

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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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25TH DECEMBER 2024

BISHOP TOAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

On the First Sunday of Advent, a phrase from the Reading from St Paul's Letter to The Thessalonians caught my attention – it was “more and more”. In some ways “more and more” may sum up Christmas for many of us - more lights and decorations, more shopping and presents, more parties and festive treats, more songs and entertainment, more gatherings of family and friends. The list can continue and we are very lucky when we can enjoy many of these good things.

Why did St Paul use these words then? Here is what he wrote:
...We ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us, how you ought to walk and please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

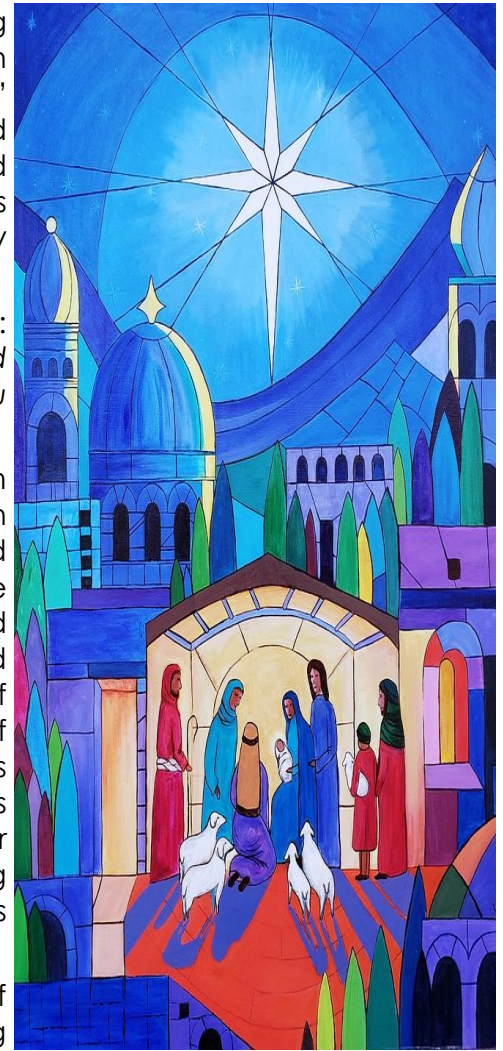
It sounds that he recommends making more and more room for Jesus in our lives, so that we can walk and please God in the way Jesus himself and the Apostles taught. We should certainly try to make more room for Jesus at Christmas as we listen again to the great story of his birth at Bethlehem, and celebrate it in prayer and in song in our churches, homes, and schools. The true and full celebration of Christmas is a mark of our identity as Christians, and our joy that God became one of us to bring us salvation. In the spirit of St Paul's instruction let us be united in the Lord Jesus this Christmas and, through his grace, draw more and more closer to him, through our prayer and our charity to those more needy than ourselves. By doing this we strive to fully please God as true and faithful followers of Jesus, his Son and Our Lord.

On Christmas Night Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of 2025 by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's in Rome. Along with dioceses throughout the world we will begin the Jubilee here in Motherwell on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. I invite you me to join

me that afternoon for the Opening Service, followed by Mass in the Cathedral. Like Christmas, our Jubilee Year will be a period of more and more as we make extra efforts to celebrate and live our faith both at home and on pilgrimage. The theme for the year is Pilgrims of Hope, and as we continue our earthly pilgrimage in our difficult world we do indeed need more and more hope, flowing from our faith in God, and witnessed by our charity as members of Christ's Body.

May the Lord bless you and your families with love and peace this Christmas, and may our celebration of his birth bring renewed hope to all in hardship and distress.

