



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



FEAST OF OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH

25th December 2020

Dear Parishioners and friends,

On this my first Christmas with you as your Parish Priest, I wish first of all to thank you most sincerely for the welcome extended to me when I arrived at the beginning of February. I was just beginning to find my feet when public Masses ceased on 19th March and we entered lockdown a few days later. For a number of months all I could do to be in touch with you was to stream daily Mass. Since public Masses resumed I have begun to feel a little more at home but with the constrictions involved re. social distancing I still feel I have a long way to go before feeling fully at home. By that I mean, putting names to faces, visiting the sick in their homes, visiting the school on a regular basis and generally throwing myself fully into the day to day life of a parish priest. Consequently, I don't feel that I have properly 'arrived'. Let us hope and pray that such a day will not be far off. The great news of a vaccine and hopeful signs which this brings, please God, will mean that I should feel fully integrated into the life of this wonderful parish within the next few months.



Nevertheless, in spite of the constrictions placed upon us all, I am very conscious of the support, cooperation and friendship which I have experienced over the last eleven months. If I may say so, all looks good for a continued good working relationship with you all for the years to come.

One of the very few 'good' things to emerge from the present pandemic is to witness the generosity of so many people with their time as stewards for our Masses. I am truly grateful for all they do and I am confident that I speak on behalf of everyone in placing on record our appreciation. I was also delighted that so many people participated in the streamed Masses during the period of lockdown. It was truly inspiring to know that so many shared in our online Masses. St Francis Xavier's Parish and Carfin Lourdes Grotto became so much better known—throughout the world as people from every continent joined in our Masses and rosaries. As a priest I felt so heartened and uplifted, knowing that daily Mass meant so much to people.

So, as I prepare to lead you in the wonderful and emotional liturgies of this Christmas season, I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for anything and everything you have done, both up front and behind the scenes, preparing the church, the crib, the music, altar linens indeed, every aspect of the preparation for Christmas. Whilst preferring not to single out anyone by name, be most assured that nothing of what and of you have done has gone unnoticed. I am truly in your debt as are the parishioners of St Francis Xavier's and the many 'visitors' we regularly welcome to our parish celebrations. **WELL DONE EVERYONE and MAY GOD REWARD EACH AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU.**



I close now by wishing you all every blessing and best wish for this Christmas and the new year about to begin. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph be with you and all your families over the Christmas season, and in this year of St. Joseph, may the foster-father of Jesus guide you, and protect you as he guided and protected the child Jesus.

Fr Jim, Parish Priest.

P.S. Christopher wishes all of you a very happy Christmas and profound thanks for the welcome he has received.

 PARISH INFORMATION 		
	Clergy:	Fr Jim Grant, Parish Priest
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	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 :	£ 600	T H A N K S
Loose:	£ 875	
Standing Orders <i>[21st - 23rd December]</i>	£ 102	
Total :	£ 1577	
Special Collection <i>(St Andrew's Hospice)</i>	£ 260	
Contactless Machine <i>(Grotto)</i>	£ 35	

2021 Diaries.

They are available from the porch. I propose a donation of £1.00 for each. **Thank you**

GROTTO CALENDARS

I now have the grotto calendars promised. I am very pleased with them. The photography comes to us from Sancta Familia Media and their cousin, Thomas Mallon. I ask a **£3.00 donation for each or two for £5.00**

CARFIN PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

As many of you may know, very soon after I arrived here, I made a proposal that the Diocese of Motherwell should hand over the Pilgrimage Centre to the parish and that, as Parish Priest, I would do everything in my power to re-open the Pilgrimage Centre to the public—shop and Café. Plans are moving on, A much required new heating system will be installed in January. **Watch this space.**

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sick	Thomas Riley, Darragh Dooley (child), Ger Connors
Recently Dead	Margaret Williamson (Lafferty), Daniel O'Neill, Kathleen Smith, Gerard O'Donnell, Arthur Kennedy
Months Minds	William Lynne Junior, Agnes, Gerald & John Riordan, the Riordan and Devlin Families.
Anniversaries	William & Catherine Lynn, Liam Currie, Winnie McAteer, Margaret McAuley, William O'Connor, Liam Cogan, Ellen Mullen, John McTavish, Catherine Davidson
Birthday Rem	Thomas Denholm, Gillian Monaghan



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



ALL INTIMATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE
BULLETIN MUST BE HANDED IN BY
THURSDAY EVENING, 8.00PM

*There will be no public Masses during
the Tier 4 lockdown.*

The following will be streamed

MON	11.00am	Holy Mass
TUE	11.00am	Holy Mass
WED	11.00am	Holy Mass
THU	Hogmanay	
	8.00pm	Evening Prayer
	8.30pm	Last Mass of 2020
FRI	Feast of Mary, Mother of the Lord NEW YEAR'S DAY	
	11.00am	Holy Mass
SAT		NO MASS
SUN	Feast of the Epiphany	
	11.00am	Holy Mass

STREAMING ON HOGMANAY (see above)

