

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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Twitter - [OLOFParish](https://twitter.com/OLOFParish) Instagram - [olofparish](https://www.instagram.com/olofparish)

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
29TH SEPTEMBER 2024

THE ALTAR CANDLES

Candles play an important part in Catholic worship of God. They adorn the altar, they stand by the ambo (lectern), you hold them as acolytes, people light them in front of the Blessed Sacrament or a statue or shrine.

Whenever the Blessed Sacrament is in the tabernacle a special candle, the Sanctuary Lamp, always burns close by. The Easter Vigil starts with the lighting of the Easter Fire and the blessing and lighting of the Paschal Candle as the priest prays "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds"—it is carried into a darkened church and the risen Christ is again proclaimed to be our light as people light their own candles from it. It remains lit at all liturgical celebrations during the Easter Season and at baptisms and funerals throughout the year.



Candles are required for the celebration of the Mass. They are used at every liturgical service – at baptisms, penance services, marriages, funerals, vespers, benediction, etc. as a sign of the dignity and festiveness of the celebration. Their light signifies Christ – the light of the world. Their gradual burning down as the wax is consumed serves as a sign of Christ's self-sacrifice in the service of His mission.

The number of candles used does have a significance. Their varying number is a good way of marking the various days and celebrations of the Church's year. Two candles are usually used for feria days (when no feast is being celebrated) and memorias, the two candles speaks to us of the two natures of Christ - human and divine. Four candles are used for feast days and six candles are used on Sundays, solemnities and important celebrations.

When the diocesan bishop celebrates Mass on an important occasion like the Sacrament of Confirmation an odd number of candles, seven, are placed on the altar. This is to signify the completeness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders represented by the presence of the bishop.

The use of candles reminds us of the early Christians who celebrated the Mass in the dark of the catacombs. We also use acolyte candles carried by servers at Solemn and High Masses, to accompany the processional cross and the procession of the Book of the Gospels.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which governs what happens during Mass, states: "The candlesticks required for the different liturgical services for reasons of reverence or the festive character of the celebration should be appropriately placed either on the altar or around it, according to the design of the altar and the sanctuary, so that the whole may be harmonious and the faithful may not be impeded from a clear view of what takes place at the altar or what is placed upon it. Likewise, either on the altar or near it, there is to be a cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, a cross clearly visible to the assembled people."

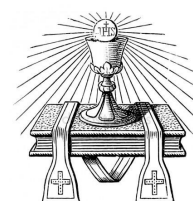


**Our Lady of Fatima Parish where we are inclusive
and all are welcome to live and grow in faith.**



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 29th September	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 30th September	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Jerome (St Mary's)
Tuesday 1st October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 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 Therese of the Child Jesus (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 2nd October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)</i>
9.25am	October Devotions (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Guardian Angels (St Mary's)
6.25pm	October Devotions (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Guardian Angels (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 3rd October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>
9.30am	School Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 4th October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 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 of Assisi (St Mary's)
Saturday 5th October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

30th September - Memoria of St Jerome - St Jerome was born around 342 and became an ascetic and a scholar, ordained priest at Antioch in 379, he went to Constantinople where he and St Gregory Nazianzen became friends. In 382 he moved to Rome, becoming secretary to Pope Damasus and being known for his sanctity, learning and eloquence. He chose to live in Bethlehem in 386 and to complete his writings: letters, treatises, commentaries on Scripture and, especially, the 'Vulgate' translation of the Bible into Latin. He is honoured as a Father of the Church. He died in 420 and is the patron saint of translators and librarians.

1st October - Memoria of St Therese of Lisieux - St Therese was born in Alençon in Normandy in 1873, she was permitted to enter the nearby Lisieux Carmel in her mid-teens. Not of robust health, she practised humility, simplicity and trust in God. In her autobiographical *Histoire d'une âme*, she writes of her 'Little Way' by which ordinary and insignificant people can be saints through a childlike approach to God. She died in 1897, was canonised a saint in 1925, a patron saint of France in 1947 and a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

2nd October - Memoria of the Guardian Angels - We know that angels exist from Sacred Scripture. Without being too specific regarding details, the Church teaches that God assigns an angel or angels to guard us during our life on earth. This belief illustrates God's providential care for each of us.