✠ Joseph Toal



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Tuesday 24th December (St Mary's open 9.00am - 1.00am; OLSJ 8.00am - 6.00pm)

5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)

8.00pm Carol Service preceding Mass (St Mary's)

8.30pm **First Mass of the Nativity of the Lord** (St Mary's)

12.00am **Midnight Mass of the Nativity of the Lord** (St Mary's)

Wednesday 25th December (St Mary's open 9.10am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am **Dawn Mass of the Nativity of the Lord** (St Mary's)

12noon **Day Mass of the Nativity of the Lord** (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 26th December (St Mary's closed - 1.00am; OLSJ closed)

NO MASS IN OUR PARISH TODAY

Friday 27th December (St Mary's closed; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.30pm)

12noon **Solemn Mass for the Feast of St John** (Our Lady & St John's)

Saturday 28th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm **Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (St Mary's)

Sunday 29th December (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am **Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (St Mary's)

12noon **Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (Our Lady & St John's)

NO 5.00PM MASS

Monday 30th December (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 30th December (St Mary's)

Tuesday 31st December (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 8.30pm)

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

7.45pm **Service of Prayer for 2024/2025 with Adoration & Benediction** (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 1st January (St Mary's closed; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

12noon **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 2nd January (St Mary's closed; OLSJ closed)

NO MASS IN THE PARISH TODAY

Friday 3rd January (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (St Mary's)

Saturday 4th January (St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm **Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany** (St Mary's)

Sunday 5th January (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

10.00am **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany** (St Mary's)

12noon **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany** (Our Lady & St John's)

NO 5.00PM MASS



CHRISTMAS

ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

Each year at Christmas across the Dioceses of Glasgow, Galloway, Motherwell and Paisley we have a box at or near the crib scene in our churches for St Margaret's Adoption Society which helps the most vulnerable children in our communities. They do wonderful work in fostering and adoptions. The financial support they receive from the parish crib collections is invaluable in supporting the life-long nature of adoption work that they offer to children and families. Please be as generous as you always are to the crib collection for St Margaret's.



FEAST OF ST JOHN CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

12noon Mass & Afternoon in the Hall

DONATIONS OF RAFFLE PRIZES WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£910.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£350.00
Votive Candles:	£451.00
Stall:	£35.00
Total:	£1,746.00

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**



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A longstanding tradition is for a second collection to be taken up at the Christmas Masses, offering parishioners an opportunity to make a gift (according to their means) to the parish. If you Giftaid to the parish, please place your offering in an envelope with your name on it.

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN OUR DIOCESE

The Jubilee Year opens in our diocese with a pilgrimage moving towards the Cathedral behind the cross prepared by Holy Cross High School for the Jubilee - a pilgrim people behind the cross of Christ which remains the anchor of salvation.

People are invited to gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Carfin at 1.00pm on Sunday 29th December for a short gathering that introduces the pilgrimage and the opening of the Holy Year. Bishop Toal, with a small group of young people, will then make the first part of the pilgrimage towards the Cathedral.

At 2.30pm, all people from across the diocese are invited to gather in St Bride's Hall (across from the Cathedral) for another gathering on the journey behind the cross and for the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, the veneration of the cross, a memorial of our baptism and the celebration of Mass at 3.00pm for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

SUNDAY 5.00PM MASS

There will be no Sunday 5.00pm Mass in Our Lady & St John's next weekend (29th December) due to the Diocesan Mass for the Opening of the Jubilee Year and opening of the Holy Door, which the Bishop has asked all priests and lay faithful to attend. There will also be no 5.00pm Mass on Sunday 5th January. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

To give thanks to God for the year 2024 and to ask for his blessings on the new year of 2025, a special service will take place in Our Lady & St John's on 31st December beginning at 7.45pm. This service will give us the opportunity to reflect, give thanks and offer our prayers to God for ourselves, our families, our parish and our world for the coming year of 2025. A warm invitation is extended to everyone to come along and place ourselves in God's presence.

MANY THANKS FROM FR WYLLIE

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those parishioners who have worked so hard in preparing the churches and the Masses for this special time of year. A particular word of thanks must go to those who decorated the trees, put up the cribs, the cleaners, the florists, the altar servers, sacristans, readers, organists, cantors and musicians, as well as the passkeepers and those who work so hard to ensure our parish liturgies go so well and our churches look so beautiful.

