



St Francis Xavier's, Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



12th December 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

THIS WEEK YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

TUE	6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Glass chapel 7.00pm Holy Mass in Glass chapel	FRI	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in the Glass chapel
WED	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in Glass chapel	SAT	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Parish Church 5.00pm Vigil Mass in the Parish Church
THU	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in Glass chapel NO CONFESSIONS DUE TO THE WORK IN THE CHURCH	SUN	9.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church 11.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church

FUNERAL FOR AILEEN SMITH

- ◆ Reception of remains today, Sunday at 4.30pm
- ◆ Funeral Mass Monday at 9.30am

TONIGHT I will expose the Most Blessed Sacrament on the altar at 6.00pm and be available for Confession until 6.45pm. At 6.45pm, we shall pray *Evening Prayer* and conclude with a simple Benediction.



Wednesday - Saturday

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

in the Glass Chapel 9.00am - 10.00am

- ◆ Holy Rosary at 9.30am
- ◆ Morning Prayer at 9.50am
- ◆ Holy Mass at 10.00am

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

- ◆ Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm
- ◆ First Mass of Christmas at 9.00pm
with Blessing of the crib

Christmas Day

- ◆ Christmas morning Mass at 10:30am

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)

Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at 10.00am and 12.00noon

N.B. No vigil Mass

TODAY IS CALLED "GAUDETE" SUNDAY because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "**GAUDETE IN DOMINO SEMPER**" (*"Rejoice in the Lord always"*). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour.

The central theme of today's readings is the command "**REJOICE!**" We rejoice because

- a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth
- b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst
- c) we wait for Christ's return in glory

1st Reading: Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord.

Psalm gives the same instruction, "*Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*"

2nd Reading St. Paul echoes this message of joy in a letter written from imprisonment: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice*"

Gospel John the Baptist challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need

GENERAL ABSOLUTION

The bishop has invited priests who wish, to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness in the context of **General Absolution**. The reason behind this is to encourage as many as possible to return to the Sacraments at Christmas, and, given their recent restoration of the Sunday obligation, to make a renewed effort to live the Catholic faith as best we can.

I know that many would like to go to confession but maybe this might be difficult for some people. From experience, I have an awareness of how powerful General Absolution can be and so I propose that on **Saturday the 18th of December at 12 noon** I will celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness with **GENERAL ABSOLUTION** here in the church. You are invited to come along and **most importantly**, to bring along any who have been away from church or away from the faith and who had very hesitant about going to individual confession. The communal setting of a Service

of General Absolution will be less daunting for people who have been away from the Sacrament for some time. However, the bishop also wants me to remind us that any mortal sins

should be confessed in an individual confession **at a later date.** I leave that with you to explain to any who may want to come along.



THE SPIRITAN COMMUNITY, CARFIN

The Holy Ghost Fathers have written to thank all of you for your continuous support and most especially by buying their annual raffle tickets. The raffle has been drawn, winners as follows : Val Spellman (£500), Charles McKenna (£300), Paul Scott (£200), John Campbell (£100). **£9000** pounds was raised from the sales of the raffle tickets this year.

READERS ROTA

A new rota has been prepared for all readers from now until the beginning of Lent. *Copies are available from the church porch.*

'THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC'

The fortnightly magazine is available for purchase from the church porch. Priced £2.00.

CARFIN GROTTO CENTENARY CALENDARS

are now available from the stall. You can also purchase them from the church porch and leave your £3 pounds in an honesty box on the table in the porch.

NEXT JOE'S DEVOTION on Monday 20th December at 7pm. Venue: Glass Chapel.

THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION WILL BE REIN-STATED FROM SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY.

LET US REMEMBER PRAYER

Sick: Ann Ward (Hill Place), Abeer Srouji, Francis Kerr

Recently Dead: Aileen Smith, Patrick O'Rourke, Frances Doogan, John McArdle, Catherine Walker, Hugh Heaney, Margaret Hill, James McGeough, Jane Curren, Scott Armstrong, Theresa Smith, Anthony O'Keefe, James McCairn, Thomas Kane, Eileen McQuaid, Karen Davidson, Hugh McGrath, Patricia McGuinness Fox (Luton)

Anniversary: Gerard O'Donnell, William Hollinsworth, Hugh & Lily McCulloch, Deceased members of McCulloch, Brown & Timoney Families, Gerald Hobson, Sarah & James McWhinnie, Fr. John Doherty, Joe Taylor, Theresa Williamson, Ellen Cook, Johnny Morrison, Anthony Ruddy, Margaret Corr Freel

Months Mind: James Cullen, Eric Williamson, John McCormack Snr, Teresa Sweet, John Tamburrini

Birthday Remembrance: John & Theresa Cairns, Joseph Wilson

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would greatly appreciate it if intimations could be handed in by WEDNESDAY 8.00pm
Thank you

READERS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 5.00pm Angela Glover
Sun 9.00am Alan Wilson
Sun 11.00am John P Cairns

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Loose & GiftAid £ 1520
Standing Orders £ 285
Total £ 1805

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

on Tuesday in the Little Flower Chapel
from 9am-9pm