4th October - Memoria of St Francis of Assisi - Born in 1181, the son of a rich Assisi merchant, at 24 he gave up his opulent lifestyle and devoted himself to care for the sick and the poor, giving up his inheritance and choosing to live as a hermit. By 1219 his new band of brothers, becoming known as Franciscans, had reached 5000 in number. He visited Egypt in 1223 and preached before the Muslim Sultan, from this came the special privileges the Franciscans have, called the 'Custody' of the Holy Land, being guardians of the great sites associated with the Lord's life, death and resurrection. Through his example and advice, St Clare founded the Franciscan way for women, the Poor Clares. He was also the first to introduce crib scenes in churches. He died in 1226. He is the patron saint of the environment and animals.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

12noon - 59

5.00pm - 57

Total - 116

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£780.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£160.00
Votive Candles:	£502.00
Stall:	£60.00
Total:	£1,502.00

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**



PROJECT WELLSRING PARISH DISCUSSION

The Parish Discussion took place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening with a good number of parishioners attending. Fr Wyllie would like to thank the Mission Leads who took part in the Parish Discussion and also everyone who came along and gave their thoughts, suggestions and opinions which will form our action plan for the way ahead for our parish over the coming months and years. Many thanks to the ladies who provided the teas, coffees and biscuits.

RCIA PROGRAMME

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church please speak with Fr Wyllie over the next few days. It is hoped to begin the RCIA Programme early October with those who complete the RCIA programme being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil 2025. We have been very blessed to have received 14 adults into the church over the past four years in our parish. If you know anyone who might be interested please let them know.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025

For our 2025 Parish Pilgrimage, rather than Rome we are looking at two alternative options. These two options are: Tuscany with trips to Florence/Pisa/Cinque Terre, or, Padua with trips to Lake Garda/Milan. It is unfortunate that a pilgrimage to Rome is proving to be so difficult but airlines and hotels have increased their prices due to the Holy Year. If you would be interested in either option please let Fr Wyllie know as soon as possible. October 2025 is the most probable time.

UPDATE OF WORKS TO PARISH PROPERTIES

- The cellar roof, gutters and lead of the hall were repaired a few weeks ago costing £1,800.00, paid for by the Parish Hall account.
- The Parish Hall entrance door, patio doors and cellar doors have been in desperate need of repair for a while now, this will cost around £3,000.00, again being paid for by the Parish Hall account.
- The exterior sacristy door at Our Lady & St John's is falling apart and will be replaced, around the same time as
- The soffits, fascias, bargeboards and window panes around St Mary's are repainted.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Over the past few years a new initiative has grown in popularity called 'Theology on Tap'. It's main aim is to foster catechesis, fellowship and evangelisation in an informal environment, normally a pub. Fr Wyllie thought that this could be something worth considering for the Parish Hall, allowing parishioners to come together one evening a month to learn about an aspect of the Catholic Faith while enjoying a few beverages and coming together in an informal setting to learn more about our faith. We would invite guest speakers who would come and present on a specific area of the faith. It is hoped (if there is enough interest) to begin these evenings at the beginning of November. A sign up sheet will be available over the next few weeks at the back of the church for those who would be interested in coming along. Details of the talk in due course.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Rita Blair, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Aaron Mulligan, Bill Sidzworth, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, John Rimmer

RIP - Patricia Grace, Rhona Little, Moira Bradley

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE - Jimmy Laverty, Ella Laverty

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

MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER

7.00pm until Late

Music with Jane Henderson

Tickets - £5.00



HALLOWEEN FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

7.00pm

£2.00 per person

Pizza, Bar, Raffle, Games & Prize for best costume



FOODBANK COLLECTION

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the monthly foodbank collection. Your generosity is very much appreciated. The next collection for the foodbank will take place on the weekend of 26th/27th October.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Both of our churches are open for private prayers and visits. If you're passing, please pop in.

St Mary's: Sun 9.00am - 4.00pm; Mon - Fri 8.55am - 4.00pm; Sat 9.00am - 5.45pm

St John's: Sun 11.00am - 5.45pm; Mon - Fri 8.00am - 4.00pm Sat Closed

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CRIBS

Two types of beautiful cribs are available from our parish stall. The more modern design three piece set consists of an Angel, Mary & Joseph, and the baby Jesus, three separate statues beautiful designed to either stand together or separately, these are priced at £20.00. The one piece set is traditional and made of resin, these are priced at £12.00. There is also a wide range of boxed cards, gift wallets, packs of cards, Mass Bouquet cards and individual cards. Why not have a look after Mass over the next few weekends?

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

The sisters will be selling their 2025 calendars at all Masses on weekend of 2nd/3rd November.

STALL & MEETING ROOM AT ST MARY'S

Due to the Children's Liturgy hopefully beginning soon in St Mary's, the stall and meeting room at the back of the church have been swapped around. This will give more space for the kids.