



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



21st March 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year of Mark)

PASSIONTIDE BEGINS

The Seed must Die

JEREMIAH Jeremiah tells a shattered people that God has not forsaken them, that he will soon make a new covenant with them. This time God will write his law not on tablets of stone but in the hearts of his people. This new covenant was brought about through the death of Jesus.

HEBREWS This reading stresses the fruitfulness of Jesus death: he became the source of eternal life for all who obey him.

JOHN We see the very real disquiet with which Jesus approaches his passion and death. But he also longs for it, for he is sure that in this hour of crisis and suffering, the Father will glorify him. By using the example of a grain of wheat, Jesus suggests that his death will bear much fruit: when he is lifted up on the cross he will draw all people to himself.



THE GREAT THREE DAYS

The Sacred Triduum

ADD YOUR NAME to a list in the church porch if you would like to attend :

- **Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm.
- **Good Friday** Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm.
- **Holy Saturday** Solemn Easter Vigil at 8.00pm

If there enough people willing to come we will duplicate Mass of The Lord's Supper and Celebration of the Passion in the hall. We are, however, liturgically restricted to one Easter Vigil.

In addition to the 3.00pm service on Good Friday, there will be Stations of the Cross in the grotto at 12.00noon and 7.00pm. The Kissing of the Cross is not permitted this year but there will be opportunities for people to reverence the cross at all services on Good Friday.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION	
Loose	£870
Standing Orders	£177
Total	£1047
Contactless (Grotto)	£35

Your continued contributions to the financial support of the parish are truly appreciated.

I am enormously grateful to those who have diligently handed in their envelopes /cash /standing orders during these strange times.

Thank You!

Streamed Masses this Coming Week

- Mon** 7.00pm Lighting of Candles followed by Holy Mass
- NB** *This will be the final lighting of candles and devotions to St Joseph for the time being.*
- Tue** 9.30am Holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass
- Wed** 9.30am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass
- Thu** 9.30am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Mass
- Fri** 9.30am Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass

NEXT WEEKEND - PALM SUNDAY Return to Public Worship

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4.00pm and 5.30pm
Sunday Masses, 9.00am, 10.15am 11.30am

Please note the changed times for this week only. This is to accommodate the reading of the Passion which lasts longer than the usual Sunday Gospel.

It's a year also since the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays was temporarily rescinded by the Bishops of Scotland.

Although, this dispensation is still in place, I am hoping and praying that this Easter will see a massive return to Holy Mass by all parishioners. Things have greatly moved on since the first lockdown. We have a vaccine and many will already have received at least the first dose. There is good reason to be less anxious about coming back to church. If you are one of those who chose not to come to the church after the first and second lockdowns, please give some serious thought to reversing that decision.

WE MISS YOU.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The plain wooden crosses which have stood in the grotto for well over a decade have reached the end of their lives. I have taken them down and replaced them with 14 little 'Wayside shrines' such as you would see in many places in Eastern Europe.

I know that, many years ago, the wooden crosses were donated by generous benefactors of the grotto. I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of so many who have used them in their prayers over many years. **Thank you once again to all donors.**

Since there has been no opportunity to pray the stations in the church, I have temporarily placed the church's stations in these 'wayside shrines' so that people might 'do the stations' in the grotto.

I have prepared leaflets with a text for praying the stations can be collected from the church porch.

OLSF Primary school will come over class by class to the grotto pray the Way of the Cross **both mornings and afternoons this week.**

Can I ask you please to keep your distance from the children as they pray the Stations. The school are understandably nervous about bringing the children over to the grotto,. But I have assured them that we will do everything we can to ensure that no one encroaches on their space. Thank you.



READERS ETC

When the churches re-open and public worship resumes, I would like to re-instate the readers rota. I have left a blank schedule in the porch and would ask all readers, including any who wish to offer their names for this ministry, to add their names as appropriate. Please remember, **NEW READERS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME.**

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES

It is good that our churches will reopen in time for Holy Week. However, although 'Places of Worship' can reopen for 'communal worship' from 26th March 2021 allowing up to 50 people to attend subject to social distancing, there is no change at this time regarding the following.

- Funerals (maximum of 20 attending)
- Weddings (maximum of 5 attending)
- Baptisms are not allowed at this time.

NEW GIFTAID ENVELOPES

Those who donate to the parish by using Giftaid envelopes will realise that they are now on their last two envelopes. New envelopes are now available to be uplifted from the porch of the church. Please collect them at your convenience.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

I have asked the stewards to return to the practice of going around with the offertory basket during the Presentation of the Gifts.



CONFESSIONS

The 'outdoor' confessions last week worked very well. The lunchtime slot was very well supported.- the evening slot, not so much. Perhaps 5.00pm was too early.

This week I hope to continue to the offer of lunchtime confessions - 12.30pm - 1.030pm. As with last week, I shall try and get some other priests to assist me.

CHURCH CLEANING

In order to get the church ready for a return to public worship next weekend, I am hoping that those who very kindly volunteered to clean the church every week will be available to resume their voluntary role starting from this coming Friday???

