

# 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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
22ND SEPTEMBER 2024**

## THE ALTAR CRUCIFIX

The practice of placing a crucifix atop the freestanding altar originated with Pope Benedict XVI and continues in papal Masses to this day. It originated in response to the changing direction of the priest praying at Mass (previously facing the altar and leading the people, to now facing the congregation). The Vatican issued this explanation of the importance of the crucifix:

"The position of the priest 'toward the people,' although not obligatory, became the most common way of celebrating Mass. Things being as they are, the Holy Father proposes, also in these cases, that the old meaning of 'oriented' prayer not be lost and suggests that difficulties be averted by placing at the centre of the altar the sign of Christ crucified. ... The crosses at the centre of the altars were removed as a general norm after the Second Vatican Council so as to not obstruct the view between the celebrant and the people. However, the cross on the altar is not an impediment to sight, but rather a common point of reference. (*"Placing the Crucifix at the Centre of the Altar," Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff*).



Hence, the use of a crucifix on the centre of the altar is done to orient priests and people to the Lord, rather than one another, during the Eucharistic Prayer. This is appropriate, especially at that time of the Mass where Christ's Sacrifice is re-presented to us.

The form of Mass previous to the Second Vatican Council directed the priest to raise his eyes to the cross at several moments of the Mass. While this instruction is no longer prescribed or required in the Ordinary Form of the Mass, it is still a pious practice that many priests wish to observe. In many churches, there is already a large crucifix hanging over the altar or on the wall behind it. In such cases, however, the priest may not be able to see it. Hence, some priests place a cross on the altar that they can see for their own pious reflection during the Eucharistic Prayer, and to unite the priest and the people in the one sacrifice of the Lord's crucifixion.

The questions pertaining to orientation of priests and people together remain significant. The crucifix on the altar is used to regain the understanding that our worship is directed to God and is about him rather than the focus being on us. Debates about returning the priest to the ancient orientation of priest and people facing the altar together continue. Some support this, others do not. While the cross on the altar may be a compromise, its meaning is not always noticed or explained to God's good people.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the guidelines for what happens at Mass, says: "The altar is to be covered with at least one white cloth... on the altar or close to it, there is to be a cross adorned with a figure of Christ crucified, with two, four or six lighted candles."



**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 September

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

## Monday 23rd September

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 24th September

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

## Wednesday 25th 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-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.00pm	Receiving of Body (Our Lady & St John's)
6.10pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary for the repose of Rhona Little (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

## Thursday 26th September

9.30am	Requiem Mass for Rhona Little (Our Lady & St John's)
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## Friday 27th September

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Vincent de Paul (St Mary's)

## Saturday 28th September

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

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**23rd September - Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)** - St Pius of Pietrelcina was born in 1887 of humble village parents, the future Padre Pio became a Capuchin Franciscan novice at 15 and ordained priest in 1910. His health was not robust but he already had a reputation as a holy person, with simple but constant praying; and his Masses lasted hours since they involved much contemplative prayer. One day in 1918, as he prayed before a crucifix after Mass, he received the stigmata (the marks in his own body of the marks of the Passion of Jesus). He ate little, rose daily at 2.30am and, apart from Mass, his daily occupation was to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession with the many people who wished to confess to him. He had a nineteen-hour day (but no radio, television or newspapers). The monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, near Foggia in the south of Italy, was a place of pilgrimage in Padre Pio's lifetime; it remains so today, with many thousands of visitors annually. He died in 1968 and is honoured as the patron saint of Civil Defence Volunteers, stress relief and adolescents.

**27th September - Memoria of St Vincent de Paul** - St Vincent de Paul was born in Gascony (France) around 1580, he was ordained in 1600, captured on a voyage in 1605, sold as a slave in Tunis, escaped and returned to France in 1607. He set up associations for helping the sick, leading the foundation of the Congregation of the Missions (known as Vincentians or Lazarists) in 1632 and the Daughters of Charity in 1634 (the first female religious order to work outside their convents). He died in 1660 and is the patron of all charitable organisations.

## MARY'S MEALS

Mary's Meals would like to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude for your generosity to the bucket collection last weekend. Many thanks too, to Bethany and Louisa for selling their delicious scones and jam. The total raised from our parish for Mary's Meals was £1,632.80.

## MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

12noon - 60                      5.00pm - 42                      **Total - 102**

**Many thanks to the young people who gave a talk at assembly encouraging other to come to Mass.**

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£965.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£340.00
Stall:	£70.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,375.00</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**



## 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 this Tuesday 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. 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.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

After discussion with ALBA Tours it is proving extremely difficult to find accommodation in Rome due to the Holy Year, particularly in October when we had hoped to travel there. Anne Marie has come back to Fr Wyllie with another two options: Tuscany with trips to Florence/Pisa/Cinque Terre, or, Padua with trips to Lake Garda/Milan. It is unfortunate that a pilgrimage to Rome is proving to be so difficult but airlines and hotels have increased their prices due to the Holy Year taking place. If you would be interested in these other two options please let Fr Wyllie know as soon as possible, even if you have already expressed an interest previously.

## PARISH FINANCE TEAM MEETING

The Parish Finance Team met on Tuesday afternoon to go through the income and expenditure for June, July and August. At the meeting the upcoming works to the Parish Hall and the exterior of St Mary's were discussed: new hall entrance & patio doors, new cellar door, new sacristy door, the painting of the facias around St Mary's and the window panes. Also the rising cost of heating & lighting our properties was discussed. Gas & electricity have cost us £15,730.48 this year so far.

## 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, normally a pub. Fr Wyllie thought that this could be something worth considering for the Parish Hall, 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. We would invite guest speakers who would come and present on a specific area of the faith. It is hoped (if there is enough interest) to begin these evenings at the beginning of November. A sign up sheet will be available over the next few weeks at the back of the church for those who would be interested in coming along. Details of the talk in due course.

## 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

**RIP** - Rhona Little (*Receiving Wednesday 25th at 6.00pm, Requiem Thursday 26th at 9.30am*), Moira Bradley, David Ferguson (Cambuslang), William James Sweeney (Glasgow)

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE** - Mary Smith

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!



## FOODBANK COLLECTION

Our monthly collection for the local foodbank will take place this weekend. 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. If you've forgotten to bring donations with you to Mass today, both churches are open all afternoon for you to drop off any donations of foodstuffs.

## AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

The next Auchlochan Mass and Lunch will take place this Thursday with Mass beginning at 12.30pm. All parishioners are invited but if you intend on attending the lunch please speak with Betty McGonagle for catering purposes.

## OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Sometimes we need a bit of time to escape the busyness of the world and spend time in reflection, prayer and contemplation. Both of our churches are open each day for private prayer and private visits. Why not pop into the church to spend some time before the Lord in the tabernacle. St Mary's is open each day from 8.55am until 4.00pm; Our Lady & St John's is open from 8.00am until 4.00pm Monday - Friday, and open 11.00am until 5.45pm Sunday. We are so lucky to have both our schools next door to our churches, why not encourage the young people to pop in before or after school to spend some time in private prayers.



## MOBILE PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched on to silent so as not to disrupt Mass or distract others. God calls us, but not on the phone.