

# 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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - catholicparishourladyoffatima

Twitter - OLOFParish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## THIRD SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT 15TH DECEMBER 2024

### THE COMMUNION RITE

Through the words and actions of the priest God touches those gifts of bread and wine with the power of the Holy Spirit and transfigures those gifts into the Body and Blood of Christ. When we finish the Eucharistic Prayer and move into what is the Communion Rite, the sacrifice becomes the feast. The altar of sacrifice now becomes the table of the feast. God sits down with us and shares the feast with us to seal the bond of communion from which the sacrifices come.



We begin that moment by praying the Lord's Prayer. Again, we have no words of our own to bring. We have no gifts of our own to bring. The words that we have to bring to this moment of the feast are words which Jesus Himself has given.

Then we pray the prayer: deliver us Lord from every evil. In the midst of all of that we ask God to give us the peace that comes from God saving us from sin and distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour. So that again we're focused on past, present and future.

Once we've prayed the Lord's Prayer we pray for peace. The peace which only God can give. We pray for peace as we come to share the feast and then we share the peace with each other which is also peace with God. If appropriate we share with each other the sign of the peace.

The sign of peace is not just another handshake or wishing each other well, it's recognising the truth of who we have become because of what God has done and we recognise that same truth in others.

After the sign of Peace, the priest takes the host into which the Spirit of God has been breathed and which has become the Body of Christ, and he breaks the host. And one of the oldest names for Mass or the Eucharist was 'the breaking of the bread'. But this bread is no longer just bread. When we break it, we're saying that the body of Jesus was broken for us or, as we say, for the life of the world. The bread must be broken in order to be shared by everyone. If it's not broken it cannot be shared. Similarly, the body of Jesus had to be broken on the cross for the whole world to be fed with the life of God, which is our true life.

Once the host is broken the priest will hold up the body of Christ and the chalice which is the blood of Christ and say: "Behold the Lamb of God...". This language takes us way back into the book of Exodus, the story of the liberation of the slaves from Egypt where they ate the lamb of the Passover. Jesus is the Lamb and the feast, the lamb of the feast that we are about to share.

The Communion Rite comes to its high point when finally we come to receive what God provides. As we receive the host, the priest says 'the Body of Christ'. When we say 'Amen' we're saying yes I believe that this is the body of the crucified and risen Christ but we're also saying that we believe that we are a part of the body of Christ and that we share the feast as a single body.



**Our Lady of Fatima Parish where we are inclusive  
and all are welcome to live and grow in faith.**



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Sunday 15th December** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent (Our Lady & St John's)  
 6.30pm Receiving of Body & Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**Monday 16th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 12noon Requiem Mass for Kathleen Brannigan (St Mary's)  
 6.30pm Reconciliation Mass followed by Confessions (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 17th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)  
 9.30am Rorate Mass in Honour of Our Lady (Our Lady & St John's)  
 9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 18th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

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 18th December (St Mary's)  
 NO ADORATION, CONFESSIONS OR MASS THIS EVENING

**Thursday 19th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

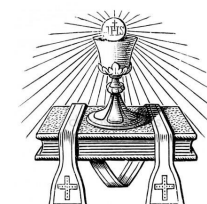
9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)  
 9.00am Confessions until 9.20am (Our Lady & St John's)  
 9.30am Holy Mass for 19th December (Our Lady & St John's)

**Friday 20th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 10.00am Holy Mass for 20th December (St Mary's)

**Saturday 21st December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)  
**5.00pm** Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)



## RECONCILIATION MASS

A Reconciliation Mass will take place in St Mary's this Monday at 6.30pm. After Mass there will be the opportunity for individual confession with visiting priests joining Fr Wyllie to hear confessions. Fr Wyllie is aware that in the past General Absolution was offered in this parish for Advent and Lent, but the Church only permits this to take place in danger of death or in emergencies, so only individual confessions will be available after Mass, there will be no general absolution. This is a beautiful moment for us to avail ourselves of the great love and mercy God shows to each of us.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION BEFORE CHRISTMAS

After 10.00am Mass (SM)

**Sunday 15th December**

After 12noon Mass (OLSJ)

4.00pm - 4.45pm (OLSJ)

**Monday 16th December**

After 6.30pm Mass (SM)

**Tuesday 17th December**

After 9.30am Mass (OLSJ)

