

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - catholicparishourladyoffatima

Twitter - OLOFParish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
21ST JULY 2024

PAUSING FROM THE BUSY WORLD

A few years ago Susan Maushart and her three teenage children began what they called "The Experiment". For six months, as a family, they came off the grid and did a digital detox - no Wi-Fi, no internet, no music or video streaming, no smartphones. Normal life went on: they weren't living in a shack in the outback. But it wasn't the normal they had known up to that point. You can read about it in her wonderful book, *The Winter of Our Disconnect*.



I'm not recommending this to everyone. And I love my smartphone! But most of the time, would admit that we are too busy and too stressed and in need of a detox.

We are busy with work or studies; we are busy with family and relationships. And when we are not busy, we are desperately trying to be busy; when there is a gap or some downtime, we are desperate to fill the silence with noise and digital distractions. Adult internet usage in the UK averages about four hours per day, but it's five hours for young adults.

We expect instant gratification: an immediate answer from Google, and immediate delivery from Amazon, all twenty-four episodes of the latest series on Netflix to binge-watch this weekend. It's like being on water skis. We are going incredibly fast, and maybe having a great time, but we have absolutely no control over where the speedboat us taking us. So what can we do?

There is a real hunger for stillness and silence, to step back from the rush of life and make space for reflection. It's a human need; I'd even call it a spiritual need. It's partly why mindfulness has become so popular today.

It's why most cultures, traditionally, have had a Sabbath day, a day of rest. In the Bible, the prophet Elijah expected to find God in the noise of the wind and the earthquake and the fire, but in the end he found him just outside the cave, in the sound of sheer silence.

Many religious traditions speak about the symbol of the desert: leaving the city and the noise behind and going into the wilderness, in order to get some perspective. Not to escape to another world, but to rediscover what is truly important in your own world.

This is hard! How can you create little moments of reflection, desert moments, when the kids are screaming, the ironing basket is overflowing, the garden is needing done or you've missed the latest deadline at work?

A little bit of quiet in the morning before we check the phone for messages; a brief pause before the next meeting; a short prayer at the end of the day.

The poet TS Eliot said that there are some things we can only hear "in the stillness between two waves of the sea". How you can pause in your life for the benefit of your body, mind & spirit?

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 21st July

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

Monday 22nd July

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

Tuesday 23rd July

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Bridget of Sweden (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 24th July

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Thursday 25th July

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St James (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 26th July

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Joachim & St Anne (St Mary's)
1.00pm Wedding Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Saturday 27th July

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



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

22nd July - Feast of St Mary Magdalene - St Mary Magdalene is the most prominent of the group of women who accompanied Jesus and the Apostles and 'provided for them out of her own resources'. Often confused with other Mary's in the gospels or presumed to have had a sinful past, she is named in the gospels as having seen Jesus crucified and buried and then, early on Easter morning, having met the risen Lord who told her to go and tell the Apostles. Hence she is called 'Apostle to the Apostles'. Pope Francis raised her memoria to the rank of a feast. She is the patron saint of contemplative life, converts, hairstylists, penitents, perfume makers, and women.

23rd July - Feast of St Bridget of Sweden - St Bridget of Sweden was born in 1303 to a wealthy family. She was married at 14 and had eight children. After her husband's death in 1344, she henceforth devoted her life to serve the poor. For this work, she founded a religious order (known as Bridgettines). In the Holy Year of 1350 she went as a pilgrim to Rome and remained there for the rest of her life, becoming known and loved for her kindness to the poor. She died in 1373 and was canonised in 1391. She was named a Patron of Europe in 1999.

25th July - Feast of St James - St James the Greater (i.e., the older of the two apostles called James) and his brother John, while working on their father's boat on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, promptly obeyed Christ's call to follow him. The two brothers, whom Jesus nicknamed the Sons of Thunder, formed with Cephas (nicknamed Peter) the trio whom Jesus often has closest to him. After Pentecost, the history of James is told in popular belief: that he went to Spain to preach the gospel and, on a return visit to Jerusalem, was arrested and suffered martyrdom under Herod Agrippa in 44AD; that his body was taken back to Spain and buried where now the great cathedral of Santiago ('St James) de Compostella still draws pilgrims in their millions. He is the patron of Spain and pilgrims.

