

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
22ND MAY 2022**

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

When it comes to your spiritual life, have you ever thought to yourself "There must be more than this"? If so, you can be assured that the longing for "more" is prompted by the Holy Spirit, who always desires to give more. In the first days after the resurrection of Jesus, it was clear that the expectations of his first followers were very limited. Jesus wanted to give them much more than they expected. So he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." They went back to the Upper Room, and they spent nine days praying and preparing for this gift. On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to them, and they were never the same. The power of the Holy Spirit that was poured out upon them empowered them to accomplish the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them.



That was the very first Novena, which launched the "first evangelisation". (Novena means nine). The practice of the Christian Novena was established by Jesus in preparation for this tremendous grace! We now pray novenas to prepare for solemn feasts, or in petition for some special grace. Jesus commanded this first novena both as a period of preparation (since the feast of Pentecost was approaching) and also as an act of petition (for the Apostles, together with Mary, were looking forward to the fulfilment of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit).

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII asked the whole church to renew its devotion by praying a Novena to the Holy Spirit in the nine days leading up to Pentecost. He asked that this novena be done every year in every parish throughout the world. In our day, we renew this quest in a special way for the sake of the New Evangelisation. The Holy Spirit is "the principle agent of evangelisation". When his power is released in us, our lives are refreshed, our sense of purpose is renewed, our parishes are re-vitalised, and our mission is more effective than ever. As we build our parish up after the past two years, we should be turning to the Holy Spirit each day to give us the graces we need to work together to further and live out our mission as Catholics in the world today.

Parishes are encouraged to pray the novena each day from the Friday after Ascension Thursday during Mass, but it can also be done by individuals in their personal prayer. Each day, including Sunday Masses, we will recite the Novena to the Holy Spirit, imploring him to bestow upon us his gifts and fruits, that we may work with his grace to renew the face of the earth.

The part of the novena which is commonly known to most of us is: **"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen"**. Let's pray this everyday!

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 22nd May

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| 10.00am | Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's) |
| 12noon | Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's) |
| 2.30pm | Baptism (St Mary's) |
| 5.00pm | Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's) |
| 6.30pm | May Devotions concluding with Benediction (St Mary's) |

Monday 23rd May

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

Tuesday 24th May

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

Wednesday 25th May

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| 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 Sixth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's) |
| 7.00pm | Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (St Mary's) NOTE CHANGE |

Thursday 26th May

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| 8.00am | Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (St Mary's) |
| 9.30am | School Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's) |
| 10.30am | School Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (St Mary's) |
| 7.00pm | Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's) |

Friday 27th May

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| 9.30am | Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's) |
| 10.00am | Holy Mass for Friday after the Ascension (St Mary's) |

Saturday 28th May

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| 4.45pm | Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's) |
| 5.30pm | Vigil Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's) |

ASCENSION THURSDAY

On Thursday of this week we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holyday of Obligation when Catholics are asked to attend Mass. The times of Masses that day can be found above or here:

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| Wednesday 25th May | 7.00pm | St Mary's | | |
| Thursday 26th May | 8.00am | St Mary's | 9.30am | Our Lady & St John's |
| | 10.30am | St Mary's | 7.00pm | Our Lady & St John's |

BBC SCOTLAND - MY KIND OF TOWN - LARKHALL

'My Kind of Town' is a BBC Scotland programme which follows the presenter, Ian Hamilton and his guide dog Major, as they visit Scottish towns to explore their past, present and future. It's a very positive travel documentary programme and they will be visiting Larkhall beginning tomorrow. Given that Larkhall still carries a bit of a reputation for sectarianism - fairly or not - the producers are very keen to include Catholic voices on what it's like to live in the town, and to find out whether or not things are as bad as they are made out to be. The BBC are very keen to visit St Mary's tomorrow (Monday) to have a conversation with parishioners after the 12noon Mass. Please be generous and come along if you can to put a Catholic perspective on the show.

