

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
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FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12TH JANUARY 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Jesus came from Galilee to the River Jordan to be baptised by John; indeed people were flocking from all over Palestine to hear the preaching of this great Prophet and the proclamation of the coming of the Kingdom of God and to receive Baptism, that is, to submit to that sign of penance which calls for conversion from sin.

Although it was called "Baptism" it did not have the sacramental value of the rite we celebrate today; it was actually with his death and Resurrection that Jesus instituted the sacraments and caused the Church to be born. What John administered was a penitential act, a gesture of humility to God that invited a new beginning: by immersing themselves in the water, penitents recognised that they had sinned, begged God for purification from their sins and were asked to change wrong behaviour, dying in the water, as it were, and rising from it to new life.



For this reason, when John the Baptist saw Jesus who had come to be baptised queuing with sinners he was amazed; recognising him as the Messiah, the Holy One of God, the One who is without sin, John expressed his consternation: he, the Baptist, would himself have liked to be baptised by Jesus. But Jesus urged him not to put up any resistance, to agree to do this act, to do what is fitting "to fulfil all righteousness".

With these words Jesus showed that he had come into the world to do the will of the One who had sent him, to carry out all that the Father would ask of him. It was in order to obey the Father that he accepted to be made man. This act reveals, first of all, who Jesus is: he is the Son of God, true God as the Father; he is the One who "humbled himself" to make himself one of us, the One who was made man and who accepted to humble himself unto death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:7).

The Baptism of Jesus, which we are commemorating today, fits into this logic of humility and solidarity: it is the action of the One who wanted to make himself one of us in everything and who truly joined the line of sinners; he, who knew no sin, let himself be treated as a sinner (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), to take upon his shoulders the burden of the sin of all humanity, including our own sin. He is the "servant" of Yahweh of whom the Prophet Isaiah spoke in the First Reading (cf. 42:1). His humility is dictated by the desire to establish full communion with humanity, by the desire to bring about true solidarity with man and with his human condition.

Jesus' action anticipates the Cross, his acceptance of death for man's sins. This act of abasement, by which Jesus wanted to comply totally with the loving plan of the Father and to conform himself with us, expresses the full harmony of will and intentions that exists between the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. For this act of love, the Spirit of God revealed himself and descended to alight upon Jesus as a dove, and at that moment the love which unites Jesus to the Father was witnessed to all who were present at the Baptism by a voice from Heaven that everyone heard.

The Father reveals openly to human beings, to us, the profound communion that binds him to the Son: the voice that resounds from on high testifies that Jesus is obedient to the Father in all things and that this obedience is an expression of the love that unites them to each other.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 12th January	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 13th 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 the Feast of St Kentigern (St Mary's)
Tuesday 14th 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 of the First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 15th 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 of the First 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 First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 16th 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 of the First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 17th 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 the Memoria of St Antony of Egypt (St Mary's)
Saturday 18th 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 Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

13th January - Feast of St Kentigern (Mungo) - St Kentigern was born in 518, his mother, St Enoch, a princess from Lothian who became pregnant because she was raped. Her father had her cast off into the Firth of Forth in a coracle (a small fishing boat). She landed on the opposite shore at St Serf's monastic school at Culross. It was he who nicknamed him Mungo. He became the first Bishop of Glasgow. He was forced out by pagan opponents and spent some time in England and Wales. He returned to spend many more years preaching the Word and praising the Name until his death in 603. He is honoured as the patron saint of Glasgow.

17th January - Memoria of St Antony of Egypt - St Antony of Egypt or St Antony the Abbot was born in 251 and is known as the 'Father of Christian Monasticism'. As a teenager he gave up all his possessions when his parents died and went to live as a hermit in the Egyptian desert. However, he gave public support to the local church in times of difficulty, particularly helping St Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, in opposing the Arian heresy (that Christ was not divine). He died in 356 and is the patron saint of grave-diggers and graveyards.

