

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
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
13TH OCTOBER 2024

THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

Together with the altar and ambo, the celebrant's chair is considered one of the three principal liturgical furnishings in the sanctuary of every Catholic church, and frequently, the Church's official documents give short theological explanations about the nature of each. The altar, for instance, stands as an image of Christ exercising his priestly office and gives a foretaste of the heavenly banqueting table. The ambo signifies the dignity of the Word of God proclaimed and magnifies its importance. The chair, too, has its own role to play: the cathedra, or bishop's chair, signifies the teaching, governing and sanctifying role of the bishop in his diocese as successor of the apostles.



By extension, every priest celebrant's chair in a parish church signifies the priest's headship during the sacred liturgy and his mission to sanctify and govern those in his care. The priest in his parish sacramentalises Christ presiding as the head of the Mystical Body, and his chair indicates this role. As such, it is more than an everyday chair. It is a symbol of the invisible spiritual reality of the Father's love.

We still speak of a chair as sign of authority. A king sits on a throne, a CEO sits at the head of the table, a chairperson leads a meeting. Similarly, a scholar recognised for authoritative knowledge holds an endowed chair in a university or serves as department chair. But in Biblical terms, an earthly chair signifies a share in the authority of God who also reigns on a throne. We know St Peter had a special chair in Rome which is encased in the beautiful Altar of the Chair behind the High Altar in St Peter's Basilica, acknowledging his position as Bishop of Rome.

The word "preside" can sometimes sound harsh in the liturgical context, especially since many translations use the phrase "preside over" to describe the priest or bishop's relationship to the people. Though many bishops govern the world's nearly 3,000 dioceses, "it is impossible for the bishop always and everywhere to preside over the whole flock in his Church," Vatican II says, "and so he cannot do other than establish lesser groupings of the faithful." The most important of these smaller groupings are parishes, because "they represent the visible Church constituted throughout the world". As an extension of each diocese's cathedral church and its cathedra, each parish church contains a priest celebrant's chair to indicate that the bishop's ministry is exercised at the local level. Just as the priest is related to the bishop in his authority exercised at the parish level, so the priest's chair can be said to have a relation to the bishop's cathedra.

The celebrant's chair, or presidential chair, can only be occupied by the priest celebrant at Mass and the other liturgies. If a priest cannot celebrate the Sunday Mass or any of the other liturgies, the presidential chair remains vacant, with no other person able to sit on it, even when they are leading the service. The presidential chair symbolises Christ leading his people in prayer through the ordained minister - bishop or priest.

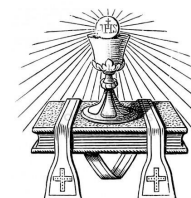


**Our Lady of Fatima Parish where we are inclusive
and all are welcome to live and grow in faith.**



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 13th October	<i>(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)</i>	
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 14th October	<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 Monday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time	(St Mary's)
Tuesday 15th 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 Teresa of Jesus	(Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 16th 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 St Margaret Mary Alacoque	(St Mary's)
6.25pm	October Devotions	(Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Margaret Mary Alacoque	(Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 17th October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 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 9.20am	(Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Ignatius of Antioch	(Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	Reception of Body	(St Mary's)
Friday 18th October	<i>(St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)</i>	
10.00am	Requiem Mass for Patricia Grace	(St Mary's)
Saturday 19th 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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

14th October - Optional Memoria of St Callistus - After a life of slavery and imprisonment, Callistus became a deacon in charge of the Roman catacombs which bear his name; ordained a priest, he was pope from around 218 until 222, and died, a martyr (though how, unknown).

15th October - Memoria of St Teresa of Avila - St Teresa of Avila, also known as St Teresa of Jesus, was born in Avila in 1515, and became a Carmelite nun there. Chosen as mother general of all Carmelite communities internationally, she reformed their rule, established many new convents, was a mystic and contemplative who was also highly active and practical, travelling often to visit convents throughout Spain besides writing much on spirituality and prayer. She died in Alba de Tormes, near Salamanca in 1582. She is the patron of those who suffer from headaches and migraines, those who are ill, people ridiculed for their religious faith, and Spain.

16th October - Optional Memoria of St Margaret Mary Alacoque - St Margaret Mary Alacoque was born in 1647 in Burgundy and joined the Order of the Visitation at Paray-le-Monial. She received mystical revelations concerning the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, with the help of her Jesuit confessor, spread this devotion throughout the world. She died in 1690 and was canonised in 1920. She is the patron of polio patients and those with a devotion to the Sacred Heart.