26th July - Memoria of St Joachim & St Anne - St Joachim and St Anne are the names given to the parents of Our Blessed Lady and, therefore, grandparents of Jesus, according to the second-century tradition. Pope Francis has declared them to be patrons of grandparents.

**NO BULLETIN ON 11TH & 18TH AUGUST, ALL INTIMATIONS SHOULD BE
HANDLED IN FOR THE BULLETIN ON SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST.
THE BULLETIN WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST.**

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£716.00
Standing Orders:	£420.00
Total:	£1,136.00
Apostleship of the Sea:	£260.00

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**



MANY THANKS

Many thanks to the parishioners who donated to the retiral collection for the Apostleship of the Sea last weekend. The total raised was £260.00. This money will be forwarded to the Apostleship of the Sea to support them in the work they do in helping sailors, seafarers and fishers at ports throughout the UK. Many thanks for your generosity.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

If you're heading away on holiday this summer please enjoy a restful and happy time away from the humdrum of ordinary everyday life. When you are away please don't forget to attend Mass. Why not get a photograph of the church you attend on your holidays and send them through to the parish Facebook, Twitter or Instagram where we can let other parishioners see the many different churches visited by our parishioners this summer?

PARISH BBQ & PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

As Fr Wyllie will be away on holiday from 5th - 21st August, the lists for the Parish BBQ & Parish International Night are available at the back of the church for those who wish to attend these events to place their names on the list. For the Parish International Night could those willing to prepare a dish from their country of origin please state the country where the dish is from. Please also note on both sheets how many people you will be bringing with you for catering purposes.

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*)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES -

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

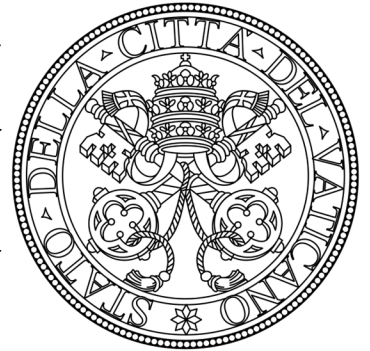
VISIT OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO TO MOTHERWELL

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.



NEW LECTIONARY

The response to the notice in the last bulletin regarding the new Lectionaries that we require to obtain before the First Sunday of Advent has been amazing. Thank you to the generous parishioners who have offered to purchase these books. As things stand at the moment we have donors for all the books (4 volume sets for both St Mary's and Our Lady & St John's; 4 volume study sets for both St Mary's and Our Lady & St John's, 2 Books of the Gospels for both churches). The set of three Passion Gospel books which we need for Palm Sunday and Good Friday are the only books which we cannot order at the moment as they won't be ready for publishing until January 2025. We have two donors willing to purchase these books for Blackwood and Larkhall. Many thanks to all those who are donating these books to the parish and to the many others who offered to donate these books.



We are hoping that all the books (*excluding the Passion Gospel books*) will be with us in October. The donors can pay for these books at their convenience over the next few weeks either by bank transfer, cheque or money in an envelope. Could all donors please let Fr Wyllie know who they wish the books dedicated to either over the next few weeks or in October.

CATHOLIC TEACHER APPROVAL

The 1918 Education (Scotland) Act, and subsequent related legislation, states that a teacher can only be appointed to a post within a Catholic school provided they "Satisfy the Secretary of State as to qualification, and are approved as regards their religious belief and character by representatives of the church body in whose interest the school has been conducted". Any approval forms should be given to Fr Wyllie to complete in good time before submission. Any teacher appointed to any post in a Catholic school must be approved by the local bishop.

ANNUAL VOCATIONS MASS

The annual Diocesan Vocations Mass will take place on Thursday 22nd August at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral. Please consider coming along to pray for priests.