At the end of an extremely challenging year, I invite you to spend some time with me in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament as we reflect on what has been over the last twelve months and what we hope will be over the new year about to begin. At 8.00pm, I will expose the Blessed Sacrament for prayer including Evening prayer of the Church. At 8.30pm, I will offer the final Mass of 2020 which will be offered for all those who died during 2020.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

At the manger of Bethlehem, we remember with love the following



James and Therese Boyle, Patrick, Bridget & Sadie Skeffington, Joe Grogan, Elizabeth McCarron, Nan Wilson, May McIsaac, Elizabeth & James McAuley, the Gibb Family, Margaret, Thomas, Margaret & Daniel Heffernan, Annie & Dan Heffernan, Margaret, Thomas & Tommy Heffernan, Anne Collumb, Steve Skelton, Isa Kelly Murphy, Susan & Andrew Hamilton, Sister Kathleen Owen's, Ellen & Joe Cockrane, Eileen Mallagtan, Ann Hinton, Michael & Marie Carr, the Mackay Family, the Connelly Family, James Caffrey, Sandra O'Donnell & Family, John McKirdy, Anne Dunbar, Liz McMahon, Matilda Bonham, Janet Frank & Family, Kathleen Daly, Mary Ellen Brennan, Mary McKinstry, Ann Marie Owen's, Eddie & Maureen Connelly, Kenny & Aileen Muir, John Reilly, the Burns Family, the McGowan Family, the Savage Family, Hugh, Anna & Bernie Cullen, Paul McAllister Jnr, Mary Aiton, Theresa McIntyre, Mary Fearon, John & Thomas McKeown, the McKeown Family, the Curran Family, Bernard & Catherine McCardie, Charles & Ann McCardie, Charles & Catherine McCluskey, George & Catherine Hainey, Edward & Jean McGahan, Rachel McGahan, Marie McGahan Murray, John Murray, John & Sarah McGahan, Michael McGahan, Sadie & Tommy Tague, John & Ellen McGahan, Margaret McGahan, Joseph & Mary Sharkey, John & Eleanor Mallon, Jim & Liz Sharkey, the Hughes Family, the Sharkey Family, the Mackay Family, the Fitzsimmons Family, the McGahan Family, Dan McCann, James & John O'Neill, the O'Neill Family, Joseph & Anne Murphy, the Divers Family, the Watters Family, Mr & Mrs M. McHugh, Mr & Mrs B. McEniff, Mr & Mrs J. O'Rourke, Mrs M. McBride, Mrs E. Barton, Mr & Mrs T. Connor, Mathew McKeown, Patrick Heffernan, Angela Heffernan, the Heffernan Family, Ellen Quinn, the Quinn Family, Ned & Lynn O'Brien, Mary & Stevie Reilly, John & Ann Kane, Jim Mays, Joe Devlin, Johnny Doyle, Hugo Ostadal, the Mays, Devlin, Thomas and Currie Families, Joseph Curran, Marie Murphy, Frank & Mary Masson, John & Patsy Campbell, Cannon Taylor, Mathew and Annie Lees, Andrew and Margaret Lees, Andrew and Agnes Lees, Thomas Lees, Peter Lees, Margaret W. Lees, Betty and Shaun Lees, Liam Currie, Cathie J. Dobbins and Family, William Wardrope Snr & Jnr, Jean Wardrope, Robert & Margaret Wilson, Wilson Lees descendants, Pauline Shaw, Thomas, Pat & Christine Postlethwaite, Mary Cairns Wilson, Catherine McAleese & Cathleen Preston, Gemma Young, Joe & Helen Battersby, Martin & Tommy Kane, Frank McMahon, John & Mary McShane, Jim McShane, Rosemary & Ronald McIntyre, Frank, Agnes & Desmond McMahon, Jean Gallagher, James, Mary & Hugh Cullen, Emily & Jim McKay, Charles, Kate & Charles Cullen Jnr. Jim Robb Joe Fletcher, Karreen & Katrina Stuart, Bridget Donnelly, then Donnelly Family, the Casiday Family, William Cogan, James & Annie Kenny, Jim Kenny, John & Ellen McGahan, Thomas & Elizabeth McCausland, James & Elizabeth Glover, deceased members of the McGahan Family, Pat & May Houlihan, Michael Houlihan, Mary, Patrick & John McNally, Margaret & Patrick Howley, Margaret Howley Bell, John McCallum, Gerry Mitchell, the Sharkey & Mitchell Families, Cathie Hughes, Theresa Hughes, the Hughes Family, William & Mary McGinn, the McGinn Family, Alex Cowan, William Cowan, the Glass Family, Jim Kerr & Family, the Stevenson Family, Maurice McMonagle & the McMonagle Family, Mary & John Doherty & the Doherty Family, Owen & Matilda Gallagher, Peter & Jeannie Longworth, Frank & Theresa McCormick, Kathleen & Jim Purdie, the Giblin Family, the Hodgson Family, Catherine Denholm, Thomas Denholm, James Denholm, Sheila Denholm, John Carron, Gerry Delaney, Mar, Jim & James McBride, Phylis & Joseph Burns, the Duffy Family, the McBride Family, the Dougan Family, James Susan McDermott, Gerry Hutton, the McFadden Family, John & Annie Rafferty, Rose Marie McCluckie, David Robertson, Anthony & Bridget McAndrews, Gerald, Anne & James Shannon, Sean Ford, Richard & Ellen Mullen, Bill Perkins, Julia Perkins, Gerard O'Kane, Joseph Mullen, Richard & Cathie Mullen, the McTavish, Daly & Scott Families, Owen & May Gallagher, Alicia & Edward Gallagher (Snr), Alicia & Edward Gallagher (Jnr), Joseph Hughes, Peter & Margaret Kirley, Peter Kirley (Jnr), Alicia & Neil McDaid, Pat McCourt, Margaret Mary Rice, Family & friends of Margaret & Frankie Mimnaugh, Jimmy Patterson, Michael McGarry, Margaret McGarry, Pat Plunkett, Rev. Canon Kieran O'Farrell, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew & Ellen O'Rourke, the O'Rourke Family, James Patrick Brown, James & Alice Doherty, the Doherty Family, the Harvie Family, John, Margaret & Gerald Ferrie, Nicola Harvie, Jane Underwood, Liam Currie, Mark Divers, Ryan Sneddon, Edward Harvie, Marie Orr, the Davidson Family, the Ferguson Family, Joseph, Annie and Kathleen Hughes, Michael and Gwyneth Clark, George and Susan Ilgunas, Hugh McDermott, Mary and Michael Ryan, Rena and Tam Patton, Robert and Ross McDermott, Anne and Michael Jackson, Deceased members of the Gibbons and McCormick families, Patrick and Margaret Hart, James and Bridget McKenna.

