

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
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Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall & Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 28TH JULY 2024

THE CHRISTIAN CREED

There's a clever scene in the film *Unbreakable*. Bruce Willis gets onto a train and settles into a seat by the window. A few moments later, a woman comes into the carriage and sits near him. She's young and beautiful and he catches her eye. And then the camera focuses on his hands. You see him turning his wedding ring, pulling it off his finger, and hiding it in his pocket.

Without using any words, it says everything. The ring is a symbol of his marriage, and he knows that; and he knows that others will know that to, which is why he wants to conceal it.

It reminds me of another film called *Silence* by Martin Scorsese. This tells the true story of Christianity in seventeenth century Japan. The Japanese Catholics would often keep a religious picture in their homes: perhaps an image of Jesus on the Cross, or the Virgin Mary.

When the government started to persecute Christianity, they needed a way of identifying those who were Christian. They'd gather people in the village square; put on of these Christian images on the ground; and tell villagers to step on it. If someone refused, it showed they were willing to stand up for their faith.

Now you might say these are just symbols: a wedding ring, a Christian image. But symbols are important. They help us to see what someone believes and what they care about.

One of the most important symbols of Christian faith is the creed. A creed is a written summary of what Christians believe. Jesus said "the truth will set you free", and the creed presents the central truths of Christian teaching.

It's the whole amazing adventure of faith, from before creation until the end of time, squeezed into just a few lines, with the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ at the very centre. In itself, the creed is tiny, but it's like a crystal that reflects the light of a million suns, or a data stick that contains a code to unlock the mysteries of the universe.

There are different versions of the creed. The Nicene Creed is incredibly old. It goes back to the fourth century. In the British Museum there is an ancient copy of this creed written by hand in Egypt about 1,500 years ago.

The Apostles' Creed is even older. It goes back nearly 2000 years to the Christian community in 2nd century Rome. It sums up the teaching of Jesus and the teaching of the whole Bible in just a few words. It gives you a direct connection with the faith of the early Church.

We all have our own story to tell, our faith is incredibly personal. But it's not just a personal story. Through baptism we become part of something much bigger than ourselves.

Fr Stephen Wang, Sycamore Course RCIA.



**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 28th July

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

Monday 29th July

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Martha, St Mary & St Lazarus (St Mary's)

Tuesday 30th July

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 31st July

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria St Ignatius of Loyola (St Mary's)

Thursday 1st August

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Requiem Mass for Margaret Matthews (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 2nd August

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Votive Mass in honour of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (St Mary's)

Saturday 3rd August

4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th July - Memoria of St Martha, St Mary & St Lazarus - These three siblings lived in Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, and were friends of Jesus. On one visit, Jesus had Mary sitting at his feet and listening to him when Martha complained that she was not helping her to prepare the meal. Jesus chided Martha, telling her that her sister 'had chosen the better part'. Later, we hear the graphic account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead to the delight of the two sisters. In 2023 Pope Francis decreed that henceforth the three siblings should share their feast day today.

31st July - Memoria of St Ignatius of Loyola - St Ignatius of Loyola was born in the Basque country of northern Spain in 1491. Ignatius became a soldier and was seriously injured in battle at Pamplona in 1521. It was during his long recuperation that he received the grace of spiritual conversion. He read about the lives of Christ and the saints and realised their worth, compared to the lives of so many people like himself. Such 'discernment of spirits' became an essential element in his Spiritual Exercises, composed 1522-1524. Later, at the University of Paris, he and five fellow students took religious vows (the first step in founding the Society of Jesus); in 1539 a special vow was added of total obedience to the pope. Ignatius in Rome led the new order. It became a key element in the Counter Reformation and still remains pertinent in the education of the young, in foreign missions, in charitable work, in scholarship. He died in 1556. He is the patron saint of spiritual retreats and soldiers.

1st August - St Alphonsus Ligouri - St Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri was born near Naples in 1696 and was 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 the see 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 and is the patron of moral theologians.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

The next Church Building Fund collection will take place on the weekend 17th/18th August. Please give as generously as you always do to this collection to maintain our church properties.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£830.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£150.00
Stall:	£25.00
Total:	£1,005.00

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**



PARISH BBQ

If you wish to come along to the Parish BBQ on Saturday 24th August in the grounds of Our Lady & St John's, please place your name on the list at the back of the church. We are in need of volunteers to help with the shopping, setting up and helping on the night. The more help, the lighter the work. If you could help, please speak with Suzanne Sherry or email: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com

PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

The list is available at the back of the church for those who wish to come along to the Parish International Night on Friday 6th September. The evening will begin with Mass at 6.30pm, followed by an International Night in the Parish Hall. This evening will include fun for all the family, the bar will be open and also food from the various countries represented in our parish. If you could cook a dish for this event, please put the country on the list at the back of the church beside your name. Please come along and support this event.

NO BULLETIN

There will be no bulletin for the weekends of 11th and 18th August. If you have any notices or intimations for the bulletin please hand them in by this Thursday at 12noon or wait until the bulletin for 25th August.

PARISH BARBEQUE

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST

6.30pm until Late

NAMES ON LIST AT BACK OF CHURCH



PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

6.30pm - International Mass

7.30pm - International Meal



Inviting all the various nationalities and cultures in our parish to come together for Mass & Meal. If you could prepare a dish from your country of origin please speak with Fr Wyllie.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Rita Blair, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Aaron Mulligan, Margaret McLaughlin, Kerry Peterson, Noel Bennetts

RIP - Margaret Matthews (*Requiem Mass - 1st August at 9.30am*), May McMachen (Hillhouse), Alec Campbell, Josephine Smith (Shawlands)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - John & Jane McMurray, Ian Quinn, Robert Maguire, Isabella Freeland, Willie & Lizzie Stewart, Marion Wright

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

VISIT OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO TO MOTHERWELL

The Pope's Ambassador to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Buendia, will visit the Diocese of Motherwell from Friday 30th August until Sunday 1st September.

On Friday 30th August at 7.00pm, he will celebrate Holy Mass in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Bishop Toal extends an invitation to all parishioners throughout the diocese to this special Mass.

On Saturday 31st August at 10.00am there will be a special Mass for Project Wellspring in the Cathedral, to which all those who are involved in Project Wellspring are especially invited to attend. A presentation on Project Wellspring will take place after the Mass in St Bride's Hall.

On Sunday 1st September at 3.00pm the Papal Nuncio will preside at Mass at Carfin Grotto for the National Pilgrimage. A list is available at the back of the church for a bus from our parish.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites all parishioners to the Diocesan Vocations Mass on Thursday 22nd August at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell to pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood. Please make a special effort to come together as a diocesan family to implore the Lord to send us good and holy priests to serve us into the future.

PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

Our annual period of Forty Hours Adoration will take place this year in St Mary's from Sunday 8th September until Tuesday 10th September. More details will be given at the end of August but the main parts of the timetable (why maybe subject to change) will be:

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

10.00am	Holy Mass & beginning of the Forty Hours
10.40am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.30pm
12noon	Recitation of the Holy Rosary
3.00pm	Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
3.00pm	Confessions until 3.45pm
6.30pm	Solemn Vespers with Benediction

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am	Brief Mass followed by Adoration until 12noon
12noon	Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick
12.45pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Afternoon visits from the school children
6.00pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary
6.30pm	Confessions until 7.45pm
7.00pm	Holy Hour concluding with Benediction

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9.00am	Confessions until 9.50am
10.00am	Holy Mass followed by Adoration until 7.00pm
12noon	Angelus & Recitation of the Holy Rosary/ Afternoon visits from the school children
7.00pm	Closing Mass of the Forty Hours

