

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE 28TH APRIL 2024



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

REMAIN PART OF THE TRUE VINE

The Gospel today, the fifth Sunday of Easter time begins with the image of the vine. Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser" (Jn 15:1). In the Bible Israel is often compared to the fertile vine when it is faithful to God; but if it distances itself from him, it becomes barren, incapable of producing that "wine to gladden the heart of man", as Psalm 104[103] sings (v. 15). The true vine of God, true life, is Jesus who with his sacrifice of love gives us salvation, opens to us the way to be part of this vine. And as Jesus remains in the love of God the Father, the disciples too, wisely pruned by the word of the Master, if they remain profoundly united in him, they become fruitful branches that bear an abundant harvest.



St Francis de Sales wrote: "The vine-sprig, united and joined to the stock, brings forth fruit not by its own power but in virtue of the stock. Now we are united by charity unto our Redeemer as members to their head, and hence it is that... good works, drawing their worth from him, merit life everlasting".

On the day of our Baptism the Church grafts us, as branches, on to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, on to his very Person. From this root we receive the precious sap that enables us to share in the divine life. As disciples, with the help of the Pastors of the Church, we too develop in the Lord's vineyard, bound by his love. "If the fruit we are to bear is love, its prerequisite is this 'remaining', which is profoundly connected with the kind of faith that holds on to the Lord and does not let go" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Doubleday, New York 2007, p. 262).

It is indispensable to remain ever united to Jesus, to depend on him, because apart from him we can do nothing. In a letter written to John the Prophet who lived in the desert of Gaza in the fifth century, a faithful asked the following question: how is it possible to combine man's freedom and the inability to do anything without God? And the monk answered: if man inclines his heart towards goodness and asks God for help, he receives the necessary strength to carry out his work. Therefore man's freedom and God's power proceed together. This is possible because goodness comes from the Lord, but it is carried out through his faithful.

True "abiding" in Christ guarantees the effectiveness of prayer, the Cistercian Blessed Gueric of Igny, said: "O Lord Jesus... without you we can do nothing. Indeed you are the true gardener, creator, cultivator and custodian of your garden, which you plan with your word, irrigate with your spirit and cause to grow with your power".

Dear friends, each one of us is like a branch that only lives if its union with the Lord grows every day in prayer, in participation in the Sacraments and in charity. And he who loves Jesus, the true vine, produces fruits of faith for an abundant spiritual harvest. Let us pray to the Mother of God that we may remain firmly grafted onto Jesus and that all our actions may have their beginning and end in him. May all we do as a parish bear much fruit especially as we embark upon Project Wellspring, that all we set out to do, all we achieve, and all we establish be for the greater glory of God, our true vine which brings us and the Church to new life in him. Remember his words "without me you can do nothing".

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 28th April

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 29th April

- 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary for Vocations (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St Catherine of Siena (St Mary's)

Tuesday 30th April

- 9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Pius V (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 1st 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 the Memoria of St Joseph the Worker (St Mary's)
NO ADORATION & CONFESSIONS
7.00pm Holy Mass in honour of St Peregrine, Patron of Cancer Sufferers (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 2nd 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 the Memoria of St Athanasius (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 3rd May

- 9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Philip & St James (St Mary's)

Saturday 4th May

- 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

FOODBANK COLLECTION

A collection of foodstuffs for the local foodbank will take place this weekend. You can also make monetary donations, please clearly mark an envelope 'Foodbank' and hand it in, either to the offertory collection or at the back of the church.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

We are very fortunate to have a great volunteer cleaner who cleans our Parish Hall before/after functions, however, during the months of May and June we have a function on almost every weekend and therefore are looking for other volunteers to help with the cleaning. The event dates are: 11th, 18th, 25th, 30th May; 1st, 2nd, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 27th, 28th June. If you're able, please give a hand or why not get a little group of friends together to help? Hoovering, mopping, sanitising the tables, emptying the bins and cleaning the toilets.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 2nd June at all Masses, there will be a special blessing and commissioning of new and present Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

HEALTH & SAFETY CHECKS

Fr Wyllie is looking for a parishioner to take on the responsibility of doing the Health & Safety checks once a month in Blackwood, for the church and hall. This would include: ensuring the fire extinguishers are undamaged, fire escapes are clear and fire doors are in good order.

