

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
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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024

THE ALTAR

In 1950, C.S. Lewis's book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was published. While it was originally released to mixed reception, the book ranks very highly among all-time classics. Coincidentally, it is also one of the most popular allegories for sin, Christ's redemption of man, and the triumph of God.

One of the most memorable scenes from the book and subsequent film is the death and resurrection of Aslan, the Christ figure portrayed by a lion. In order to save the life of Edmund who committed the sin of treason, Aslan voluntarily gives himself up to the enemy and suffers death on the stone table, a metaphor for the altar on which we celebrate Christ's unbloody sacrifice at every Mass. It is the table at which Jesus celebrated the Last Supper and instituted the Eucharist. When we see the consecration at the altar, it is not a representation of Christ's sacrifice, but a re-presentation. We are traveling back in time and bearing witness to His offering.



In the years following Christ's death, the Christians suffered a lot of persecution, so their ceremonies and celebrations were often done in secret. Part of the reason every Catholic altar is required to have a relic inside or underneath it is that that was the original way Christians would celebrate Mass. After their loved ones had passed, they would bury them in the Catacombs and celebrate Mass atop their tomb. It was a reflection of the belief that the saints and their deceased loved ones would intercede and pray for them. It also honoured the sacrifice of Jesus and the Christians who had died in the name of God.

The proper reverence toward the altar and the tabernacle before we go into our pew is a genuflection, going down on our right knee. The kiss that the priest and/or deacon deliver to the altar after processing in and before processing out is out of piety for this sacred object which is a "representative of Christ's presence" and His sacrifice.

Each altar must be consecrated before it is allowed to be used for the celebration of Mass, just as a person must be baptized before they may receive the Eucharist. The first step in consecration is the blessing with holy water and then with fire. After that, the altar is blessed with chrisam oil which represents new life. Then, they drape the altar in a white cloth and surround the altar with candles. Due to the altar being consecrated and central to our celebration of the Eucharist, we do not place anything but sacred objects on or around it.

There is so much meaning in the sacred objects and components in our churches, it is easy to take them for granted. The next time we walk into a chapel or church, let us consciously take note of the meaning and significance of them so that we may encounter Our Lord in a deeper way.



**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 September

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

Monday 16th September

- 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St Ninian (St Mary's)

Tuesday 17th September

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

Wednesday 18th September

- 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 of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Thursday 19th September

- 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 Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 20th September

- 9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions (St Mary's)

Saturday 21st September

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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

16th September - Feast of St Ninian - St Ninian was born in Cumbria about the year 360 and was ordained Bishop in 394 in Rome, probably by Pope Siricius. He landed in Withorn in 397 and built a church called Candida Casa (White House). This church was a centre from which he and his disciples preached the Gospel in Scotland, South-East of the Highland line. He died about 432 and was buried at Whithorn. An annual pilgrimage takes place to Whithorn every August.

20th September - Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions - These Korean martyrs testify to the presence of the faith in that region from the 18th century and the terrible persecutions during the nineteenth century. Outstanding among them were St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon (1821-1846), the first Korean-born priest who was tortured and beheaded near Seoul in 1846, and St Paul Chong Ha-Sang (1794-1839), a lay catechist who was crucified on 22nd September 1839. More than 8,000 Christians from all walks of life lost their lives during the persecution and 103 of them were canonised saints in 1994.

21st September - Memoria of St John Chrysostom - St Matthew, also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus. He worked as a tax collector for the Romans, a despised profession, when he was called by the Lord at Capernaum. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ called him to be an Apostle. After the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven he may have travelled to Persia or to Ethiopia; wherever it was, he was martyred. St Matthew's Gospel stands first in the New Testament. He is the patron saint of bankers and tax officials.