*May Jesus, the Word made flesh who became man for us and raised us to new life,
grant all our beloved dead a share in that new life which Christmas proclaims.*

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



*Like your landlord becoming your lodger
Like your managing director up before you for an interview
Like Beethoven queuing up for a ticket to his own concert
Like a headmaster getting the cane
Like a good architect living in a slum built by a rival
Like Picasso painting by numbers
GOD LIVED AMONG US*

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

I am very enthusiastic about this Year of St Joseph. He is one of those whom I call my 'special friends'. I have a lot of time for this 'Quiet Man'. Any suggestions as to how we might mark it? Please feel free to let me know.

*I share with you a little reflection
which I often used at Christmas Masses.*

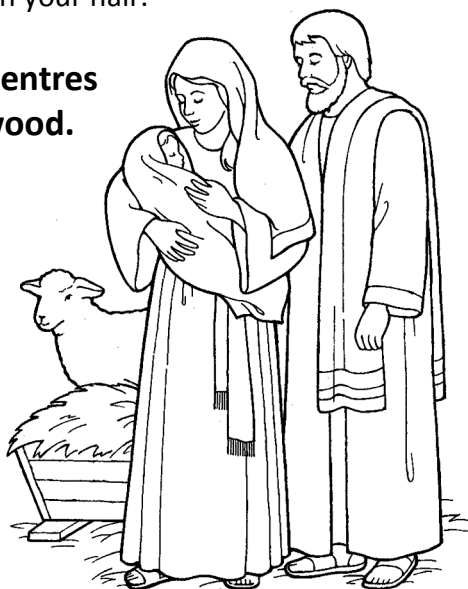
JOSEPH'S LULLABY

Sleep now, little one.
I will watch while you and your mother sleep.
I wish I could do more.
This straw is not good enough for you.
Back in Nazareth I'll make a proper bed for you
of seasoned wood, smooth, strong, well-pegged.
A bed fit for a carpenter's son.

Just wait till we get back to Nazareth.
I'll teach you everything I know.
You'll learn to choose the cedar wood, eucalyptus, and fir.
You'll learn to use the drawshave, axe, and saw.
Your arms will grow strong, your hands rough - like these.
You will bear the pungent smell of new wood
and wear shavings and sawdust in your hair.

**You'll be a man whose life centres
on hammer and nails and wood.**

But for now,
sleep, little Jesus, sleep.



Sunday is the

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JE-
SUS MARY AND JOSEPH**



Please join us by live stream at
11.00am on Sunday when we
will pray for all our families and
remember fondly those members
of our families who have been
called to their Father's House.

**HOPEFULLY COMING OUT IN THE
NEW YEAR A NEW BOOK**

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'A HISTORY OF CARFIN GROTTO'

As you will be aware, Carfin Grotto will
celebrate it's centenary in 2022.

Over this past year, Dr John Watts has
been working on a 'History of Carfin
Lourdes Grotto'. His work is now almost
complete and we are at the stage of nego-
tiations with the printers. I would hope
that, all going to plan, this book will be
available for purchase. It records the be-
ginnings and growth of the grotto over the
last one hundred years—*that's next year*
Christmas presents sorted for you!