St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ

JESUS CHRIST, THE UNIVERSAL KING

22nd November 2020

The following will be streamed		
MON	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
TUE	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
WED	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
THU	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
FRI	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
SAT	5.00pm	**Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of Advent**
SUN	***First Sunday of Advent***	
	11.00am	Holy Mass

"Long Live Christ the King!"

This feast on the final Sunday of the present liturgical year poses a very basic question for believers: **Who's the Boss? God – or us?** Who's the Boss of us in our family lives? in our work lives? in our lives at school? in our parish life? in our community life? in our nation's life?

The Word of God today

Ezekiel God tends the sheep and judges between them.

Psalm The Lord guides us like a shepherd along the right path.

Paul When all creation is submitted to Christ, God will be all in all.

Matthew Judgment Day arrives, and the sheep and the goats find out who they are.

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Recently Dead Kathleen Heffernon Doran (New York), Jack Anderson, Jackie McKenna, John Donnelly, Danny Groves, Tommy Cairney, Maisie Hendry, Tom Kearney, Ella Valenti, Hariette Quin, Maria Driver, Winifred Maughan, Anna McKechnie, Maureen Campbell

Months Minds Anne, Gerald & Mark Heffernan, The Quigley Family, Cathie & John Dolan, Alicia Gallacher

Anniversaries Elizabeth Carr, Sr. Philippa Mitchell, Ellen Ward (Connelly), Mary Gallacher, Jimmy Murphy, Rose Murphy, Pamela Ewart, John & Mary McShane, Jim McShane, Rosemary & Ronald MacIntyre, Frank McMahon, Winifred Maughan, Norah Cullen, Martha Cullen, Mary Taylor, Cornelius McKay

Sick Eileen Shelley

Birthday Rem John McShane

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Keep Christ in Christmas

The stall is now selling Christmas cards. Please remember to 'Keep Christ in **CHRIST**mas' by sending a religious Christmas card. He is the reason for the season. **This is also a gentle way of evangelising in an increasingly secular world.**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

GiftAid :	**£ 460**
Loose :	**£ 570**
Standing Orders *[16th—20th November]*	**£ 202**
Total :	**£ 1232**
Special Collection *(Catholic Education)*	**£ 65**
Contactless Machine *(Grotto)*	**£ 55**

THANKS

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

What Pope Francis did and didn't say

In the last few days, some statements contained in the documentary Francesco by the director Evgeny Afineevsky have given rise to various reactions and interpretations. We are making available to you some points we hope you will find useful to help people understand correctly what the Holy Father said.

In an interview he gave more than a year ago, Pope Francis answered two separate questions at different times, but **they have been edited and published as a single answer**, without being put into context in they way they should have been, and this has created confusion.

In the first place, the Holy Father had made a pastoral reference to the need for homosexually oriented sons or daughters not to suffer discrimination within their own families. That is what these words refer to: *"Las personas homosexuales tienen derecho a estar en familia. No se puede echar de la familia a nadie ni hacerle la vida imposible por eso"* ***(Homosexual persons have a right to be part of a family. You cannot throw someone out of the family or make his or her life impossible for that).***

The following section from the Post-Synodal Exhortation Amoris Lætitia on the family can shed some light on these expressions: "During the Synod, we discussed the situation of families whose members include persons who experience same-sex attraction, a situation not easy either for parents or for children. We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while 'every sign of unjust discrimination' is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence. Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives" (§ 250).

A later question in the interview was related to a local law ten years ago in Argentina on *"matrimonios igualitarios de parejas del mismo sexo"* (equal marriages of same-sex couples) and the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires' **opposition to it**. Pope Francis said about this that *"es una incongruencia hablar de matrimonio homosexual"* **(it is inconsistent to speak of homosexual marriage)** and he added that, in precisely this context, he had spoken about these people's right to be covered legally: *"lo que tenemos que hacer es una ley de convivencia civil; tienen derecho a estar cubiertos legalmente. Yo defendí eso"* (**what we need to have is a law of civil partnership; they have a right to be covered by the law. I defended that)**.

