



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20th December 2020

A dwelling place for the Lord



You are invited to celebrate

MON	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
TUE	12.00noon	Requiem Mass <i>private</i>
WED		NO MASS
THU	4.00pm 5.30pm 7.00pm 8.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass (<i>streamed</i>)
FRI	8.45am 10.00am 11.15am	Holy Mass Holy Mass (<i>streamed</i>) Holy Mass
SAT		NO MASS
SUN	<i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>	
	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass

Reading: The once nomadic Hebrews used to carry with them the ark of God, what we call the *Ark of the Covenant*. It was an ornate chest containing the stone tablets inscribed with their covenant with God. When they settled down and grew prosperous, their king proposed to build a permanent shrine for the ark. God responds to the king's plans.

Gospel: Saint Luke, writing for pagans who had become Christians, and had never been Jews, grounds the gospel in the Jewish heritage of Jesus. His introduction foreshadows much of what they already knew about the adult mission of Jesus.



LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Recently Dead Jimmy Collins, Veronica Feeney, Joe Devlin (Accrington) Gerard O'Donnell, Bridget Hutchison, Michael-Jeryes Khell, Gerard Hobson, Jamie Rafferty, Robert Weir, Kevin Clancy, William Simpson, John Devlin, Frances (Tabor) Mason, Bridie (Nolan) Tabor

Months Minds Patrick Naughton, James Naughton Snr and Jnr, Winifred Naughton, Alex Graham, Frankie and Martin Roy, Paul Todd, Elizabeth O'Neill, Frank and Margaret Roy, the Roy Family, Catherine, Charles & Tracy Devine

Anniversaries Trevor Horton, Margaret Johnston (Connelly), Joe Ferrie, Peter Connelly, Edward and Hannah O'Neill, Teddy and Margaret O'Neill, Des and Margaret Annesley, the O'Neill Family, Joseph Wilson, Betty Lynch, Hugh Reynolds, Charlie, Mary & Magdalene Devine, the Devine Family, the McFarlane Family, Jeannie Whyte, Mary & William Doherty, Fr John Doherty, Patrick Campbell, Anna T. Devine, Joseph Devine

Birthday Rem Mary McCormack, John Campbell, John O'Neill

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord.

PLEASE NOTE



There will be no vigil Mass of the Sunday next Saturday. Whilst it would be no problem for me to celebrate Mass, I would probably be breaking a rule by not having any stewards available. I do

not feel it would be fair to ask stewards to come out and do what they do, especially after a hectic Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They need to spend time with their families also.

So next Sunday, Feast of the Holy family, Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am, 10.00am and 11.00am.**



GENTLE REMINDER

ALL CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES should be handed in by WEDNESDAY 12.00noon at the latest. I cannot guarantee that any handed in after that will be included in the Christmas

bulletin. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



PARISH INFORMATION



CHRISTMAS DONATION



The annual Christmas collection to help towards the upkeep and maintenance of the parish 'plant' is taken up around this time.

I fully appreciate that people's circumstances will now be changed due to the Covid Pandemic. Please, if you are under any financial constraints, don't feel pressurised into giving if you do not have it to give.

By way of an exception this Christmas, a basket will be taken around at the offertory of the Mass, allowing you to deposit any offering you wish to make either within the envelope or 'loose'.

Whatever anyone gives, large or small, it is truly appreciated. Thank you in advance of your continued generosity. Christmas collection envelopes will be available this weekend.

	Clergy:	Fr Jim Grant, Parish Priest
	Address	Taylor Avenue, Carfin Motherwell, ML1 5AJ
	Telephone	(01698) 263308 Hall Hire 07581239872
	Email	stfrancisxavier@rcdom.org.uk xaviercentre@gmail.com (Hall)
	Website	www.carfingrotto.org
	Facebook	www.facebook.com/carfingrotto
	YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC-coiodOEbTzTiOhlfKpfxw/
	Safeguarding	Elizabeth McMahon Geraldine Battersby

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION



GiftAid :	£1055
Loose:	£ 870
Standing Orders [12th Dec-18th Dec]	£ 260
Total :	£ 2185
Special Collection (St Andrew's Hospice)	£ 110
Contactless Machine (Grotto)	£ 45

**T
H
A
N
K
S**

2021 Diaries.

CBC, the company I deal with for our piety stall has gifted me with 2021 Diaries to raise some funds for the grotto. They are available from the porch. I propose a donation of £1.00 for each. **Thank you**

CHRISTMAS CRIB RAFFLE

I drew the raffle for the Christmas crib last Friday. The Winner was no 226, Miriam Reid from Motherwell. Congratulations to Miriam and a huge thankyou to all who bought tickets both online and in the church stall. Special word of thanks to Paul Lawlor who made the crib and donated it to Carfin Lourdes Grotto. £1475 was made through this raffle.

