

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
17TH APRIL 2022**

St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

Fr Wyllie would like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners and their families a very happy and joy-filled Easter.

The Church celebrates today the greatest of all our feast days and solemnities, today is the day that Our Lord and Saviour broke the chains of death and destroyed sin and death for ever. On that first Easter Sunday, the Lord raised us up to a new life with him, so that this life is not the end, but our souls live on for ever with God.

These words from the Preface of our Mass today, succinctly explains exactly how important this day is:

*For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.*

*Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory.*

For the next forty days there is uninterrupted joy as we celebrate the Season of Eastertide, where we focus on the life of the infant Church and how Jesus appeared after his resurrection in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May the Lord bless us all over these next forty days, that we may come closer to him.

Can I thank all those parishioners who handed in cards and gifts for myself and Baloo. They are very much appreciated. God bless you all for your kindness & support.



# EASTER OCTAVE IN OUR PARISH

## Sunday 17th April

10.00am

**Holy Mass for the Resurrection of the Lord** (St Mary's)

12noon

**Holy Mass for the Resurrection of the Lord** (Our Lady & St John's)

**NO EVENING MASS**

## Monday 18th April

12noon

Holy Mass for Monday of the Easter Octave (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 19th April

12noon

Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Easter Octave (Our Lady & St John's)

## Wednesday 20th April

12noon

Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Easter Octave (St Mary's)

## Thursday 21st April

12noon

Holy Mass for Thursday of the Easter Octave (Our Lady & St John's)

## Friday 22nd April

12noon

Holy Mass for Friday of the Easter Octave (St Mary's)

## Saturday 23rd April

**NO MORNING MASS**

5.30pm

**Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)

## Sunday 24th April

10.00am

**Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)

12noon

**Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (Our Lady & St John's)

3.00pm

Divine Mercy Devotion with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

5.00pm

**Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (Our Lady & St John's)

## MONDAY 25TH APRIL - SATURDAY 30TH APRIL

Fr Wyllie will be away from the parish from Monday 25th - Saturday 30th April. He has tried to get a supply priest to cover Masses in both churches but all the religious orders and retired priests are unable to provide cover and at present we only have one curate in the diocese. From after the 5.00pm Mass on Sunday 24th April there will be no Mass in the parish until the Vigil Mass on Saturday 30th April, effectively there will be no Mass Monday - Friday of that week. As the number of priests decline and the number of religious orders in our diocese continues to dwindle we may have to adapt the provision of Masses in our parishes in the years to come when the Parish Priest is on holiday. We have been informed that priests from abroad will no longer be coming to Scotland to relieve priests in the summer as was the case pre-Brexit and pre-Covid.

## SCIAF WEE BOXES

If you still have your SCIAF Wee Box at home could you please return it to the church no later than next weekend. Many thanks to all those parishioners who returned their Wee Boxes to the parish in time for the Mass of the Lord's Last Supper on Holy Thursday.

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Next Sunday at 3.00pm there will be the Divine Mercy Chaplet concluding with Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary's. Please make an effort to come along and join in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

## EASTER COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND

A collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend for the parish. For those who contribute through Giftaid please take an envelope and place your name on it before placing into the Collection bag. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

## THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

The Scottish Catholic magazine, which replaced the Scottish Catholic Observer, are now on sale at the back of both churches. They are priced at £2.00.

## MANY THANKS

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those parishioners who came along to the Masses & Liturgies of the Sacred Triduum last week. It was heartening to see so many of you joining together to commemorate and celebrate the mysteries of our redemption. A special word of thanks to our altar servers, readers, musicians and cantors, extraordinary ministers, florists, sacristans, church cleaners, SSVP, those who tidied and cleaned the parish grounds, to the young people who had their feet washed on Holy Thursday and to anyone else who helped in any way.

### PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£930.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£170.00
Legacy:	£2,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£3,100.00</b>
Holy Places Collection:	£499.70

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

### FR DANNY ROONEY

Fr Danny Rooney, a son of St Mary's Larkhall will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Ordination on 23rd April, we send him our prayerful congratulations and our best wishes. He will mark this milestone on Monday 9th May with a special Mass in St Joseph's Cardowan.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Many thanks to the parents/carers of the children in P4 of both our primary schools for enrolling their children for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion next month. We continue to pray for the young people and their families in the lead up to this important moment.

The dates for the First Holy Communions are below:

**Saturday 7th May** - First Holy Communions at 12noon for the pupils of St Mary's Primary in St Mary's Church

**Saturday 21st May** - First Holy Communions at 12noon for the pupils of St John's Primary in Our Lady & St John's Church

### CONGRATULATIONS

The parish offers our prayerful congratulations to those adults from our parish who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church this weekend. Congratulations to Gillian & Emily who received their First Confession, First Holy Communion & Confirmation, and to Helder, Paulo & Josè who were confirmed. It is a great joy to have had nine parishioners join the Catholic Church over the past two years. Long may it continue.

Our congratulations also go to Caillin Philip Hill who will be baptised at our Easter Sunday 10.00am Mass and to his parents David & Dana as they begin the journey of faith with their baby son.