BABY LUCA BRANNAN

Luca Brannan is just 17 months old and has been diagnosed with an inflammatory myofibroblastic tumour (IMT) that requires regular treatment. He has to be taken each day to the Glasgow Children's Hospital. Kieran and Shannen, his mum and dad, are organising an event at Hamilton Accies New Douglas Park next month. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the back of St Mary's after the Sunday 10.00am Mass. The raffle prizes include various football strips, corporate suite at Parkhead, various hotel overnights for two, Spa Day, beauty voucher, MOT to the value of £250, Snap on Tools worth £250, various bottles and Coerver Football Training Camp vouchers.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SIGN OF PEACE

A number of people have asked Fr Wyllie for the Sign of Peace to be returned to Sunday Masses. Although he is aware that many people feel uncomfortable with the Sign of Peace, that others may be quite anxious about physical contact and others are keen for this to be re-introduced to Mass, he suggests that for the time being we nod our heads or give a little wave at this part of the Mass unless you are comfortable to shake hands. Please respect other people's wishes if they would prefer to not take part in the Sign of Peace. The Sign of Peace will return at Mass today.

PARISH FINANCES

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| Collection & Donations: | £1060.00 |
| Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: | £260.00 |
| Votive Candles: | £205.00 |
| Stall: | £170.00 |
| TOTAL: | £1,695.00 |

Many thanks for your very generous support

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

On Monday of this week, Arthur Alston celebrates his 80th birthday. Together as a parish we wish him our prayerful best wishes as he celebrates this important birthday. We wish him many happy returns. Ad multos annos. (To many more years!)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Congratulations to the thirteen 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 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 McCart, Miss Kelly & Mrs Quadrelli and the staff of St John's Primary for preparing the children so well for the celebration of this Sacrament.

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 and then a decision will be taken.

CONGRATULATIONS

Today (Sunday) baby Cameron Stefan Perry will be baptised in St Mary's, we wish him and his mum and dad, Monika & John, our prayerful congratulations.

If your child has not yet been baptised please speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible to begin the preparations for Baptism. Baptisms take place on most Sundays throughout the year.

DAY FOR LIFE 2022

The Day for Life takes place in Scotland each year on 31st May, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That evening at 7.00pm in St Mary's there will be a special Mass to pray for the unborn and the prolife cause, that all human life may be valued and respected from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Please make a special effort to come along and pray for this very important cause. All are welcome.

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.

2022 WEDDINGS

If you are due to be married in our parish over the course of this year you need to make contact with Fr Wyllie to begin the necessary preparations. Any couple who hasn't been in contact with him must do so by the end of this month. This is to ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed in good time and to firm up arrangements for the Mass/service.

COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Communications Sunday. A box will be available at the back of the church if you wish to contribute to supporting the Church in reaching out through social media and the press. There have been many calls on your generosity so please only give if you are able.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Annette Thomson, 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, Mary Gallacher, Melissa Higgins (Uddingston)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John Mitchell, Jim Craighens Jnr, Margaret Love, Catherine Anne Bews

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

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. Many thanks to all those who have signed up to go along, we have around 41 parishioners signed up for the bus and for the lunch.

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



ALL NAMES MUST BE ON THE LIST BY THE END OF TODAY!

CORPUS CHRISTI BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION

On Sunday 19th June, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Carfin Grotto is organising a Blessed Sacrament Procession from St Teresa's Newarthill, through the streets to Carfin Grotto, concluding with Benediction with Bishop Toal. This begins at 3.00pm and everyone is invited. All First Communicants and Altar Servers are invited to take a special part in the procession. Please try your best to go along to show our love for the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, to come together as a diocese with our bishop at Carfin Grotto and spend some time at our Diocesan Shrine to Our Blessed Mother.



CORRECTION TO THE PARISH FINANCIAL PROFILE

Last weekend, we published the minutes of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team meeting which took place on Monday 9th May. There was an error in the minutes and Fr Wyllie would like to correct this error. In the minutes it stated that we have £165,000.00 in the parish bank accounts and in our accounts with the diocese, the true figure is £179,343.72. This money is held in our Parish Account, the Parish Hall Account, the Pastoral Investment Fund and the Pastoral Aid Fund.

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As mentioned a few weeks ago, the church of Our Lady & St John's marked its 140th anniversary in 2020, but due to Covid we were unable to celebrate this milestone. Fr Wyllie has spoken with Bishop Toal and he has kindly agreed to come to the parish to celebrate a special Mass to mark this occasion on **Friday 7th October**, the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary at 7.00pm.

Larkhall maintained a permanent Catholic presence by being given the status of parish in 1872, 150 years ago. The Bishop will come to the parish to celebrate a special Mass to mark this special occasion on **Thursday 8th December**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at 7.00pm.

More firm arrangements will be announced over the next few months as we plan and prepare for these very important events in the life of both the churches in our parish. Both Masses will be followed by parish functions, so please keep the dates free in your diary.