

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

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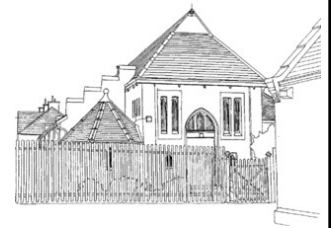
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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
31ST JULY 2022

CELEBRATION OF THE PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

In a few weeks time, from Sunday 4th September until Tuesday 6th September, the parish will once again celebrate the Forty Hours devotion, where as a parish, families and individuals, we take time to honour, adore and respect the Blessed Sacrament on the altar throughout the period of forty hours. Below is the schedule of all that will be taking place in our parish over these days. This year the Forty Hours will take place in Our Lady & St John's.

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

12noon Solemn Mass
12.50pm Blessed Sacrament Procession
with rolls in Hall afterwards
1.00pm Adoration until 5.00pm
5.00pm Holy Mass
5.45pm Adoration until 6.30pm
6.30pm Holy Hour with Solemn
Benediction

MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Adoration until 12noon
11.00am Confessions until 11.45am
12noon Holy Mass with anointing of the
Sick with tea afterwards in Hall
1.00pm Adoration until 8.00pm
1.30pm Visits by the school children
3.00pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm
6.00pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
7.00pm Holy Hour for Families with Solemn
Benediction

TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Confessions until 9.30am
8.50am Adoration until 7.00pm
12noon Angelus & Recitation of the Holy
Rosary
1.40pm Visits by the school children
2.15pm PFFA Commissioning for P6
5.30pm Confessions until 6.15pm
6.30pm Benediction & Closing Mass followed by Parish Social



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 31st July

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

Monday 1st August

12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Alphonsus Ligouri (St Mary's)
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Tuesday 2nd August

9.30am	NO MORNING MASS IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S
6.00pm	Reception of the remains of Terry Meade (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 3rd August

10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12.30pm	Requiem Mass for Terry Meade (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 4th August

9.30am	Holy Mass for Memoria of St John Mary Vianney (Our Lady & St John's)
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Friday 5th August

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Dedication of St Mary Major (St Mary's)
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Saturday 6th August

5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
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FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

1st August - Memoria of St Alphonsus Ligouri - St Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri was born in 1696 near Naples and talented in the arts of music, painting and poetry, his first choice of career was law but, aged 27, he decided to be a priest. He worked among homeless youth in Naples and in nearby rural areas, became known as a preacher with a simple and direct style and as a confessor who, although opposing moral laxity, rejected rigorist attitudes, such as Jansenism. In 1732 he founded the Redemptorist Order and in 1762 he was made bishop of Sant' Agata de' Goti. He had a special devotion to Mary, particularly under the title of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help". Due to ill-health and difficulties for his active work, he resigned from the diocese in 1775 and returned to private life in his order. He died in 1787. He is honoured as the patron of confessors, moral theologians, and the lay apostolate.

4th August - Memoria of St John Mary Vianney - St John Mary Vianney was born in 1786 and had to contend with poverty, military service and his own intellectual shortcomings in order to become a priest. In 1817, he was sent to care for the people of Ars, a small, obscure French village. The marvellous gift of the unlearned priest for seeing into the depths of the soul brought the world to Ars. From 1830 on, the Curè averaged twelve to sixteen hours a day in the confessional hearing confessions. He died in 1858 and is the patron of parish priests.

5th August - Memoria of the Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major - The Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431 declared Mary to be 'Mother of God' (Theotokos). Soon afterwards, Pope Sixtus III had the Basilica of St Mary Major built on the Esquiline Hill in Rome. It is the earliest church built in her honour in the West. It is said that its location was determined by a snowfall on 5th August, a rather rare event during the excruciatingly warm Roman summers, and which enabled a plan of the church to be drawn in situ.

6th August - Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - Accounts of this event are to be found in each of the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke). The feast is, above all, the Father's reassurance that, despite the forthcoming crucifixion of his Son, we must not lose faith in him as our Saviour. He is the Messiah in whom the Father is 'well pleased'.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND

The second of the four collections which take place each financial year for our Church Building Fund will take place on 13th/14th August, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please be as generous as you always are to this collection.

CELEBRATING THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Parish BBQ - Saturday 13th August - To celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, after the Vigil Mass, in the parish grounds of St Mary's, we will have a Parish BBQ. All parishioners from Larkhall and Blackwood are warmly invited with their friends and family. There is a list at the back of the church this weekend, so please place your name on the list by 7th August. Pray for good weather! Many thanks to those who have offered their help in organising this event. Please make a special effort to come along for an hour or two. There will be a donation box available. Please bring your own drink, there will be diluting juice for the kids.

Choral Vespers - The Schola Benedicti is a chamber choir which operates in Scotland and the north of England. They will be in St Mary's on Sunday 14th August to lead us in a sung Solemn Vespers with Benediction at 6.30pm. Please make a special effort to come along that evening. They have as their aim to revive the Church's great musical tradition, especially in the young.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,002.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£120.00
Stall:	£45.00
TOTAL:	£1,167.00
'Sponsor a Tile' Donations to date:	£1,050.00
Many thanks for your very generous support	

MASS FOR THE SICK

On Monday 5th September in Our Lady & St John's, we will celebrate Mass with anointing of the sick. If you would be willing and able to transport the sick and housebound to this Mass could you please speak with Fr Wyllie or Betty McGonagle as soon as possible.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites the whole Diocese to gather for the annual Vocations Mass which will take place on Tuesday 30th August at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral. Please make a special effort to attend this Mass.