This weekend is a time of great rejoicing as we see the shoots of new life in our Church reminding us that the Lord is always working in our world to draw people closer to him and to his Catholic Church.

### CABARET NIGHT



The next Cabaret Night will take place on **Friday 29th April** in the Parish Hall.

**GILON, Music through the Decades**

Tickets £7.00

Tickets will be sold at both Masses in Blackwood and at Larkhall at the Saturday Vigil Mass

Contact Angela Stewart on 07733440351

Please give this event your support

### PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet on Monday 9th May at 7.00pm in St Mary's Chapel House to discuss the responses to the Synod Questionnaire and to begin to make plans to implement the suggestions and ideas which were expressed.

The members of the group would be pleased to hear your opinions and suggestions so please speak to them before the meeting. The names of the team were published several times previously, but here they are again:

Russell McAllister  
Suzanne McCaughey  
Scott Smith  
Laura Steele (Kennedy)  
Ciaran Reilly  
Suzanne Sherry

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, John Rosato, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jennifer Cochran, John Corr, Mary Corr, William Tait, Mary Goodwin, Monica McCorry, Frank McCorry, James & Catherine McLaren, McCorry & McLaren Families, Betty Lyons, Andrew Boyle, Tom Campbell, Margaret Brennan, John McCaughey (London)

### EASTER REMEMBRANCES

*On this joyful day of the resurrection we pray that the Risen Lord will receive these souls into his Kingdom*

John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Annie & Michael Creechan, Kennedy Family, Creechan Family, Alice, Cornelius, Jimmy & Michael Weir, John & Catherine Deerin, Gerard Wyllie, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, George Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, David James, Annie Mulhearn, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Marion Hoey, John Allan, Christine McCluskey, Christine Weller, Christine Fuller, Louis Weller, Teresa McCluskey, John McCluskey, David Yardley Kennedy, Robert Kennedy Jnr, Robert Kennedy Snr, James Hotchkiss, Margaret Hotchkiss, Margaret Fotheringham, Linda Smith, Paul Donnachie, Beatrice & Hugh McGhee, The McGhee Family, The McVicar Family, Hugh Morrison, James Whyte, Canon Keane, Jim Higgins, Molly & Joe Tierney, Joe & Jina Tierney, Mary Duncan Kenny, Fay Deveney, Susie Tierney, Robert Hume, Peggy & Pat McGowan, Mary & James McCormack, Patrick & Elaine Young, Eugenia Young, Betty, Edward, Wullie & Margaret McCabe, The Sweeney & McCabe Families, Frank Campbell, Bunty Kane, Millie Lynch, Margaret McGeechan, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Jim Somerville, Alan Rennie, Annie McNally, Charlie McNally (snr), Charlie McNally (Jnr), Johnnie McNally, Edward O'Mara, Joseph & Mary O'Mara, Hugh & Margaret McCann & Family, McGonagle, Stewart & McLaughlin Families, Elizabeth & James Sherry, Logan Ross, James & Grace Sherry, Francis & Elizabeth Caraher, Josephine Rynn, Mary Rynn, Bernard Rynn

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I read recently an Easter Letter from St Athanasius, written 1700 years ago, and it offers encouragement as we prepare to celebrate Easter in 2022. Here are the words of one of our Great Fathers of the Church:

*"Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He, who gave up his Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this Feast, which is commemorated each year. This Feast guides us through the trials that meet us in the world. God now brings us the joy of salvation that shines out from this Feast, as he brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on this feast. Such is the wonder of his love: he gathers to this feast those who are far apart, and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other."*

As we celebrate, filled with the "joy of salvation", we give thanks to God for the gift of the Lord's saving Death and Resurrection and join with our brothers and sisters across the world in doing so. Although physically apart we are united in faith, and this bond of faith inspires our love and our desire to show that love in every way possible. We feel particularly close this Easter to the people of Ukraine, and those of other nations, on whom war and its dreadful consequences have been inflicted. May Jesus, who himself suffered such a brutal death, comfort those who are suffering so much and keep the hope of peace alive – the peace he offered his disciples when he appeared on Easter Sunday.

St Athanasius reminds us that the celebration of Easter guides us through the trials that meet us in the world and we all need that reassurance in our present troubles. We have come through the pandemic, somewhat battered and bruised, and now we face the 'Cost of Living Crisis'. There seems to be little respite but we need to persevere with faith and trust in the Lord, and renew our efforts to support those most in need, wherever they may be.

We can admire the great courage of Our Lady and St John as they stood at the foot of the Cross, giving public witness to their love for Jesus as he suffered and died. There is a call to all of us to imitate them in offering this public witness to the Lord in the practice and living of our Catholic Faith. The Risen Lord poured out the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and his first Disciples and filled them with the necessary courage to proclaim him as Lord, and invite others to place their faith and hope in Him.

We are filled with the same Spirit and ask the Lord to inspire us to be his true and faithful disciples in our present troubled world. I wish you a very Happy Easter, and pray that the Lord will fill you with his peace and courage. Yours in Christ, ✠ Joseph Toal