The Holy Father said this in an interview in 2014: **"MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN**. Secular states want to justify civil unions to regulate different situations of people who live together, driven by the need to regulate financial matters between persons, for example ensuring health care. It is about agreements on various kinds of living together, of which there are so many I would not be able to list them. We have to look at different cases and evaluate them in all their variety".

It is clear, therefore, that Pope Francis was referring to particular state arrangements, and certainly not to Church doctrine, which has been restated various times through the years

A message from Mary's Meals:

At Mary's Meals we are inspired by the courageous 'yes' of Mary. Her total Trust in God in the face of numerous challenges gave the World the most precious gift of all – Jesus. Throughout this year of many challenges we have continued to say yes, with the help of our generous supporters, to feeding children their daily meal in a place of education even when obstacles arose. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide hope to 43,000 children in Bong County, Liberia. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, any donations made to the Double the Love campaign will be matched by UK government, up to £2 million. Each little act of love will be doubled to support families in Liberia and the hope of a better future for their children. You can get involved by setting a place at out Big Family Christmas dinner table

(https://bigfamilychristmas.marysmeals.org.uk/big-family-christmas-table)

You can also buy our Christmas gift cards on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove. Thank you. If you have any questions about this please get in touch with Thomas Black at Mary's Meals **(thomas.black@marysmeals.org).** Please keep our work in your prayers. Thank you for everything you do for Mary's Meals and God Bless!

SCIAF are mounting a campaign to provide clean drinking water for people in poorer countries. More information can be had by phoning 0141 354 5555, or emailing sciaf@sciaf.org.uk, or visiting www.sciaf.org uk

SUPPORTING THE GROTTO

For those who don't have the possibility of doing this online, Standing Order forms are available from the porch. Just take one, fill it in and take it to you bank—JOB DONE!

Paper copies of this bulletin can be uplifted from the church porch.

ABORTION
The leading cause of death in 2019

ABORTION was the leading cause of death across the world in 2019**. More than 42 million abortions took place across the planet last year,** which compares to 21.2 million deaths due to illness, including cancer. *The numbers of death worldwide due to coronavirus is 1 262 751.* Each one of these deaths is lamentable but the overall number pails into insignificance compared to the number of abortions carried out each year.

The number of abortions in Scotland reached a ten year high in 2018, totalling 13,286. This included an increased number of abortions for chromosomal 'abnormalities' such as Down's Syndrome.

Nine in ten babies with Down's Syndrome are aborted in the UK.

The number of women presenting for repeat abortions also increased in Scotland, rising 11% between 2017 and 2018.

It is a tragedy that abortion is seen as the only option for many women. A society that allows a woman to terminate the life of her unborn child is not a loving, compassionate society; it is a society that sees the weakest and most vulnerable as dispensable, and it is a society that has failed its mothers. Instead of promoting abortion, society – through governments and elected representatives – ought to be standing up for its youngest members and challenging the abortion culture.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Francis Xavier Parish and Carfin Lourdes Grotto,

On Friday evening, North Lanarkshire entered the Tier 4 level of restrictions with considerable consequences regarding the numbers allowed at a public Mass. As from Friday, a maximum of 20 – both for weekdays and Sunday Masses are allowed to be present for Mass.

Ever since the churches reopened for public worship, we have had a very healthy attendance at all our Masses. Our Sunday Masses have steadily grown in numbers to 400 each weekend between our eight Sunday Masses, our maximum capacity. Our weekday Masses average between 40 – 50 daily, the majority of them faithful Mass goers.

I have thought about this ever since I suspected that a limit of 20 at Mass would be imposed as a result of entering into Tier 4. I have racked my brain to come up with an arrangement that would be both just and workable - fair to all.

Since the return to public worship, even though the Church has rescinded the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, I have bent over backwords to ensure that everyone who wants can attend Mass here and no-one should be turned away. That has been my policy since we returned to public worship. I have calculated if the same amount of people were to turn up for Mass each weekend as has turned up in previous weeks, I would have to offer something like 20 + Masses to accommodate everyone with the capacity congregation of 20 – logistically impossible and beyond the limits of the regulations.

