaret McNally, Charlie & Annie McNally, Johnny & Hannah McNally; McCorry Family, McLaren Family, Wedlock Family, Taggart Family; Hugh, Sam & May McCluskey; James (Jim) McLaughlin; Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Isa & Walter Freeland, Catherine Devine; Michael J Fleming, Paul Fleming, Marie Cullen; Martin Gibney, McLaughlin & Duncan Families; Raymond Holmes, Danny Cunningham, Margaret & James Girvan, Sadie Girvan, Ernie Girvan, Grace Girvan, Tom & Susan Girvan, Vida & Thomas Wilson, Rita & James Lyons, Margaret & Les Bennet, Fr Adrian Noonan; John & Emily Leonard, Cathie & Tommy Tierney, Alan Brotherton; Teresa & Bill Ellison, Freda & Geoff Davies, Michael Ellison; The Stewart, McGonagle & McGinn Families, Marion Wright; Jim & Elizabeth Sherry, Logan Ross, Frank & Elizabeth Carraher, James & Grace Sherry, Betty & John Anderson, Nancy & Ian McCall, Harry Carraher, Alyson Carraher, Frank & Betty Lynch, Jim Wotherspoon; Eddie Rae.



## CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,  
with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars reflecting in the snow.  
The sight is so spectacular! Please wipe away that tear.  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart,  
but I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.  
So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear,  
and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,  
but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.  
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring,  
for it's beyond description to hear the Angels sing.

I send you a special gift from my Heavenly home above.  
I send you each a memory of my undying love.  
After all, "love" is a gift, more precious than gold.  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,  
for I can't count the blessings or love he has for you.  
So have a peaceful Christmas and wipe away that tear,  
remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