On a personal note Fr Wyllie would like to thank the many parishioners who have handed in cards and gifts for himself and Baloo. The generosity and kindness of so many is not taken for granted, he is very, very grateful indeed. May God reward you all for your kindness.

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 - David Fotheringham, Marie Dunn, Janet McMillan, Eddie McKnight (Gourock)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Esther Keane, Sam McTaggart, Ernie Girvan

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

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

This Christmas time we pray for those whom we have loved and lost and commend them to God:



Fay & John Coyle, Katie & Tommy McMenamin, David Short; Jim Sherry, Elizabeth Sherry, Logan Ross; John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, Margaret & Eddie Love, Cathie & George Gibney, Catherine Anne Bews, James Kennedy, The Kennedy Family, The Creechan Family; John C. Gowans; John & Jane McMurray, Philip & Ida Holton, Ken & Amelia Gough, Jim & Mary Dow; Very Reverend Henry Canon McGinn, Very



Reverend Patrick Canon Moss, Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas Fehily; John & Catherine Deerin, Gerard Wyllie, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, George Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, Kevin Wyllie, David James, Ellen Mullen, Frank Lyons, Margaret Douglas, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Paul McKenna, Jim McShane; Alice & Cornelius Weir & Family; John & Letty Gonnella; John McManus, Jane & John McMurray, Deceased members of the McManus & Reilly Families; Robert Maguire, Isa & Walter Freeland, Ian Quinn, Maguire Family, Gallacher Family; Sam McCluskey, May McCluskey, Hugh McCluskey; The McGonagle, Stewart & McLoughlin Families; Chris Crumley, Melville Family, McKenna Family; Jim & Mary Somerville, Robert Brown, Alan Rennie, Jim & Margaret Matthews, Charlie & Margaret McNally, Charlie & Annie McNally; Christina Fuller, Christina Weller, James Hotchkiss, Margaret Hotchkiss, Louis Weller, Robert Kennedy Snr, Robert Kennedy Jnr, Christina McCluskey, Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, David Yardley Kennedy, John McStea, Sharon Campbell, Barry Miles, Alexander Young, Teresa McCluskey, John McCluskey; Frank McCorry, James & Catherine McLaren, McLaren Family, Charles & Monica McCorry, Wedlock & Payne Families; The Sweeney & McCabe Families, Margaret Curley Foix, Janey McIntosh, Pat Grace, Kathleen McGeoch, Bunty Kane, Margaret McGeechan, Frank Campbell, Milly Lynch; Margaret & Tommy, Joseph, John, Alec, Michael, Tom & Rose Stirling, Eleanor & Martin Stirling; Michael Simpson, Simon Cheresna; Sarah & James Dykes, Jane & James Connachan, Jackie Smith, Tommy Stewart, Lorraine Barratt, Jim Bryson, Edith Mitchell, Mary & Edward Gethins, Peggy Wilson; Father Adrian Noonan, Raymond Holmes, Danny Cunningham, Margaret & James Girvan, Tom & Susan Girvan, Ernie Girvan, Sadie Girvan, Rita & James Lyons, Vida & Thomas Wilson, Margaret & Les Bennet, Grace Girvan; Martin Gibney, Nancy Duncan, McLaughlin Family, Duncan Family; Mrs Mary Dawson, Deceased members of the Burgess, Dawson & Fleming Families; James Quigley, Michael Quigley, Maureen Quigley, Tony Agnew Snr, Billy Agnew, Jean McLroy, William McLroy, Abbie Douglas, Iza Douglas, Allison Douglas, Margaret Fletcher, Lawrence Fletcher, William Fletcher, Charles Coyle Snr, Mary Coyle, Molly Fletcher, Christy Fletcher, Una Fletcher;

Next bulletin will be for 4th/5th January. All intimations to be handed in by 12noon on 2nd Jan.



HOGMANAY PARTY NIGHT

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

8.30pm until 1.30am