17th October - Memoria of St Ignatius of Antioch - St Ignatius of Antioch was born around 35AD and is thought to have been a disciple of the Apostle St John, and was the second bishop of Antioch. On his way to Rome (and martyrdom), he wrote some letters which still survive; the extol the importance of the office of a bishop and warned against heresy. He died a martyr in 107 by being thrown to the lions, possibly at the coliseum.

18th October - Feast of St Luke - St Luke was a Greek, possibly from Antioch, who trained as a doctor. He converted to Christianity, became a disciple of St Paul and wrote both a Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. His vivid descriptions of the childhood of Jesus has led some to believe that he was close to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is patron of doctors and artists.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK IN OUR PARISH

5.00pm - 123

10.00am - 107

12noon - 81

5.00pm - 46

Total - 357

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £820.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £510.00
Total: £1,330.00

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**



NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month traditionally dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls, those men, women and children who have gone before us in faith, especially praying for those we have known and loved. November Lists are available at the back of the church from this weekend and can be handed back to the church in time for November. Envelopes are available too for completed November Lists and for the donation to be enclosed.

The Parish Stall has 'In Loving Memory' candles for sale at £2.50 which can be placed in our homes or at the graveside. Why not have a look after Mass today?

MISSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 20th October, is Mission Sunday, a day when we pray for and support the work done by MISSIO Scotland in caring for the poorest in our world. A second collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend for MISSIO, the official charity of the Holy Father the Pope. He encourages us to give as generously as we can to the work done through MISSIO.

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER

The sisters will be selling their 2025 calendars at all Masses on weekend of 2nd/3rd November. The sisters support many missionary projects throughout the world including schools, hospitals, orphanages, providing clean water and other essentials as well as helping to build up Catholic communities in the poorest regions of our world. Please give as generously as you always do the Sisters of St Peter Claver.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST ANTHONY

We will begin a novena in honour of St Anthony every Tuesday after the 9.30am Mass in Our Lady & St John's. This novena will begin this Tuesday. St Anthony is a powerful intercessor for all of us, so please make a special effort to come and pray to him for your needs.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will lead a Christmas Carol Service in Our Lady & St John's on Wednesday 11th December beginning at 7.30pm. All parishioners are invited to put this date in your diary. Mulled Wine, tea and coffee in the Parish Hall afterwards.

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 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. The first talk will be held on Tuesday 12th November with the evening beginning at 6.30pm and talk beginning at 7.00pm. The talk will be given by Fr Stephen Reilly, Episcopal Vicar for Youth in the diocese. Sign up sheets at the back of the church.



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, William Young, James Thomson

RIP - Patricia Grace (*Receiving - Thursday at 6.00pm; Requiem Mass - Friday at 10.00am*), Joseph & Helen Thomas, Eddie Shiells (Ardrossan), Joe Pisacane, David Brown

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Chris Crumley, Nancy O'Neill & David O'Neill, Chrissie Lynch, Stephen Reilly, Patrick Grant, Ann Grant, Jim & Helen Grant, Jack Hastie, Thomas McDonagh, Tony & Mary Goodwin, Maureen Hutchens, Burgess, Dawson & Fleming Families

PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS



The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

2.00pm until 7.00pm



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

The next collection for the foodbank will take place on the weekend of 26th/27th October. This month the foodbank are in particular need of tinned custard, jam, noodles, tinned pasta (e.g spaghetti hoops, ravioli and macaroni cheese), shampoos, washing up liquid, & laundry pods.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our prayerful congratulations to Matt and Liz McKenna who celebrated 50 years of married life last Sunday together with their daughter and son-in-law Karen and Stephen who celebrated 25 years of married life together. May God continue to bless them.

Congratulations to Amelia Lyons who was baptised into the faith of the Church last Sunday. We pray she will always walk as a child of the light in our world today.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

Both the UK Parliament at Westminster and the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood will soon be asked to vote on the legislation of assisted suicide. The Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill was introduced by Liam McArthur, (Lib Dem MSP for the Orkney Islands) and is the third attempt to change the law in our country since 2010. In effect the bill seeks "to provide for the lawful provision to terminally ill adults of assistance to voluntarily end their own lives". The Bishops Conference of Scotland have asked us to contact our MSP and MP to voice our concern at the passing of this bill and to make our views known on this subject. There is a range of literature at the back of the church to help parishioners understand this very emotive and difficult issue. We are really asking for our governments to focus on care not killing.