

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5TH JANUARY 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

This weekend the Church reads the account of the Epiphany from Matthew's Gospel. The journey of these men is just the beginning. Before them came the shepherds – simple souls, who dwelt closer to the God who became a child, and could more easily “go over” to him and recognise him as Lord. But now the wise of this world are also coming. Great and small, kings and slaves, men of all cultures and all peoples are coming. The men from the East are the first, followed by many more throughout the centuries. After the great vision of Isaiah, the reading from the Letter to the Ephesians expresses the same idea in sober and simple terms: the Gentiles share the same heritage. Psalm 2 puts it like this: “I shall bequeath you the nations, put the ends of the earth in your possession”.

The wise men from the East lead the way. They open up the path of the Gentiles to Christ. What kind of people were they? The experts tell us that they belonged to the great astronomical tradition that had developed in Mesopotamia over the centuries and continued to flourish. But this information of itself is not enough. No doubt there were many astronomers in ancient Babylon, but only these few set off to follow the star that they recognised as the star of the promise, pointing them along the path towards the true King and Saviour. They were, as we might say, men of science, but not simply in the sense that they were searching for a wide range of knowledge: they wanted something more. They wanted to understand what being human is all about.

They had doubtless heard of the prophecy of the Gentile prophet Balaam: “A star shall come forth out of Jacob and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel”. They explored this promise. They were men with restless hearts, not satisfied with the superficial and the ordinary. They were men in search of the promise, in search of God. And they were watchful men, capable of reading God's signs, his soft and penetrating language. But they were also courageous, yet humble: we can imagine them having to endure a certain amount of mockery for setting off to find the King of the Jews, at the cost of so much effort. For them it mattered little what this or that person, what even influential and clever people thought and said about them. For them it was a question of truth itself, not human opinion. Hence they took upon themselves the sacrifices and the effort of a long and uncertain journey. Their humble courage was what enabled them to bend down before the child of poor people and to recognise in him the promised King, the one they had set out, on both their outward and their inward journey, to seek and to know.

The wise men followed the star. Through the language of creation, they discovered the God of history. To be sure – the language of creation alone is not enough. Only God's word, which we encounter in sacred Scripture, was able to mark out their path definitively.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Saturday 4th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)</i>
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	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)</i>
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)
2.30pm	Baptisms (St Mary's)
	NO 5.00PM MASS
Monday 6th 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 after the Epiphany (St Mary's)
Tuesday 7th 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 Tuesday after the Epiphany (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 8th 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 after the Epiphany (St Mary's)
Thursday 9th 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 after the Epiphany (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 10th 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 Friday after the Epiphany (St Mary's)
Saturday 11th 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 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (St Mary's)



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. **Today (Sunday) is the last opportunity for donations to the crib collection.**

SINCERE THANKS

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those who made the celebration of the Feast of St John on 27th December a great success. To all those who attended the Mass, the reader, the visiting clergy especially Fr Gerard Chromy for preaching, the altar servers, sacristan, the florist and those who cleaned the church. A special word of thanks is due to the ladies who made and served the soup, the sausage rolls and pies, to the bar staff, Suzanne and those who helped with the raffle and organisation of the celebrations in the hall. May God reward you all.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The past two Theology on Tap sessions that we have had here in the parish have been well attended and enjoyed by those who have come along. We are hoping for the next session to take place in late February. Fr Wyllie is trying to arrange the speakers from February to June over the next few days. More information will be available over the next few weeks.

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Church Workers Social will take place on Friday 21st February beginning at 7.00pm in the Hall. All those who perform ministries or roles in our parish are warmly invited to attend. Save the date!

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection for Christmas: £1,304.00
Christmas Collection: £1,830.00
Collection for 28th/29th Dec: £831.00
Standing Orders 24th Dec - 3rd Jan: £1,897.00
Total: £5,862.00

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**



RETIRAL COLLECTION FOR JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND

A box will be available at the back of the church this weekend for the work of Justice & Peace Scotland. Please only give to this collection if you are able. Justice & Peace Scotland work on many social issues facing our society today such as welcoming refugees and campaigning against nuclear weapons. A letter from His Grace Archbishop Nolan, President of Justice and Peace, will be read out at all Masses this weekend.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

Fr Wyllie will be travelling with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer 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 contact Joe Walsh Tours directly and then speak with Fr Wyllie. Any pilgrim who would need assistance with mobility should make this known when contacting Joe Walsh Tours. The details for booking with Joe Walsh Tours are: by website link: <https://joewalstours.co.uk/tours/diocese-of-motherwell-pilgrimage-to-lourdes-2025/> or phone 0808 1890468 or by email: info@joewalstours.co.uk

NO 5.00PM MASS IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S THIS EVENING

SSVP BURNS DAY LUNCH

A Burn's Lunch hosted by St Mary's SSVP Conference for seniors aged over 60 years will be held on Sunday 26th January at 1.00pm in the Maltings, Union Street, Larkhall. All parishioners over 60 are invited to attend. Please find the list on the noticeboard at the back of St Mary's to enter names by 12th January (next Sunday). Raffle prizes would be very gratefully received.



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.

CHURCH TREES & DECORATIONS

The trees, cribs and decorations in St Mary's will be taken down after the 12noon Mass on Monday, and after the 9.30am Mass in Our Lady & St John's on Tuesday. If you could spare a few moments to help taking these down please wait behind after Mass on either day.

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 pass-keepers 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. May God reward you all for your kindness.

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

RIP - Tommy McMahan, Rita Blair, Willie George, Anne McCrossan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jerry Dunn, Michael & Rosina Canavan

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 McIlroy, William McIlroy, Abbie Douglas, Iza Douglas, Allison Douglas, Margaret Fletcher, Lawrence Fletcher, William Fletcher, Charles Coyle Snr, Mary Coyle, Molly Fletcher, Christy Fletcher, Una Fletcher;



FRIDAY PARISH DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

2.00pm - 7.00pm



PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY

7.00pm - Late - Donations of Prizes Welcome

