

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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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19TH JANUARY 2025

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

Today the liturgy proposes the Gospel episode of the wedding at Cana, recounted by John, an eyewitness of the event. This episode has been allocated to this Sunday which immediately follows the Christmas season because, together with the visit of the Magi from the East and the Baptism of Jesus, it forms the trilogy of the Epiphany, in other words the manifestation of Christ. The miracle of the wedding at Cana is in fact "the first of his signs" (Jn 2:11), that is, the first miracle that Jesus worked with which he showed his glory in public, inspiring faith in his disciples.

Let us briefly recall the events that occurred during that wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. It happened that there was not enough wine and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, pointed this out to her Son. He answered her that his hour had not yet come; but then acquiesced to Mary's request and, having had the six large jars filled with water, he transformed the water into wine, an excellent wine, better than the previous one. With this "sign" Jesus revealed himself as the messianic Bridegroom come to establish with his people the new and eternal covenant, in accordance with the prophets' words: "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" (Is 62:5). Moreover, wine is a symbol of this joy of love; but it also alludes to the blood that Jesus was to pour out at the end to seal his nuptial pact with humanity.

Jesus is not a wonder-worker, he does not play games with his power in what is, after all, a private affair. No, he gives a sign, in which he proclaims his hour, the hour of the wedding-feast, the hour of union between God and man. The wedding-feast becomes an image of that moment when Jesus pushed love to the utmost, let his body be broken and thus gave himself to us for ever, having become completely one with us - a marriage between God and man. The hour of the Cross, the hour which is the source of the Sacrament, in which he gives himself really to us in flesh and blood, puts his Body into our hands and our hearts, this is the hour of the wedding feast.

The Church is the Bride of Christ who makes her holy and beautiful with his grace. Nevertheless this bride formed of human beings is in constant need of purification. And one of the gravest sins that disfigure the Church's face is that against her visible unity, the historical divisions that separated Christians and that have not yet been resolved. The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is taking place in these very days, from 18th to 25th January, an event much appreciated by believers and communities, which reawakens in all the desire for, and spiritual commitment to, full communion.

Once again we add to the prayer for Christian unity the prayer for peace. Praying that in the various wars that are, unfortunately, still raging, the despicable massacre of defenceless civilians may cease, an end be put to every form of violence and the courage be found for dialogue and negotiation. For these intentions, let us invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy, Mediatrix of grace.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 19th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
2.30pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 20th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
Tuesday 21st January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Agnes (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 22nd January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
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 Second Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 23rd January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 24th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Francis De Sales (St Mary's)
Saturday 25th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

21st January - Memoria of St Agnes - St Agnes was born in 291, and is one of the youngest virgin martyrs whose names have a permanent place in the first Eucharistic Prayer (Roman Canon). She refused several approaches from young men, one of whom denounced her to the authorities as a Christian. She was put to death in the year 303, aged thirteen. She is the patron saint of rape victims.

24th January - Memoria of St Francis De Sales - St Francis de Sales was born in 1567 and became Bishop of Geneva when it had become a strong centre of the Protestant Reformation. He won back many to the Faith by his gentle and patient nature which even won the respect of his opponents. "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar" was a saying of his. He died in 1622, and is the patron saint of the Catholic press.

25th January - Feast of the Conversion of St Paul - The Conversion of St Paul is recorded twice in great detail in the Acts of the Apostles (chapters 9 and 22). It presents us with the mystery of how he rose to greater prominence than most of the Twelve already hand-picked by Christ, and why he needed to be chosen in such a dramatic fashion.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Any young man considering the priesthood is invited to a Vocations evening in the Cathedral House, Motherwell on Tuesday 28th January at 7.00pm, or contact Fr Wyllie.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will take place on Monday 17th February beginning at 6.30pm with the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Doctor Valerie Fleming, a Judge on the Scottish Marriage Tribunal which deals with the Annulment Process for marriages. This is a subject which generates much interest, so please come along and learn more about the Annulment Process.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £826.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £380.00
Total: £1,206.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a standing order for the parish:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**
Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

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**



SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

An invitation is extended to a Diocesan Gathering to reflect with Bishop Brian McGee on the recent Synod on Synodality on Tuesday 21st January at 7.00pm in the Xavier Centre at Carfin. Bishop McGee was the Scottish Church's representative at the Sessions of the Synod in Rome in 2023 and 2024, and has kindly agreed to come to Motherwell Diocese to share his experience of the Synod and to participate in reflection on how we foster Synodality in Motherwell Diocese. Bishop Toal invites all parishioners to attend.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The next Auchlochan Mass & Lunch will take place in Our Lady & St John's on Thursday 30th January beginning with Mass at 12.30pm followed by the lunch in the Parish Hall. As always, all parishioners are invited but please let Betty McGonagle know for catering purposes.

