



# St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Scripture selections emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity, and holiness.

**ACTS** Our First Reading testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, a fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel.

**JOHN** In the Gospel, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses his favourite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it. Their lives are mutually dependent – as close as a vine and its branches. In using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like.



### This week you are invited to celebrate

#### MONDAY

**NO 10.00am Mass**

1.00pm Pilgrims Mass in the Glass chapel

5.15pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (*Glass chapel*)

7.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel

#### TUESDAY - FRIDAY

9.30am Rosary in the church

10.00am Holy Mass in the church

1.00pm Pilgrims Mass in the Glass chapel

8.00pm Holy Rosary at the Lourdes shrine

### WEEKEND MASSES

**SATURDAY** 5.00pm Vigil Mass in church

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00am	Holy Mass in church
	10.00am	Holy Mass in church
	11.00am	Holy Mass in church
	11.00am	Holy Mass in Hall

**N.B. The 1.00pm Mass in the Glass chapel, being a pilgrim's Mass, will have a collection taken up so that pilgrims may support the grotto**



**ALTAR SERVERS** Sincerest thanks to Katie, Marianna and Louisa Colum, Anna Brownlie, Erin Donnelly, Arianna, Valentina and Romia Lawlor, Theo Kerr and Jonathon Haldane, who have all returned to the ministry of serving at the altar. Thanks also to their parents for allowing their children to share in this important ministry. *P.S. Delighted that eight girls have come back, but the two boys are decidedly outnumbered. Come on lads, where are you?*



## The Month of May Month of Mary

This coming Saturday sees the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Blessed Lady, the lovely month of May. **Pope Francis asks us to invoke Our Lady through the Rosary in her month of May, for an end to the pandemic.**

The Holy Rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before the weekday Masses – Monday - Friday.

Each evening during May at 8.00pm, the Holy Rosary will be recited at the Lourdes shrine in the grotto.

On Tuesdays of May the 8.00pm rosary will be broadcast via social media throughout the United Kingdom.

### The First Holy Communion celebrations

On Saturday morning, May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Feast of St Joseph the worker, we welcomed Theo Kerr, Daraia Wegrzyn, Conlin Simmons and Luke Curran to feast with us at the Table of the Lord for the very first time. Congratulations to them and to their parents.

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> May** 11.00am Olivia Savage / Sophie Martin  
Lucy Meldrum / Cian Warnock

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> May** 10.00am Andrew McDougall / Calum Reeves  
Olivia Boyle

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May** 10.00am Payton Dunlevy / Orla Murphy

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May** 7.00pm Sofia Johnston  
(Glass chapel)

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> May** 7.00pm Paul McGuinness  
(Glass chapel)

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May** 10.00am Poppy Somerville / Beau Sullivan

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June** 10.00am Ciaran Lettis / Erin Battersby  
Isaac Managa / Ethan McCormick

*Please keep these children and their parents in your prayers.*

#### CONFESSION

I want all the children to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness on an evening before their First Holy Communion. Confessions this week on TUESDAY **from 7.00pm until 8.00pm**. This Tuesday evening I will have the pleasure of celebrating the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness with Olivia, Sophie, Lucy, and Cian

**NEW EVERY SUNDAY** The second of two programmes for BBC Radio Scotland recorded by myself will be broadcast this Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Mat at 7.30am. This week I will be reflect on the life and legacy of St Oscar Romero.

**THE HOLYROOD ELECTIONS**  
**ON THURSDAY OF THIS WEEK.**  
**PLEASE USE YOUR VOTE**





**Commenting on the recent decision by the Irish Government to enact restrictions which do not allow public worship, the President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, Bishop Hugh Gilbert has issued the following statement:**

“As the Catholic Church in Scotland this year celebrates the 1500th Anniversary of the birth of St Columba who brought the faith from Ireland to Scotland in the 6th century, the thoughts and prayers of the Church in Scotland are now directed to our brothers and sisters in Ireland. “Recent developments that penalise the celebration of Holy Mass have been disturbing not only to the Irish Bishops' Conference but also to the Bishops of Scotland. We all recognise the need for restrictions to protect the common good of all people in a pandemic but to enact legislation that criminalises those who gather to celebrate Holy Mass is indeed extreme and unjust.”

“May the strong bonds between the Catholic Church in Ireland and Scotland established by St Patrick, St Columba, the Celtic saints and the faith of our forebears reassure our brothers and sisters in Ireland that they are not alone and are always in our prayers.