**Wednesday 18th December**

9.30am - 9.50am (SM)

**Thursday 19th December**

After 9.30am Mass (OLSJ)

**Saturday 21st December**

4.00pm - 4.45pm; After Vigil Mass (SM)

**Sunday 22nd December**

9.15am - 9.45am; After 10.00am Mass (SM)

After 12noon Mass; 4.00pm - 4.45pm, after 5.00pm Mass (OLSJ)



## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £1,465.00  
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £230.00  
**Total: £1,695.00**

**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**

*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**



## SSVP BIG COAT COLLECTION

Many thanks to all those who donated to the recent 'Big Coat Collection' over the past few weeks. The wonderful response and generosity of parishioners is very gratefully received by those who work to provide some comfort for those who are struggling. May God bless you all for your generosity to this cause.

## OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN OUR DIOCESE

The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, which traditionally takes place every 25 years. He will open the Jubilee Year and Holy Door on Christmas Eve at the Vatican, but each Diocese is being asked to do the same. The Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year will take place in Motherwell Cathedral on Sunday 29th December at 3.00pm. Bishop Toal invites everyone throughout the diocese to join him for this special occasion on that day.

## VOCATIONS EVENING

A meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral for those in our diocese who feel called to the priesthood. This informal evening will begin with a short time of prayer and provide an opportunity for anyone considering a vocation to the priesthood to ask questions, come together and learn a bit more about the discernment process. Any young man who is considering a vocation should be speak with Fr Wyllie.

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A longstanding tradition is for a special collection to be taken up at the Christmas Masses, offering parishioners an opportunity to make a gift (according to their means) to the parish. This second collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

The boys and girls of St Mary's Primary School invite parishioners to join them for their Candlelit Carol Service on Friday 20th December at 2.00pm in the church.

## VIGIL MASS THIS WEEKEND

Fr Wyllie is attending the Diaconate Ordination of one of diocesan seminarians, Christopher Igwe, which takes place in St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham, on Saturday morning. Fr Colum Martin, Curate at St Bride's East Kilbride and chaplain to Hairmyres Hospital and St Andrew's & St Bride's High School, will celebrate the Vigil Mass this weekend. We thank Fr Colum for agreeing to celebrate this Mass for us.

## AUCHLOCHAN RETIREMENT VILLAGE

A special Mass will take place in Auchlochan Retirement Village for the residents this Thursday at 1.00pm. Holy Communion will be brought to those who are unable to attend the Mass. There will be the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession and Anointing of the Sick for those who wish to avail themselves of these Sacraments too.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Rita Blair, 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

**RIP** - Kathleen Brannigan (*Receiving Sunday 6.30pm; Requiem Mass Monday 12noon*), John McLoughlin, Patricia Walters, John Rimmer, James Montague, Ann O'Grady

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jim Sherry, Martin Mulhearn

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

## CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

Christmas is a time when the absence of a deceased loved one can be particularly acute. Each Christmas we have the opportunity to have our dead family members, friends and fellow parishioners remembered at the Christmas Masses. If you wish your departed loved ones remembered at our Christmas Masses please place their names on a list and place in an envelope clearly marked 'Christmas Remembrances' and return to the Parish House or sacristy by 12noon on Thursday 19th December at the latest.

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

Fr Wyllie will be travelling with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year and would like to invite parishioners to form a pilgrimage group from our parish. We will depart from Prestwick Airport on 14th July on a chartered flight for one week. If interested please speak with Fr Wyllie.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Both our stalls have a selection of cards, cribs and other seasonal items for us to help keep Christ in Christmas. Please have a look after Mass this weekend or next weekend and support our stall and our efforts to keep Christ in Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISH



5.00pm (OLSJ)

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

8.30pm (SM)

12.00am (SM)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00am (SM)

12noon (OLSJ)

*Please invite your family members, friends and neighbours*



## FEAST OF ST JOHN CELEBRATIONS

The Parish Hall

**FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER**

**12noon Mass & Afternoon in the Hall**

*Followed by: Soup, Sandwiches, Bar, Games & Raffle*



## HOGMANAY PARTY NIGHT

The Parish Hall

**TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER**

**8.30pm until 1.30am**

Adult Ticket - £10.00

Children under 16 - Free

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON LIST WHEN YOU PURCHASE YOUR TICKET**