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The annual Church Workers Social will take place on Friday 21st February beginning with a drinks reception at 6.45pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who perform ministries and fulfil roles in our two churches to come together in a social setting to foster a greater sense of community and working together as two churches but one parish. Those who are invited to this evening are those who currently perform the following duties, roles or ministries: Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Musicians & Cantors, Sacristans, Cleaners, Florists, Grounds Workers, Hall Team members, Pastoral Planning Team members, Finance Team members, Wellspring Working Group members, RCIA Leaders, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Stall workers, Mini Vinnie Leaders, Housekeepers, Bar Volunteers, SSVP members, Collection Counters, those who wash the altar vessels and altar linens. Further details and menus will be available over the next few weeks.



FRIDAY PARISH DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

2.00pm - 7.00pm



GROWN-UPS PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 7.00PM

GROWNUPS ONLY Donations of Prizes Welcome



CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Drinks Reception beginning at 6.45pm



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Marilyn McLearn, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Irene Kennedy, Robbie Frew, Margaret Campbell

RIP - John McGonagle (Troon), Anne McCrossan, Sheena McGrail (Hamilton), Moira McIntyre

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael & Mary Vernal, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, Sam McAuley, Very Rev Henry Canon McGinn, Maureen Hutchens, Alice Watters

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

PARISH EVENTS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

24th January	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
27th January	Patronal Feast Day of St John's Primary	OLSJ	2.00pm
30th January	Lunch Club Mass & Social	Parish Hall	12.30pm
31st January	Grown-Ups Prize Bingo	Parish Hall	7.00pm-Late
11th February	P7 Confirmation Retreat	Parish Hall	9.30am-2.30pm
21st February	Church Workers Social	Parish Hall	6.45pm-Late
25th February	First Confessions	OLSJ	6.30pm
26th February	First Confessions	St Mary's	1.30pm
27th February	Lunch Club Mass & Social	Parish Hall	12.30pm
28th February	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
2nd March	Light Bite After Mass	Parish Hall	12.40pm
6th March	Bishop's Visit to the Parish	Both Schools	1.30pm
12th March	Confirmations	St Mary's	7.00pm
15th March	Family Event	Parish Hall	6.30pm-Late
27th March	Lunch Club Mass & Social	Parish Hall	12.30pm
28th March	School Mass & Coffee Morning	St Mary's	10.00am
28th March	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
24th April	Lunch Club Mass & Social	Parish Hall	12.30pm
25th April	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
4th May	Light Bite After Mass	Parish Hall	12.40pm
10th May	First Holy Communions	OLSJ	12noon
17th May	First Holy Communions	St Mary's	12noon
23rd May	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
24th May	Scottish Cup Final	Parish Hall	Time TBC
31st May	Prosecco Afternoon High Tea	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
19th June	P7 Leavers Mass	St John's	1.30pm
23rd June	P7 Leavers Mass	St Mary's	1.30pm
26th June	Lunch Club Mass & Social	Parish Hall	12.30pm
27th June	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
25th July	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
16th August	Parish BBQ	Parish Hall	6.30pm-Late
5th September	Parish International Night	Parish Hall	6.30pm-Late
7th September	Parish Forty Hours Adoration	OLSJ	7th-9th Sept
26th September	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-7.00pm
3rd October	Parish Race Night	Parish Hall	7.00pm-Late
31st October	Parish Friday Drinks	Parish Hall	2.00pm-Late
1st November	Family Halloween Party	Parish Hall	7.00pm-Late
23rd November	Light Bite After Mass	Parish Hall	12.40pm
28th November	Grown-Ups St Andrew's Ceilidh	Parish Hall	7.00pm-Late
8th December	Patronal Feast Day of St Mary's Primary	St Mary's	10.00am
31st December	Parish Hogmanay Party	Parish Hall	8.30pm-Late