NEW PARQUET FLOORING

Due to the upheaval of having to move the church seating and other work, the church will be closed while this work is undertaken. During the time that the church is closed we will use the Parish Hall for the weekday and Sunday Masses. The finished product will really enhance the beauty of the church and will help practically when the pews will be fastened to the floor rather than shifting as they currently do. Samples of the parquet can be found in the stall, have a little look.

SPONSOR A TILE

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those parishioners who have already contributed to the 'Sponsor a Tile' fundraiser. So far, there has been £1,050.00 donated. If you would like to sponsor a tile, as a family or individual, for a deceased loved one or in gratitude for something, then please place a donation of £25.00 per tile in an envelope clearly marked 'SPONSOR A TILE' with the names of the those you would wish the tiles dedicated to inside. A plaque will be commissioned and placed at the back of the church with the names of those to whom the tiles are dedicated to. **Please hand in all sponsor money by next Sunday, 7th August.**

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

When the schools return from the summer holidays, Fr Wyllie will speak to the children and ask them to consider serving on the altar at Sunday Masses. If any child who has made their First Holy Communion would like to serve on the altar then please speak to Fr Wyllie as soon as possible. It would be great to have more of our young people involved in the liturgy, serving God at the altar and assisting the priest as he celebrates Holy Mass.

PARISH INTERNATIONAL MASS & EVENING

A Parish International Night would be an opportunity for us to get to know our parishioners who come from various countries throughout the world. We are very fortunate to have parishioners from different countries in Europe, Oceania, Africa and Asia. What a great blessing that is and one that we should really appreciate more. The evening would include a Mass in Our Lady & St John's followed by food and snacks from the various countries, traditional dress, music and other entertainment in the Parish Hall. This will take place on Friday 9th September with Mass beginning at 6.30pm. We are relying on parishioners to help organise this event. **A meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th August after 7.00pm Mass for all those willing to get involved.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Selina Gold, 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 - Terry Meade (*Reception on Tuesday at 6.00pm, Requiem Mass on Wednesday at 12.30pm*), Maureen Croke (East Kilbride), Joseph Hughes (Bellshill), Marie Scott (Cambuslang), Alice Maskell (Bothwell), Chrissie Ferris (Wishaw)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John & Jane McMurray, Rita Lyons, Marion Houston

GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Today, the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Word of God spurs us to reflect on what our relationship with material things should be.

Although wealth is a good in itself, it should not be considered an absolute good. Above all, it does not guarantee salvation; on the contrary, it may even seriously jeopardise it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus puts his disciples on guard precisely against this risk. It is wisdom and virtue not to set one's heart on the goods of this world for all things are transient, all things can suddenly end.

For us Christians, the real treasure that we must ceaselessly seek consists in the "things above... where Christ is seated at God's right hand"; St Paul reminds us of this today in his Letter to the Colossians, adding that our life "is hid with Christ in God" (see 3: 1-3).

May the Virgin, who was more closely involved in Christ's mystery than any other creature, sustain us on our pilgrimage of faith so that, as the liturgy invites us to pray today, "we do not let ourselves be dominated by greed or selfishness as we toil with our efforts to subdue the earth but seek always what is worthwhile in God's eyes".

GETTING BACK TO OUR NORMAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

As the summer holidays are drawing to a close, our normal weekly parish schedule will resume in mid-August. As we have a few weeks before this happens, Fr Wyllie would like to extend an invitation and an encouragement to all parishioners to support all that happens each week in our parish. Here are a few things he would like to encourage you to come along to:

The Wednesday Evening Mass - This was introduced to enable those who work during the day to attend Mass at least once a week. Although this Mass is quite well attended, there are very few parishioners attending who couldn't attend the morning Mass. So please, if you work during the day, try to make an effort to come along to Mass on a Wednesday evening.

The Monday 12noon Mass - Although this Mass was introduced because Fr Wyllie spent Monday mornings in the High School, it is a good opportunity for people who aren't great in the mornings to manage along to Mass during the week. Please try to come along to the 12noon Mass on a Monday.

Morning Mass - Great emphasis has been placed on receiving Holy Communion as often as possible, but sadly, we have a dwindling number of parishioners attending weekday Mass, especially in Our Lady & St John's (some mornings we only have 5 or 6). If you are retired, part-time, on holiday or unemployed please try to come along to Mass in the mornings to sanctify your day and to come before the altar to hear God's word and receive him sacramentally.

Confessions - We do well here in the parish with people coming for Confession. There are various opportunities each week for Confession so please avail yourself of this Sacrament of God's love and mercy. Each week confessions are heard in St Mary's on a Saturday evening from 4.45pm until 5.15pm and a Wednesday morning from 9.30am until 9.50am; Our Lady & St John's on a Wednesday evening from 6.30pm until 6.50pm and a Thursday morning from 9.00am until 9.30am.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Spending time with the Lord exposed on the altar is a moment of grace for us as individuals and as a parish. Please make a special effort to come along for the periods of adoration which take place each week in both churches.