ST MARGARET'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

Many thanks to all those who donated to the crib collection over the Christmas season for St Margaret's Adoption Society. Through your generosity we have forwarded £600.00 to help them in the wonderful work they do in providing loving and stable homes for vulnerable children.

JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND

Last week the box at the back of the church for Justice & Peace Scotland received £140.00 of donations. Many thanks to all those who contributed to help and support the work they do.

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY PATRONAL FEAST DAY

Mass will be celebrated at 2.00pm on Monday 27th January in the church to celebrate this day.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,145.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£290.00
Total:	£1,435.00
St Margaret's Adoption Society:	£600.00
Justice & Peace Scotland:	£140.00

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**



CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our prayerful congratulations to Hudson and Harlo who were baptised into the faith of the Church last Sunday in St Mary's. We offer to them and to their parents an assurance of our prayers and support as they begin this journey of knowing, loving and serving God more deeply.

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

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 today. Raffle prizes 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. As always, all parishioners are invited but please let Betty McGonagle know for catering purposes.



FRIDAY PARISH DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

2.00pm - 7.00pm



GROWN-UPS PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 7.00PM

GROWNUPS ONLY Donations of Prizes Welcome



CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Drinks Reception beginning at 6.45pm



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, Robbie Frew

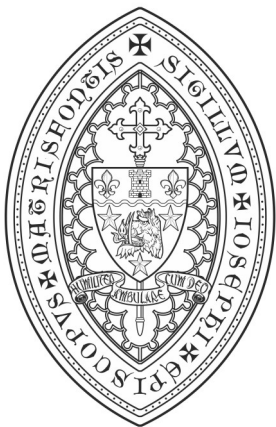
RIP - Anne McCrossan, Frank Simpson

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Nancy & David O'Neill, Martin Gibney, John C. Gowans, Ian Hare, Joseph Flynn, Brendan Flynn, Hare & Flynn Families, Forgotten Souls

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

CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The annual Church Workers Social will take place on Friday 21st February beginning with a drinks reception at 6.45pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who perform ministries and fulfil roles in our two churches to come together in a social setting to foster a greater sense of community and working together as two churches but one parish. Those who are invited to this evening are those who currently perform the following duties, roles or ministries: Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Musicians & Cantors, Sacristans, Cleaners, Florists, Grounds Workers, Hall Team members, Pastoral Planning Team members, Finance Team members, Wellspring Working Group members, RCIA Leaders, Children's Liturgy Leaders, Stall workers, Mini Vinnie Leaders, Housekeepers, Bar Volunteers, SSVP members, Collection Counters, those who wash the altar vessels and altar linens. Further details and menus will be available over the next few weeks.



JOSEPH TOAL

By the grace of God and
the authority of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF MOTHERWELL



Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on the 24th December, marking the beginning of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025. The Jubilee will end on the 6th January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

On this day, Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family, I solemnly opened the Jubilee Year in our Cathedral, following the rite provided by the Holy See, and proclaimed this Decree.

In the Bull of Indiction for the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, *Spes non confundit* (9th May 2024), Pope Francis invites us to discover the gift of the Jubilee Indulgence: "The indulgence, in fact, allows us to discover the ultimate nature of God's mercy."

The Apostolic Penitentiary specifies that places where the grace of indulgence may be received during the Jubilee Year : Any place linked to the Jubilee in Rome and the Holy Land; The Cathedral of the Diocese; Other places designated by the Local Ordinary (Bishop).

By this decree, I hereby declare that all the faithful who desire may receive the 'Plenary Indulgence' in the Diocese of Motherwell, by going on pilgrimage or by visiting:

- **Our Cathedral of Our Lady of Good Aid, Motherwell**
- **The National Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Carfin**
- **Parish Churches within the Diocese of Motherwell during a Parish Mission and/or 40 Hours Adoration**

✠ Joseph Toal

Given at Motherwell on the 29th day of December in the Year of Our Lord 2024