

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Second Sunday of Advent - 8th December 2019



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The great Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates “the dogma proclaimed in Christian tradition and defined in 1854, that from the moment of her Conception, Mary - by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ - was preserved immune from Original Sin” (Catechism of the Catholic Church). Many people believe that the feast celebrates Jesus’ conception, but in fact it celebrates Mary’s Immaculate Conception; the fact that Mary was, from the very first moment of her existence (her conception in the womb of Saint Anne), without sin and chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. Here is what Pope Benedict XVI said about this beautiful Solemnity back in 2009:

Let us refer to the biblical texts of today’s Liturgy, especially the great “fresco” of the third chapter of the Book of Genesis and the account of the Annunciation in the Gospel according to Luke. After the original sin, God addresses the serpent, which represents



Satan, curses it and adds a promise: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel” (Gen 3:15). It is the announcement of revenge: at the dawn of the Creation, Satan seems to have the upper hand, but soon the son of a woman is to crush his head. Thus, through a woman, God himself will triumph. Goodness will triumph. That woman is the Virgin Mary of whom was born Jesus Christ who, with his sacrifice, defeated the ancient tempter once and for all. This is why in so many paintings and statues of the Virgin Immaculate she is portrayed in the act of crushing a serpent with her foot.

Luke the Evangelist, on the other hand, shows the Virgin Mary receiving the Annunciation of the heavenly Messenger (cf. Lk 1:26-38). She appears as the humble, authentic daughter of Israel, the true Zion in which God wishes to make his home. She is the shoot from which the Messiah, the just and merciful King, is to spring. In the simplicity of the house of Nazareth dwells the pure “remnant” of Israel from which God wants his people to be reborn, like a new tree that will spread its branches throughout the world, offering to all humanity, the good fruit of salvation. Unlike Adam and Eve, Mary stays obedient to the Lord’s will, with her whole being she speaks her “yes” and makes herself entirely available to the divine plan. She is the new Eve, the true “mother of all the living”, namely, those who, because of their faith in Christ, receive eternal life.

Dear friends, what an immense joy to have Mary Immaculate as our Mother! Every time we experience our frailty and the promptings of evil, we may turn to her and our hearts receive light and comfort. Even in the trials of life, in the storms that cause faith and hope to vacillate, let us recall that we are her children and that our existence is deeply rooted in the infinite grace of God. Therefore, while we thank God for this marvellous sign of his goodness, let us entrust to the Virgin Immaculate each one of us, our families and communities, the entire Church and the whole world”.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Today is the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent. We focus on John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus in our liturgy. John the Baptist was the last great prophet preaching repentance in anticipation of the Lord's coming. John and Jesus came from the same family and therefore are closely linked, this was evident when the baby John, in his mother's womb, leapt for joy at the visit of Our Lady and the baby Jesus who was also in his mother's womb. John was the herald of the Messiah.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On this special feast of Our Lady we will have a Mass for the Sick, during which the Anointing of the Sick will be given to all those who are sick, tomorrow (Monday) at 1.00pm. The Mass will be followed by Light Refreshments in the Xavier Centre. There will be no 10.00am Mass.

SISTERS OF SAINT PETER CLAVER

This weekend the Sisters of Saint Peter Claver will be in our parish selling their calendars for 2020. All the proceeds from the sale of these calendars goes to the many missionary activities the Sisters are involved in around the world. Please pick up a copy before or after Mass at all Masses this weekend.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

Christmas is a time when we feel the death of our loved ones in a very particular way. If you would like to have your dead loved ones remembered at Mass over the Christmas period please hand in the names to the sacristy or the house over the next two weeks for inclusion in our bulletin on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE, AIRDRIE

Many thanks for your generosity to the Second Collection for St Andrew's Hospice last weekend. The total raised for the Hospice was £1850.00.

MASS CARDS, CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GOLDEN BOOK CARDS

Signed Mass cards and Golden Book cards are available after Mass in sacristy after Mass or at any time from the Chapel House. Our Christmas Cards and Mass Christmas Mass Bouquets are available behind the altar wall.

FR SEÀN WYLLIE

Bishop Toal has appointed Fr Seàn Wyllie, one of the curates with Mgr Millar in Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, to look after the parish until a new parish priest is appointed. Many of you will already know Fr Seàn from his time at seminary with Fr McShane and from when he supplied in the parish a few months ago. Fr Seàn will continue in his role as school chaplain to Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School, East Kilbride.

