

# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT 22ND DECEMBER 2024

### THE CONCLUDING RITE

Once the feast is over, when we have been fed from the altar, it's time for us to leave and to go out into the world – to be sent – again by Christ himself who has gathered us. He who gathers us now sends us out into the world. We can't stay in church.

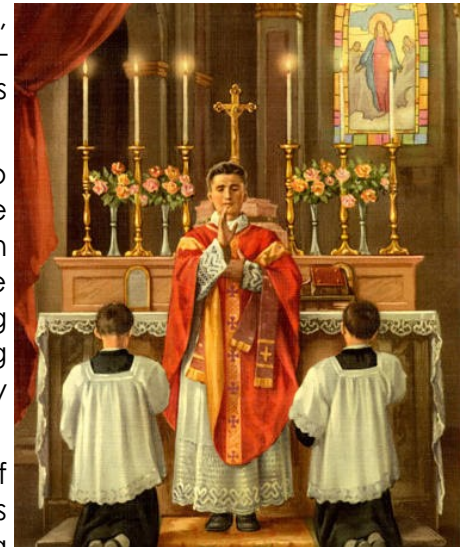
The whole point of us coming together to listen to God, to celebrate the sacrifice, to share the feast, has been to be empowered for mission – to be sent out. So, we are sent out with the blessing of God which the priest offers in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It's not the blessing of the priest. It comes through the priest. But it's not something that the priest himself confers. It comes from God, the Most Holy Trinity.

We see that consistently, through the Mass, the priest is a kind of mediator or a channel. He's not there in his own right. And that's one of the reasons why he wears vestments. It's a way of saying symbolically 'I'm here not just as me but I am here as one through whom the power and the word and the blessing of God passes to you'. That's the fundamental service that the priest renders. He gives his body and his voice so that God's word and God's power and God's blessing can flow through him into the life of the community. And that's certainly true of the blessing.

And just as we began by signing ourselves with the Father, the Son and the Spirit – in other words acknowledging that we are drawn into the life of the Trinity – so now as we set forth from the Mass to go out into the world on mission, we hear again the language of the Trinity where the blessing is given. And it's the blessing of Father, Son and Spirit. So the God who sends us out doesn't leave us on our own. The blessing of God is given to us here and now and will accompany us – and here is the promise of the blessing – it will accompany us at every step of the journey that lies ahead.

The God who sends us out goes out with us, that's what the blessing says. After the blessing there is simply the dismissal – "Ite, Missa est" as is said in Latin. Now we say 'Go forth, the Mass is ended', or 'Go in the peace of Christ'. 'Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life'. Whichever of those dismissals we hear, it is Christ himself who sends us out but sends us out now fully equipped as those who have yet again heard the Word of God, have responded to it in faith, who have celebrated the sacrifice, who have shared the feast, and therefore are equipped in every way to accomplish the mission which is entrusted to us by the God who goes with us.

Therefore, at the end of everything, the last thing we say at Mass – because of all the gifts that we have received through this time – we simply say: "Thanks be to God".



**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 22nd December** (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 6.00pm)

9.15am Confessions until 9.45am (St Mary's)  
**10.00am Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent** (St Mary's)  
 10.35am Confessions until 11.00am (St Mary's)  
**12noon Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent** (Our Lady & St John's)  
 12.35pm Confessions (Our Lady & St John's)  
 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent** (Our Lady & St John's)  
 5.35pm Confessions (Our Lady & St John's)



**Monday 23rd December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 11.30am Confessions until 11.50am (St Mary's)  
 12noon Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
 12.30pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 24th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 1.00am; OLSJ 8.00am - 6.00pm)

NO MORNING MASS THIS MORNING  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas** (Our Lady & St John's)  
 8.00pm Carols before Mass (St Mary's)  
**8.30pm First Mass of Christmas** (St Mary's)  
**12.00am Midnight Mass of Christmas** (St Mary's)



**Wednesday 25th December** (St Mary's open 9.10am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)

**10.00am Dawn Mass of Christmas** (St Mary's)  
**12noon Christmas Day Mass** (Our Lady & St John's)

**Thursday 26th December** (Both churches closed today)

NO MASS IN THE PARISH TODAY

**Friday 27th December** (St Mary's closed; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.30pm)

**12noon Solemn Mass for the Feast of St John** (Our Lady & St John's)

**Saturday 28th December** (St Mary's open 8.55am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family** (St Mary's)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION BEFORE CHRISTMAS

### Sunday 22nd December

9.15am - 9.45am; After 10.00am Mass (SM)  
 After 12noon Mass; 4.00pm - 4.45pm, after 5.00pm  
 Mass (OLSJ)

### Monday 23rd December

11.30am - 11.50am (SM)  
 12.30pm - 1.00pm (SM)

**NO CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE**



## 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 the offer to children and families. Please be as generous as you always are to the crib collection for St Margaret's.

## FEAST OF ST JOHN CELEBRATIONS

### FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

12noon Mass & Afternoon in the Hall

**DONATIONS OF RAFFLE PRIZES WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**



## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£940.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£320.00
Stall:	£440.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,700.00</b>

**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**



## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A longstanding tradition is for a second collection to be taken up at the Christmas Masses, offering parishioners an opportunity to make a gift (according to their means) to the parish. If you Giftaid to the parish, please place your offering in an envelope with your name on it.

## OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR IN OUR DIOCESE

The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, which traditionally takes place every 25 years. He will open the Jubilee Year and Holy Door on Christmas Eve at the Vatican, but each Diocese is being asked to do the same. The Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year will take place in Motherwell Cathedral on Sunday 29th December at 3.00pm. Bishop Toal invites everyone throughout the diocese to join him for this special occasion on that day.

## WELL DONE

Over the past few weeks the boys and girls, teachers and staff at both our primary schools have been busy with their Christmas Nativities, an Advent Service in St John's and a Candlelit Carol Service in St Mary's. Well done to the boys and girls and the school staff for all their hard work in helping us prepare for the Season of Christmas, they were a credit to themselves, their families, their school and parish community.

## SUNDAY 5.00PM MASS

There will be no Sunday 5.00pm Mass in Our Lady & St John's next weekend (29th December) due to the Diocesan Mass for the Opening of the Jubilee Year and opening of the Holy Door, which the Bishop has asked all priests to attend. There will also be no 5.00pm Mass on Sunday 5th January. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISH

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**5.00pm**

Vigil Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)

8.00pm  
Carols before Mass (SM)

**8.30pm**

First Mass of Christmas (SM)

**12.00am**

Midnight Mass by candlelight (SM)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**10.00am**

Dawn Mass of Christmas (SM)

**12noon**

Day Mass of Christmas (OLSJ)



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Rita Blair, 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** - Kathleen Brannigan, Jim Wilson (St Andrew's), Willie Fox (East Kilbride), David Fotheringham

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Mary Somerville,

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; 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;

## CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

As Christmas Day falls midweek there will be a bulletin for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, this bulletin will also be the bulletin for next weekend. **Any intimations for the bulletin are handed in by 12noon on Tuesday.**

## HOGMANAY PARTY NIGHT

The Parish Hall

**TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER**

**8.30pm until 1.30am**

Adult Ticket - £10.00

Children under 16 - Free

