



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



7th February 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year of Mark)

JESUS' RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

Suffering touches all of us at some time. Jesus' response to suffering was one of compassion. Little wonder that the sick flocked to him for healing.

THE WORD OF GOD TODAY

JOB The Book of Job wrestles with the problem of why the innocent should suffer. The common explanation was that suffering was a punishment for sin. But Job is a good man yet he suffers greatly. Today's first reading reveals how pessimistic Job is feeling about life. Job's reflection on the miseries of human life provide the backdrop for the healing work of Jesus illustrated in today's Gospel.




PAUL St Paul talks about the vocation he has received, he has been given the duty of preaching the Gospel – a task that he has been given, rather than one he has chosen for himself.

MARK Jesus did not accept the view that suffering was a punishment from God. In today's Gospel, we are not given an answer to 'why suffering?' but, rather, Jesus' actual response to suffering. Jesus reveals to us the compassion of God in the face of human suffering.

January Collections

	Collection	Standing Orders	Total
Sunday 3 rd	£ 275	£ 877	£ 1152
Sunday 10 th	£ 315	£ 377	£ 692
Sunday 17 th	£ 653	£ 147	£ 800
Sunday 24 th	£ 634	£ 207	£ 841
Sunday 31 st	£ 885	-----	£ 885
Total	£ 2762	£ 1608	£ 4370

Contactless Machine (Grotto) £155



Thursday 11th February

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
also World Day of Prayer for the Sick

On **Wednesday evening**, the vigil of the feast, I shall stream '**An evening with Bernadette**' featuring the rosary and prayers....

On **Thursday morning**, there will be a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at 10.00am (*Rosary beforehand at 9.30am*).



Your continued contributions to the financial support of the parish are truly appreciated. During these times of lockdown, we have no other means of financial support – the hall is closed, there are no gatherings in the grotto, no public Masses. I am enormously grateful to those who have diligently handed in their envelopes/cash/standing orders during these strange times. **Please keep up the good work – big annual insurance bill of over £8,000 to pay soon.**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

CHRISTOPHER IGWE. As most of you know, our Nigerian student, Christopher, was due to begin his seminary studies in January. Unfortunately, the Covid virus and the subsequent restrictions have resulted in his entrance to seminary being postponed until September.

Statue of St Bernadette



Since our last Parish Newsletter, I have taken possession of a marble statue of St. Bernadette. This was donated by friends of mine from a previous parish who lost their mum and dad over the last few years. Dad died just a few months ago and had been saving up for a trip to Lourdes. He and his wife were great devotees of Our Lady of Lourdes and of the Lourdes itself. The family asked that they be allowed to donate dad's 'Lourdes savings' to cover the cost of the statue. I was very pleased to accept their generous offer. The statue will be placed in a prominent position in the grotto at some point in the near future. Please remember the deceased husband and wife, James and Agnes, and their family in your prayers.

I was also approached on the Carfin Grotto Facebook by a stonemason from Coatbridge who volunteered to site the statue in the grotto free of charge. ***God is good and God's people are good.***

Streamed Masses this coming Week

Mon	7.00pm	Lighting of Candles followed by Votive Mass of St. Joseph
Tue – Fri	9.30am	Holy Rosary
	10.00am	Holy Mass
Sat	-----	
Sun	11.00am	Holy Mass, Sixth Sunday of Year

THE PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

Work in the Pilgrimage has been stalled as a result of the Covid restrictions. At a cost of £16,000, the much needed new heating system was delivered to the building before Christmas but the present restrictions mean that work cannot go ahead just now until the First Minister lifts some of the restrictions regarding non-essential work. Even so, I am still hopeful that the Pilgrimage Centre might be opened early summer. However, there is still a fair amount of work to be done before that can happen. After the new boiler is installed, we shall have to address the precarious state of the floor and the tiling which will need to be renewed.

XAVIER CENTRE In consultation with the manager of the Parish Centre, a new official caterer has been appointed for all hall requirements. He is Paul Larkin of 'Anyas Catering'. They have a proven track record of delivering five star events. I can testify from personal experience over many many years that the quality of service Paul provides can be guaranteed to delight all

Devotions to St Joseph



On Monday evenings I shall light candles on behalf of all those who have requested this via the Facebook page. After this ceremony, a Votive Mass of St Joseph will be offered for all those intentions

St Margaret of Scotland Adoption Society

The amount donated at the crib this year was £ 510 - a tremendous amount since Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were the only opportunities to visit the crib and make a donation.

Sincere Thanks.