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May 3rd is the feast of St. Philip and St. James, two of the Twelve Apostles. Saint Philip spread the Faith in Greece and Turkey, being martyred there in AD 80. St. James, called the Lesser, meaning the younger to distinguish him from St. John's brother, was Bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred there in the year AD 62. He wrote the “Letter of Saint James” which one of the most easily read parts of the New Testament, containing practical advice on living the Christian Life

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### **GLASS CHAPEL CHAIRS**

I have come into possession of a number of chair which I have laid out in the glass Chapel. These are courtesy of are Glasgow business who were renewing all their furniture and a friend of mine from my last parish phoned me to ask if I were interested in giving these chairs (and a few couches) an new home. I immediately said yes. They are in first class condition and one would almost think they have never been used. *(Many of the chairs previously in the glass Chapel are literally the worse for wear so it would be a project of mine in the future to have the worst of them recovered).*

### **MONDAY EXPOSITION - 5.15pm**

I have been summoned to Ravenscraig on Monday 17.40pm to get my second vaccine. For this reason I shall expose the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel before going down there. The Most Blessed Sacrament will, for this Monday only, be exposed around 5:15 PM and the Lord will remained exposed there until Mass at 7.00pm.

#### **THANK YOU FOR LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION**

<b>Loose &amp; GiftAid</b>	<b>£ 1765</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>£ 239</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2004</b>
<b>Contactless (Grotto)</b>	<b>£ 25</b>

### **GROTTO**

I have been tidying up parts of the grotto that looked a little tired many of you will have notice this stonework around the Christ the King statue I've also recited or the statue of Our Blessed Lady ( Stella Maris) and Saint Joseph to a more prominent position where they can be better seen. Work has also been done on the Saint Pius X statue and stairs leading up to it. The two shrines on either side have also been tidied up. In time, I intend to 'tidy up' the shrine 'Comforter of the Afflicted'.

### **PILGRIMAGE CENTRE**

Work on the work on the heating system in the Pilgrimage Centre is due to start any day now, I believe. Sadly, it does not look as if the Pilgrimage Centre will be open this year so I am now setting my sights towards the re-opening in the spring of 2022 . In the meantime I shall think about how we might be able to provide simple tea and coffee for pilgrims in the Xavier Centre. Watch this space.

**A polite and gentle reminder,  
please to switch off your  
mobile phones before coming  
into church.**

**THANK YOU.**



## Primary 4 - First Confessions

It would be my intention, in the evenings during the month of May, to celebrate the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness with those children in Primary 4 in preparation for their First Holy Communion. My plan is to hear the 'First Confessions' down in the grotto, in the Glass chapel, weather permitting. It will be from 7.00pm till 7.45pm on a weekday and will take place in small groups of 5/6 each evening. **The day and time will be assigned by me and not through the school.**

## Primary 4 - First Holy Communions

These these will take place in June, in small groups of five or six possibly during the Saturday or Sunday Masses. **More information to follow a.s.a.p.**

## Primary 7 - Sacrament of Confirmation

I propose that these should take place on Mondays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm. In consultation with the school, I have decided that we should concentrate on the Sacrament of Confirmation for the children in Primary 7. It is important that we do this before they move on to High School. I would like to defer the Confirmation of the Sacrament of Confirmation of the children presently in Primary 6 until the Autumn. This means that we can take the preparation of these children at a much slower pace. Hopefully, also, the present restrictions in place for public worship will be more relaxed by then.

## Primary 3 – First Confessions

With all that is going on in the next few months we shall defer the First Confession of children in Primary 3 till the Autumn.

### READERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

		CHURCH	HALL
Sat	5.00pm	Elaine Haldane	n/a
Sun	9.00am	Jim Gibson	n/a
Sun	10.00am	Aileen Muir	n/a
Sun	11.00am	Kathleen Miller	<i>volunteer</i>

### Special Collection in May

The Diocesan special collection in May is for Sick and Retired Priests. In 2020, the costs to the diocese for sick and retired priests was in excess of £305K, whereas the special collection was only raised £29,850. The deficit of about £275K had to be met from diocesan funds.

Donations can also be made using the Payacharity online portal on the front page of the diocesan website – [www.rcdom.org.uk](http://www.rcdom.org.uk). One of the options provided is for Sick and Retired Priests and the donation can be gift-aided.

### LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Sick** Karen Davidson, Nina Brown, Julie McGhee

**Recently Dead** Patricia Glover, Margaret Allison, Jim Docherty, Gillian Stobie, Theresa Budd, Maureen Devlin, Suzanne Welsh (Shotts), John Whyte

**Months Minds** Peter, Theresa, Noreen, Michael, & Peter Hannaway, Katie Meldrum, Rosie Canavan, Bill Malloy, Lauchie & Sarah Shelley, Margaret McGeehan, Patrick Naughton, James Naughton Snr & Jnr, Trevor Horton, Alex Graham, Gerald & John Riordan, Tiffney & Kenny families, Betty Brown, Lawrence Brown Jnr

**Anniversaries** Francie McGeehan, Sharon Hastie, Winifred Naughton, Agnes Riordan, Mary Ann Cullen, Patrick Cullen, Charlie Tiffney, Kathleen Cairns, Patrick Cairns, Elizabeth Cairns

**Birthday Remembrance:** Jim Mays