ASCENSION THURSDAY - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

We celebrate Ascension Thursday on 9th May. The Masses in our parish will be as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 8.00am (St Mary's) | 9.30am (OLSJ) |
| 10.30am (St Mary's) | 7.00pm (OLSJ) |

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£825.00
Standing Orders:	£110.00
Votive Candles:	£375.00
Stall:	£60.00
Total:	£1,370.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

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**



CLERGY CHANGES IN THE DIOCESE

Fr Michael Brown	PP of Holy Family Mossend,	New PP of Our Lady & St Joseph's Glenboig
Fr Krzysztof Garwolinski	PP of St Patrick's Shieldmuir,	New PP of Holy Family Mossend
Fr Ricklan Mallya	PP of St Bernadette's Motherwell,	New PP of St Patrick's Shieldmuir & St Brendan's
Fr Alex Stewart	PP of OLSJ Glenboig,	New PP of St Bernadette's Motherwell
Fr Kevin Lawrie	PP of St Teresa's Newarthill,	New PP of St Ignatius & St Thomas' Wishaw
Fr Kieran Hamilton	PP of St Brendan's Muirhouse,	New PP of St Teresa's Newarthill
Fr Christopher Morris	Curate of St Ignatius Wishaw,	New Administrator of St Patrick's Strathaven

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th April - Feast of St Catherine of Siena - St Catherine of Siena was born in 1347 and became a Dominican tertiary as an adolescent. While still young she had mystical experiences in prayer which led to her receiving the stigmata. She died in 1380. Her writings were of great spiritual profit - she was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. She campaigned successfully for the pope to return to Avignon to Rome. The pope conducted her funeral. St John Paul II named her a Patron of Europe in 1999. She is the patron saint of journalists, media, and nursing.

30th April - Memoria of St Pius V - Pope St Pius V was born in 1504 and was elected pope in 1665. He laboured to pull the Church out of the chaos caused by the Reformation, and in particular bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the Council which had taken place at Trent in Northern Italy, providing measures to bring some sense of discipline to the life of the Church so that it was better able to meet the challenges of the future. He died in 1572 and is honoured as the patron saint of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith based in Vatican City.

1st May - Memoria of St Joseph the Worker - St Joseph the Worker is a feast instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to state clearly that the Church was also interested in the rights and dignity of workers. The image of St Joseph, the carpenter, earning his daily living by the work of his own hands is held up to emphasise the necessity of work, the part it plays in the self-esteem of many, and the contribution made to society by so many skills and talents.

1st May - Memoria of St Peregrine - St Peregrine was born in 1260. As a youth he was active in politics as a member of the anti-papal (anti-Catholic) party. He converted to the Faith and became the ideal priest. When he was afflicted with cancer of the foot and amputation had been decided upon, he spent the night before the operation, in prayer. The following morning he was completely cured. He lived to he was 85 years of age. He is patron of cancer sufferers.

2nd May - Memoria of St Athanasius - St Athanasius was born in 295 and became the Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, in 328. Much of his time and energy was taken up with the long-running struggle with the Arian heresy (that taught Jesus was somehow less than God). He suffered much for true doctrine and opponents forced him out of Alexandria on five occasions. He died in 373 and is the patron saint of theologians and scholars.

3rd May - Feast of St Philip & St James - St Philip & St James were two of the Twelve Apostles. St Philip spread the Faith in Greece and Turkey, being martyred there in 80AD. St James, called the Lesser, meaning the younger to distinguish him from St John's brother, was Bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred there in 62AD. He wrote the 'Letter of St James' which is one of the most easily read parts of the New Testament, containing practical advice on living the Christian life. St Philip is the patron of pastry chefs, Luxembourg & Uruguay. St James is the patron of the dying.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Anne O'Neil, Aaron Mulligan, Margaret McLaughlin, Kevin Wyllie, Kerry Peterson, Noel Bennetts (Australia), Jeanne Gowans

RIP - Jamie Dunn, Anne Quigley, Bishop-Elect Fr Martin Chambers, Jim Wotherspoon

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Andrew Boyle, Andrew Boyle Junior (NZ), Sarah Dykes, James Dykes

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

FEAST DAY OF ST PEREGRINE

The special Mass for the Feast of St Peregrine will take place this Wednesday in Our Lady & St John's to pray for all those who suffer from cancer, those who have died from this terrible disease, their families, and to pray for all those doctors, nurses and care-workers who help to alleviate and find a cure for this disease. **Any sick who need a lift please contact the SSVF.**

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Letters for members of the Parish Finance Committee are available from the sacristy.

PROPOSED PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI 2025

We are proposing a Parish Pilgrimage next year (the Jubilee Year) to Rome and Assisi. If you would be interested in going on this pilgrimage in 2025 please speak with Fr Wyllie. There are no arrangements at the moment as we need to see how many parishioners would be interested and the costs involved. Please be advised that you would need to be in good health for the walking that will be required in Rome and Assisi.



DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

The Parish Divine Mercy Prayer Group will meet in Our Lady & St John's on a Wednesday evening after the 7.00pm to pray for the sick, the dying and the departed.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

THE PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

2.00PM - 8.00PM (3.00PM KICK-OFF)

£5.00 PER PERSON

GAME SHOWN ON THE BIG-SCREEN; PIES & SAUSAGE ROLLS AT HALF-TIME;

PINTS OF MENABREA - £4.50; PINTS OF TENNENTS - £3.50

ALL WELCOME



PROSECCO AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

The Parish Hall

Saturday 15th June

2.00pm until 7.00pm

Tickets £20.00 per person

Glass of prosecco or bottle for groups of 4 or more on arrival;

savouries, sandwiches, cakes and scones;

bar, live entertainment and raffle

All welcome