Farewell to Mr Gerry McCormick

Mr Gerry McCormick, long-serving head-teacher of Taylor High School has retired from his post. We thank Gerry for his outstanding contribution to Catholic Education and wish him a very Happy Retirement. Mr McCormick will be succeeded at Taylor HS by Mr Paul McWatt.

Since this parish is one of the 'feeder' parishes for Taylor H.S., I wish to place on record our sincerest thanks to Mr McCormick for all that has done for this community during his long tenure of office as Head Teacher.

At the same time, on behalf of this parish, I would like to welcome Mr McWatt to this area and look forward to working with him in the years ahead.



GROTTO CALENDARS

I am in the process of having calendars printed with scenes from the grotto. The purpose is to make funds for the maintenance and improvement of the grotto. These will be on sale as soon as they are printed. I would anticipate a **£3.00 donation for each or two for £5.00**

THE WESTERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR (£3.20) is available from the stall. This publication contains information on the parishes of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, the Diocese of Paisley and our own diocese.



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 the 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 guid-

ance, 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 Bishop Toal:

In recent days, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a Year in honour of St Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of St Joseph's proclamation as *Patron of the Universal Church* by Blessed Pius IX. In doing so Our Holy Father has written a beautiful Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, offering some personal reflections on St Joseph, "*this extraordinary figure so close to our own human experience*". In extolling his greatness as spouse of Mary and legal father of Jesus, he acknowledged how St Joseph placed the whole of his life in God's hands and at the service of God's plan of salvation in a quiet, discreet way, unnoticed almost, but vitally important in caring for and protecting Mary and Jesus through the years he shared with them in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth. His figure in our Christmas cribs portrays this quiet reassuring presence who lovingly looks down on the infant Jesus, accepting the vocation as father and guardian which God has asked of him.

Pope Francis encourages us to discover in St Joseph an intercessor, a support, and a guide in time of trouble, and reminds us that is often those who appear hidden or in the shadows who play an incomparable role in God's plan for our salvation. Indeed he makes a comparison between St Joseph and the many wonderful people who have assisted us through the present time of pandemic, remarking that "*our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper or maga-*

zine headlines, or in the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history." We have certainly become very aware through recent times of how much we depend on the "*essential*" workers and volunteers in our society, and, in recognising in them a reflection of the generous and self-giving qualities of St Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis offers a word of recognition and gratitude to them all. I am sure we echo these sentiments as we hope and pray for the health and well-being of all who continue to suffer in our present situation.



As we ponder with Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and wise-men, the child in the manger, we place our hope in him as Our Lord and Saviour, and renew our desire to serve and love him in the fullest way possible with the help of his grace. He is indeed "*the loving kindness of the heart of our God, who visits us like the dawn from on high*" as pro-

claimed in the lovely prayer of Zechariah, the Benedictus, in St Luke's Gospel.

The Benedictus concludes "*He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace*". May these words dwell in our hearts as we implore the Lord's blessing on all our loved ones, and indeed the whole of humanity. May the Lord grant us his peace this Christmas.

+ *Joseph Toal*



LIVE STREAMING

Live Streaming is used to enable housebound parishioners to watch from home and others who do not attend to engage with acts of worship.



- The images are made available live online and can be accessed by anyone.
- Live streaming is carried out during live services only.
- Cameras focus only on the sanctuary area and the area immediately in front of it.
- If you do not wish to have your image live streamed please bear this in mind.

Since this 4th Sunday of Advent always focuses on the figure of Mary and her preparation for giving birth to the Redeemer, the Saviour of all humankind, I include this little reflection/hymn which you might feel helpful to put you in the right frame of mind for Friday's feast.

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb---

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great--I--- AM---



When you come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas day, **BE SURE** to bring with you the little A5 form with all your track and trace details. Please **TAKE THE TIME TO FILL THIS OUT IN FULL**—especially **CHRISTIAN NAMES**. (*Quite a number of people only gave a surname in the last A5 form where you were asked to express your Mass time preference*). I think on the whole we were able to give the vast majority of people their first choice with regard to the Christmas Mass time. In a small minority of cases we had no choice but to give them their second choice.