CALENDAR

Monday - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
Thursday - Our Lady of Guadalupe; **Friday** - Feast of Saint Lucy;
Saturday - Feast of the Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please find below our Mass Schedule for Christmas here in Saint Francis Xavier:

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 7.00pm

Organ Recital with Christmas Organ Music at 11.30pm

Mass during the Night at Midnight

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day Mass at 10.00am

FROM THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY - The Catholic Grandparents' Association have donated four beautiful rosaries. The Children's Liturgy Group have organised a free raffle for the children who attend the 11am Mass today, to give them a chance to win these gifts.

TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY - Taylor High School is holding a party for senior citizens on Monday 16th December from 2pm to 3.30pm. The afternoon will have musical entertainment and an afternoon tea. Anyone who is interested in attending can give their details to any pupils of the school or phone the school office on 274976. Those attending do not have to have a relation at the school.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY - At all Masses next Sunday we invite all the children of the parish to bring the baby Jesus figure from their Crib scenes at home to be blessed in the church in anticipation for Christmas morning.

FEAST OF SAINT LUCY - Friday 13th December is the Feast of St. Lucy. Her name means 'light', and she is the patroness of those with problems with the sense of sight. Individual blessings with the relic will be given after Mass on the 13th December. Since most of you will not be able to be at Mass on this day, I would propose to offer the individual blessings with the relic after the all the Masses the following weekend (14th and 15th December) too.

THANK YOU - The family of the late John Cairns would like to thank Deacon Jim Aitken for all his assistance and to Fr Clark, Fr Dempsey and Fr Paul of the Comboni Missionaries for the beautiful Mass. Thank you also to all family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards and flowers we received and for keeping Dad in your prayers.

PREPARE YE THE WAY

In this Season of Advent we are asked to prepare our souls for the coming celebration of Christmas. There are various opportunities for us to avail ourselves of the Sacrament over the next few weeks:



OUR LADY OF GOOD AID CATHEDRAL, MOTHERWELL

Will hold their annual Day of Prayer and Reconciliation this coming Saturday, 14th December, from 10.30am until 4.30pm. Various priests will be available throughout the day to hear confessions.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Details of Confessions will be listed in the bulletin next week.

CONTACT US

CLERGY Rev. Fr. Seàn G. Wyllie, *Pro Tempore*
frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk
Rev. Mr Jim Aitken, Permanent Deacon
vicechancellor@rcdom.org.uk

ADDRESS Saint Francis Xavier's Church, Taylor Ave, Carfin ML1 5AJ

TELEPHONE 01698 263308

WEBSITE www.carfingrotto.org

CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATORS Elizabeth McMahon & Geraldine Battersby

SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER SC 011041

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

RECENTLY DEAD - Jim Mays (*Reception of Body to the Church - Tuesday 10th December at 6.00pm, Requiem Mass - Wednesday 11th December at 10.00am*); Francis Larkin, Mr Gallagher.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES – Alice Kelman, Theresa Williamson, Eric Williamson, John McCormack (Senior), Teresa Sweet, Michael Mullen, John Gallagher, Eamon McManus, Catherine Ross, Willie Moffatt, Joseph Wilson, Sarah and James McWhinnie, John Hughes, James Cullen, Ellen Cook, John Cairns

Intimations for inclusion should reach the Chapel House by 7pm on a Thursday evening

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER - £1730.00

Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish

FESTIVE LUNCH AT THE XAVIER CENTRE SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Starters

Lentil Soup served with Warm Bread Roll
Honey Dew Melon served with Fresh Fruit and a Raspberry Coulis
Prawn Cocktail served with Marie Rose Dressing

Main Courses

Steak Pie
Braised Sirloin Steak in a Red Wine Sauce
Traditional Christmas Turkey with all the Trimmings
All served with creamed and roast potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Hot Caramel Shortcake with Ice Cream
Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce
Meringue Nest with Strawberries and Cream

*Children's Option: Chicken Nuggets and Chips or smaller portion of above. *

Vegetarian Option available but must be pre-ordered

Adults £16.50. Children (up to 14 years old) £8.50. Payment required one week before event.

To book Call Mick McCormick on 07827975271