MARY'S MEALS

A representative from Mary's Meals will visit our parish this weekend to give us an update of all the work they are doing on our behalf in the poorest regions of our world. There will be a bucket collection outside the church for those who wish to contribute to the work Mary's Meals are carrying out. Louisa and Bethany will also be selling homemade jams and scones at the conclusion of the 12noon Mass. Please support these young girls in their efforts.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £1,230.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £230.00
Total: £1,460.00

Ecclesiastical Students Collection: £640.00

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**



BLESSING OF THE NEW PRIMARY ONE PUPILS

The boys and girls who begun Primary One back in August will be blessed at special services held this week. This blessing is to entrust their education, growth and development to Almighty God and to seek his blessing upon them, their parents/carers and teachers.

Wednesday 18th September	St John's Primary School	2.30pm
Thursday 19th September	St Mary's Primary School	2.15pm

PROJECT WELLSRING PARISH DISCUSSION

The Parish Discussion, which is an opportunity for the parish to come together and speak about various aspects of parish life, will take place on Tuesday 24th September in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm with tea and coffee. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend and take part in this meeting on Tuesday 24th September. Please make a special effort to come along. The main purpose of this meeting is to give an update on all the work that has been carried out by the Project Wellspring Working Group and to gather the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of the parish community.

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 before the end of the month. 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.

ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS COLLECTION

Many thanks for your donations to the second collection last week for the Ecclesiastical Students Fund. The proceeds of this collection will go towards the costs of training our future priests. Giving financially is of course important, but even more important is praying for our future priests. Please use the pray cards which were handed out last week asking God to send us good, faithful and holy priests to serve us in the future.

MASS ATTENDANCE CENSUS

On the first weekend of every month we take a census of the numbers attending Mass in our parish. The average Mass attendance at each Mass is as follows:

5.00pm Mass: 111

10.00am: 118

12noon: 69

5.00pm: 32

That gives us an average attendance of 330 at our Sunday Masses over the past number of months, some weeks are different from others but this gives us an indication of where we are with the number of parishioners attending Mass each week. A particular concern is the Mass attendance at Our Lady & St John's. We could comfortably fit the number attending the 12noon and 5.00pm Masses into one Mass. A census will be taken each weekend in Blackwood over the coming weeks to provide a more accurate figure before any decision is taken in October.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

RIP - Rhona Little (*Receiving Wednesday 25th at 6.00pm, Requiem Thursday 26th at 9.30am*), Margaret Chalmers (nee Canning), Margaret Brady, Joe Cassidy, Moira Bradley

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE - Jim Somerville, John C. Gowans, Hilda Keane, Tom & Rena Mooney, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn

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



HOLIDAY WEEKEND DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

2.00pm until 7.00pm

All parishioners are invited to pop in throughout the afternoon!



PARISH FINANCE TEAM MEETING

The next Parish Finance Team meeting will take place this Tuesday at 2.50pm in St Mary's Parish House. This meeting will primarily be for reviewing the income/expenditure of June, July & August as well as discussing the projects which will be undertaken on the Parish Hall and other small repairs required around our parish properties. The members of this group are: Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Gerry McCaughey, Irene McGoldrick & Patricia Weir.

PARISH FORTY HOURS

Last week from Sunday morning through to Tuesday evening we celebrated the Parish Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a time of great blessing and grace for all of us. Fr Wyllie would like to thank the many, many people who popped in and out of the church during those days for private prayer, it was wonderful to see so many people coming and going to spend time with the Lord. A special word of thanks to the altar servers, florist, the organists and cantors, the SSVP for arranging transport for the infirm and housebound for the Mass for the sick, the staff and pupils of St Mary's, and to those who committed to watching before the Blessed Sacrament or led the rosaries, angelus and Divine Mercy chaplet. May God richly bless us all.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

Our monthly collection for the local foodbank will take place on Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd September. The foodbank would be grateful for good quality plastic bags for them to be able to bag up the foodstuffs to give out. All food, quality plastic bags and monetary donations will all be gratefully received.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The next Auchlochan Mass and Lunch will take place on Thursday 26th September with Mass beginning at 12.30pm. Please let Betty McGonagle know if you wish to attend.