

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
24TH OCTOBER 2021

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THE CASE FOR THE LAST RITES

Everything about the murder of David Amess is grim. One detail feels particularly bleak. Amess, a devout Catholic, was denied the Last Rites. A Catholic priest and friend of Amess – Fr Jeff Woolnough – arrived at the scene... not long after the stabbing took place. He asked to be allowed through so that he could perform the Last Rites. But the police said no. They later said it was important that they 'preserve the integrity of [the] crime scene'. The priest, with his holy oils and his plan to administer the [Sacrament] to the dying man, was clearly judged to be a threat...

This feels so wrong. It speaks to a staggering lack of religious literacy, or just of cultural sensitivity, on the part of the police and no doubt the broader bureaucracy of 21st-century Britain. 'A Catholic, when they're dying, would want a priest there, and for reasons that only the police know, I was not allowed in', Fr Woolnough told the PA news agency. He had been 'sort of expecting' that he would be waved through, 'to administer the oil of the sick'. But it wasn't to be. The rulebook took precedence over a dying man's spiritual needs. The preservation of every iota of criminal evidence apparently matters more than attending to a man's soul in the final moments of his life on Earth.

As if the killing of Amess wasn't horrific enough, he was then deprived of this ritual which, for a devout Catholic like him, is of the utmost spiritual importance. Non-Catholics might find it difficult to understand how significant the Last Rites are. This is the ritual that provides the final purification of a person's soul in order to prepare that person for entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. I have witnessed the administration of the Last Rites. It is profoundly moving. The dying person has his confession heard, is anointed with oil, and is invited to renew the promises made at his baptism. To a practising Catholic, it is the cleansing that eases his progress to heaven. It is desperately sad that Amess did not receive these rites before drawing his final breath.

No one denies that it was an incredibly difficult situation. Fr Woolnough himself says he respects the police's decision. The police guarding the scene as paramedics attended to Amess will have been under great strain. And yet this sorry, depressing affair does seem to tell a bigger story about the jobsworthian nature of modern Britain. Ours is a society in which the rules must always be rigidly enforced. In which no allowances may be made, no risks taken, no basic humanity exercised. Even when one of our fellow citizens faces serious physical or spiritual harm, still every box must be ticked before anyone is allowed to reach out to help them... Back-covering has replaced the making of sensible moral judgements; abiding by the minutiae of every regulation has usurped the exercising of common sense and just plain decency.

There's another disquieting aspect to all of this. The modern British police are obsessed with being PC. They bang the drum of cultural diversity and LGBT inclusion morning, noon and night. They're super-concerned with using the right pronouns, and sometimes they'll even have a stern word with those who fail to do that. And yet they seemed, in this case, not to understand the cultural and spiritual importance of an age-old ritual that Catholics have been practising for centuries. It surely says something about our society... It strikes me that evidence preservation wasn't the only factor in the decision made by police in Leigh-on-Sea – historical illiteracy, ignorance of religious needs and an embrace of an infantile form of 'cultural diversity' that actually knows little of culture no doubt also played a role in blocking the path of a priest to a man in the most dire need.

Article by Brendan O'Neill on Spiked website on 18th October 2021.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 24th October

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 25th October

- 11.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 26th October

- 9.00am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm **Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (St Mary's)

Wednesday 27th October

- 9.30am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.30pm **Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 28th October

- 9.00am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Simon & St Jude (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 29th October

- 9.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Saturday 30th October

- 10.00am** Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm **Vigil Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)

Sunday 31st October

- 10.00am** **Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)
2.00pm Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm October Devotions followed by Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

28th October - Feast of St Simon & St Jude - St Simon is usually called 'the Canaanite' and 'the Zealot', suggesting he belonged to the Jewish party of the 'Zealous of the Law'. St Jude or Thaddeus has a short epistle in the New Testament ascribed to him, and is popularly invoked as the patron of hopeless cases. Tradition says that after Pentecost they evangelised, Simon in Egypt, Jude in Mesopotamia, and then together in Persia, where they were martyred.

2ND NOVEMBER - ALL SOULS DAY

On 2nd November we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, All Souls Day, where we join in prayer for all our deceased loved ones and for those who have no one to pray for them. Masses for All Souls Day, to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to attend Mass will be at the following times:

8.15am	St Mary's
9.30am	Our Lady & St John's
7.00pm	St Mary's

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 97

10.00am - 73

12noon - 66

5.00pm - 43

Total - 279

WELCOME TO MONSIGNOR MILLAR

This weekend we welcome Monsignor Millar to the parish on his holidays from St Mary's College Oscott, he will be with us until Saturday 30th October. During Fr Wyllie's week off, Monsignor will look after the parish in his absence. Fr Wyllie is very grateful to him for this. Monsignor Millar will celebrate Mass and hear confessions. This is a good opportunity for those in the parish to take advantage of a visiting priest for the Sacrament of Confession.

RCIA 2021-2022

If you have ever considered becoming a Catholic then please speak with Fr Wyllie about beginning the RCIA programme which will begin in early November. If someone you know has expressed an interest in becoming a Catholic ask them to contact Fr Wyllie too. The first session will be an information evening to find out more about what is involved in the RCIA programme.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume in Our Lady & St John's next weekend at the 12noon Mass. The children will be taken to the Parish Hall as was previously the case. The Children's Liturgy is only available to children in P1-P4.



PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,030.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£90.00
Votive Candles:	£300.00
Stall:	£145.00
TOTAL:	£1565.00

PRAYING FOR OUR DEAD

November Lists are still available at the back of the church. A box is available at the back of the church for you to place your completed lists in time for November together with a donation. Mass will be offered each day during the month of November for all those named in our November Lists, the Book of Remembrance will be blessed on All Souls Day. Praying for our dead has always been a much loved and popular devotion of Catholics so please remember your dead loved ones.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

One parishioner has come forward and offered to be one of the two representatives we need for the parish/diocesan level of the upcoming Synod to be held in Rome in 2023. If you would be interested in joining this process and helping to collate our parish views and suggestions please speak with Fr Wyllie this weekend.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This weekend you will find Christmas cards available for sale in both our parish stalls. In today's society we should try our best to keep Christ in Christmas by purchasing religious themed cards and gifts. Please have a look at the selection of cards we have this weekend, if you need anything please let us know.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today we will take up a second collection at all our Masses for our brothers and sisters in the mission lands. The financial assistance we offer to the Church in the poorest countries of the world will help to train priests, support religious communities, provide for the material needs and spiritual needs of these communities. Please give as generously as you always do.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

On Tuesday 23rd November at 7.00pm in St Mary's there will be a special Mass to pray for all the dead of our parish but to remember in a special way those who have died over the past twelve months. The next of kin of those who have died over the past twelve months will receive an invitation to this Mass but you are all warmly invited to pray for our dead.

OLSJ SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The SSVP are conscious that many families will be struggling at this time of year especially as a result of high gas prices and the loss of £20 a week from their benefits. If anyone needs assistance then please contact Our Lady & St John's SSVP on the telephone number below: 07522925723.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

Next weekend we will hold our monthly collection for the local foodbank. All parishioners are asked to donate even a tin of food so that we can come together as a parish to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Any donations would be very gratefully received next weekend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Pat Tierney, Paul Fleming, James Ferguson, Bunty McDonald, Murray Brown, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Rory Quigley, Janet McIntosh, David Hillhouse, Annette Thomson, Liz Rees OCV, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Gerard Lyons, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Christopher Crumley, Robert McNulty (Hamilton)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Chrissie Lynch, Jimmy Mulhearn, Johnny & Letty Gonnella, Georgie Lyons

Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for on their anniversaries & months mind

HALL COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Hall Committee will take place on Wednesday 3rd November in the Hall after the 7.00pm Mass. All members of the Hall Committee are asked to attend. The members of the Hall Committee for our parish are: Angela Stewart, Bert Lynch, Tom Corrigan, Stevie Reilly & Pauline Reilly.

CATECHETICS & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

An initial meeting will take place for the Parish Catechetical Team and the leaders of the Children's Liturgy on Tuesday 2nd November after the 7.00pm Mass in St Mary's. The purpose of this meeting is to get ideas of how we can push forward with plans to provide a catechetical programme for the Sacraments.

ALTAR SERVERS

We are blessed in the parish to have thirteen young people serving at the altar, nine for Our Lady & St John's and four in St Mary's. We need more altar servers in St Mary's (and there's always space for more servers in Our Lady & St John's), so any child who has received their First Holy Communion can serve at the altar. Any child who wishes to serve at the altar should speak with Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks. Serving can also help young boys consider a vocation to the priesthood so please encourage the boys to serve too.

PROLIFE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

On Thursday 28 October 2021, SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) Scotland will hold the Annual Torchlight Procession to remember the lives lost from abortion over the last 54 years. Gathering at George Square, Glasgow, from 6pm, Rosary will commence at 6.30pm followed by the procession at 7pm to St Andrew's Cathedral, where Mass will begin at 7.30pm. All are welcome. When the sanctity of human life is under threat, we are called to act. For further information, please contact SPUC Scotland on 0141 221 2094.

HOLY GHOST FATHERS CARFIN

The Holy Ghost Fathers' Charity Shop in Carfin will now be open Monday to Saturday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Donations of good quality clothing and bric-a-brac will always be gratefully received. The Holy Ghost Fathers are a wonderful support to the parishes of the diocese in covering Masses and helping with chaplaincies throughout the diocese in hospitals, schools etc, so please support their efforts.

PARISH AND SCHOOL

Recently the Parish Pastoral Committee met and one of the items for discussion was a new parish representative for the St John's Parent Council. Vivien Stewart has kindly agreed to take on this role. The parish representative for the St Mary's Parent Council is Margaret Laird. We thank Margaret for her work in bringing the parish and school together in St Mary's and we thank Vivien for agreeing to take on this role in St John's.

HEATING IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

Last week Fr Wyllie met with a heating engineer. A new Hive system will be installed in Our Lady & St John's to control the heating system. Currently, the thermostat is faulty, leading the church to be cold or roasting hot with no happy medium. There will also be thermostats on each of the radiators in the church as we currently have an all or nothing heat coming from our radiators. There also appears to be water being lost from the heating system for the church so investigative work will begin on this over the next few weeks to locate the loss of pressure.