I feel strongly that the limit of twenty conspires against young families. From last week's attendees, I counted 39 families of 4+. In some cases three families alone would reach the total of capacity of 20. Such families, might feel guilty of taking up such a percentage of the total capacity that they would probably decline to come – even though they have faithfully attended Mass as families since the reintroduction of public worship. I don't think that would be fair.

This parish is different from many others. In addition to the good numbers of families regularly attending Mass, the grotto, being such a big part of the parish community, draws many visitors to our church for Mass – both weekdays and Sundays. Although technically not parishioners, they nevertheless have always enriched the parish by their presence at Mass and contributed financially to the maintenance of our parish. I would feel decidedly comfortable excluding them from any possible 'booking system'.

In summary, the figure of 20 people at any one Mass is so paltry that, in my opinion, it offers more complications than solutions. To be sensitive, fair and just to all, and to avoid disappointment and partiality, I am of the opinion that all public Masses be discontinued until this figure is increased. I will continue to stream Mass, Monday – Friday at 10.00am and at the weekends, I will stream a vigil Mass at 5.00pm on Saturday evening and Mass at 11.00am on Sunday morning. I would encourage you all to *'tune in'* to these Masses as a family and participate as best you can. Hopefully this will only be for a limited period.

I accept that some may find this disappointing, but, I have considered other options – all of which leave me decidedly uncomfortable. I feel that this is the fairest option to all and one which will keep us in line with the current regulations I am sorry and shall continue to pray and deliberate on this decision.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will most assuredly keep you in mine.

Fr Jim

PARISH INFORMATION

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Facebook	www.facebook.com/carfingrotto
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC-coiodOEbTzTiOhlfKpfXw/
Safeguarding	Elizabeth McMahon Geraldine Battersby

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Recently Dead Marie Devine, May Feeley, Frances Doughan, Patricia McAvoy, Baby Jessica Henderson, Flora Bell, Ella Valente, Joseph Connelly (East Kilbride), David Shields, Ellen Redington, Kathleen Heffernon Doran (New York), Dolores Lynch, Eddie Ryan, Ann Ryan , Maureen Campbell

Months Minds Gerard Keenan, Mary Cullen, Joe Fletcher

Anniversaries Mildred Kelly, John Blanche, John and Mary McShane, Jim McShane, Rosemary and Ronald McIntyre, Frank McMahon, Lisa McAlavey, Catherine Bogan , Jimmy Murphy, Rose Murphy, Pamela Ewart

Sick Mary Ellen Brennan

Birthday Rem Aidan Banks. John McShane

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Monday – Feast of Saint Margaret of Scotland

Born in Hungary, she married King Malcom III ("Canmore") and together they had eight children. Queen Margaret brought etiquette to the court, raising standards of civilised behaviour for her husband and his courtiers; she strengthened the ties between Scotland and the Pope; she encouraged the monastic orders to come to Scotland; and not least, with her own hands, she attended to the needy who came to the royal palace at Dunfermline, feeding them and washing their feet. She encouraged pilgrimages to holy sites across Scotland and, in the case of Saint Andrews, provided a ferry for pilgrims to cross the Firth of Forth, hence the names North and South Queensferry, and the new bridge known as the Queensferry Crossing. Her husband and oldest son, Edward, were killed in battle in 1093, and Queen Margaret died three days later, of grief. She was 48 years old. She was canonised in 1250

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

The black Memorial plaques for the cave at the grotto have now arrived. As far as I know everyone who put their name down in advance for the 35 spaces available will be accommodated. You should receive a phone call this week asking for the wording to be put on the plaque. The cost of each plaque is £160.

NEW CHAPLAIN TO WISHAW GENERAL

Fr Kieran Hamilton assistant Priest in St Thomas, Wishaw will be chaplain to Wishaw General Hospital for the next three months while the regular chaplain, Fr Louis Mendy recovers from illness. We wish Fr Kieran well in taking on this added responsibility.

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER CALENDARS

I have been given a limited number of these calendars to sell for the SSPC Missions. They are priced £1 or a donation. Available from the church porch.