



St Francis Xavier's, Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



5th December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

THIS WEEK YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

TUE	7.00pm Holy Mass in Glass chapel	FRI	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in the Glass chapel
WED	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in Glass chapel Solemn Mass at 7.00pm in the church	SAT	10.15am Requiem Mass for Pat O'Rourke 5.00pm Vigil Mass in the Parish Church
THU	9.30am Rosary and Morning Prayer in Glass chapel 10.00am Holy Mass in Glass chapel NO CONFESSIONS DUE TO THE WORK IN THE CHURCH	SUN	9.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church 11.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church

TONIGHT—SUNDAY and for the next three Sundays, I will expose the Most Blessed Sacrament on the altar at 6.00pm and be available for Confession until 6.45pm. At 6.45pm, we shall pray *Evening Prayer of the Church for the Sundays of Advent* and conclude with a simple Benediction.



Wednesday - Saturday
EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
in the Glass Chapel
from 9.00am - 10.00am

- ♦ Holy Rosary at 9.30am
- ♦ Morning Prayer at 9.50am
- ♦ Holy Mass at 10.00am

HUGE THANKS to Mick McCormick and his wonderful army of volunteers who organised the Fish Supper/Quiz night last Friday. £1161 was raised for the grotto.



Thanks also to Torridon Celtic Supporters club for their generous donation of £50. It was impressive to see so many younger parishioners supporting this event. Very well done to those who organised it and many thanks to all who supported it.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated with a Solemn Mass on the evening of the 8th of December at 7:00 PM. The music will be led by Motherwell Diocesan Music Group. I look forward to welcoming many from the parish and from outside the parish for this lovely feast which has a connection to Lourdes. When asked by Bernadette Soubirous what was her name 'The Lady', as Bernadette referred to her, said "I am the Immaculate Conception" – a title that meant nothing to Bernadette but which, lest she forget, kept repeating over and over again on her way to tell her Parish Priest. The priest was then convinced him at that point that Bernadette had seen the Virgin Mary. Since the Grotto is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, I thought it appropriate that we should celebrate this solemnity with fervour and devotion.



THE SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS

In today's gospel John the Baptist appears preaching a baptism of repentance. Repentance is an important element of the season of Advent. But what is repentance? There are several meanings to the term, but its most foundational sense is **A CALL TO CHANGE**, to change something in our lives, to change anything that hinders Christ's coming into our everyday lives, from coming into our hearts.

GENERAL ABSOLUTION

In 'normal' times I would be encouraging you to go to individual confession and would schedule extra opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament. However, as a special indult, the bishop has invited priests who wish, to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness in the context of **General Absolution**. The reason behind this is to encourage as many as possible to return to the Sacraments at Christmas, and, given their recent restoration of the Sunday obligation, to make a renewed effort and to live that Catholic faith as best we can.



In the knowledge that many would like to go to confession but maybe this might be difficult for some people. From experience, I have an awareness of how powerful General Absolution can be and so I propose that on **Saturday the 18th of December at 12 noon** I will celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness with **General Absolution** here in the church. You are invited to come along and **most**

importantly, to bring along any who have been away from church or away from the faith and who had very hesitant about going to individual confession. The communal setting of a Service of General Absolution will be less daunting for people who have been away from the Sacrament for some time. However, the bishop also wants me to remind us that any mortal sins should be confessed in an individual confession *at a later date*. I leave that with you to explain to any who may want to come along.

REMEMBER ALSO that there is an opportunity for Individual Confession on the Sundays of Advent from 6.00pm - 6.45pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time. 6.45: Evening Prayer (see front of bulletin).



ANNUAL MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF MOTHERWELL DIOCESE

The Mass for deceased clergy of the Diocese will take place at St Bernadette's Church in Motherwell on Monday 6th of December beginning at 7pm with Father Michael Briody offering a short recall of the lives and ministry of those who have died in the past year and then followed by the celebration of Holy Mass. All welcome.

NEXT JOE'S DEVOTION on Monday 20th December at 7pm. *Venue: Glass Chapel.*

XAVIER CENTRE UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ Christmas Lunches Sun 12th Dec 2pm-5pm
- ♦ Christmas party night Sat 18th Dec
- ♦ Hogmanay family Night Fri 31st Dec 8pm-1am

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

STARTERS

- Lentil Broth
- Cherry Tomato Red Onion & Goats Cheese Tart (V)
- Anya's Delicious Chicken Liver Pate

MAINS

- Butter Basted Roast Turkey and all trimmings
- Traditional Steak Pie
- Cheesy Vegetable Strudel (Vegan/Vegetarian)

DESSERTS

- White Chocolate Festive Cheesecake
- Chocolate Profiteroles
- Apple Pie

Freshly brewed Tea or Coffee.

To book a table, phone Mick McCormick

Tel: 07877 975 271

READERS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 5.00pm Paul Burns
Sun 9.00am Alan Panton
Sun 11.00am Kenny Muir

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Loose & GiftAid £ 1250
Standing Orders £ 443
Total £ 1693

'THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC'

The fortnightly magazine is available for purchase from the church porch. Priced £2.00.

THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION WILL BE REIN-STATED FROM SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY.

CARFIN GROTTO CENTENARY CALENDARS

are now available from the stall. You can also purchase them from the church porch and leave your £3 pounds in an honesty box on the table in the porch.

SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Sincere sympathies to the family of Pat O'Rourke who passed away on Wednesday of last week. As you will see parts funeral will be on Saturday coming. To accommodate the cemetery, Mass will begin a little later at 10:15am. Pat's mortal remains will be received into the church at the beginning of Mass.

Also, our sympathies to the family of Aileen Smith who passed away on Thursday. Aileen's funeral has still to be arranged.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

LET US REMEMBER PRAYER

Sick: Maureen Buckley, Francis Kerr, Gerard Green

Recently Dead: Aileen Smith, Pat O'Rourke, Mary Ellen McDonagh, Paul Marshall, Mary McGeogh, Geraldine McCarthy, Theresa Smith, John McArdle, Ann & George O'Keefe, Anthony O'Keefe, Philip Higgins, Catherine Walker, Hugh Heaney, Margaret Hill, James McGeough, Elizabeth McCabe,

Months Mind: James Cullen, Catherine, Charles & Tracey Devine, Jimmy Collins

Anniversary: Eamon McManus, Anne Mitchell, Wille Moffat

WELCOME KEVIN



This weekend we welcome a young musician, Kevin Cameron who hails from Fort William and who is spending a few days with

us. Kevin will share his talents with us at the weekend Masses. Kevin is a trained singer and organist.

The Legion of Mary

The Legion is small in numbers but they desperately seek new recruits to carry out the work of the Legion. They meet on Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the meeting room adjacent to the sacristy.

The Legion of Mary lead the First Saturday devotions before the 10.00am Mass on the first Saturday of every month.



CHRISTMAS MASSES

If I am being totally honest, I am not in favour of the early vigil Masses on Christmas Eve. In all my time in Holy Family, Mossend, I resisted succumbing to this comparatively recent innovation of having a vigil Mass early on Christmas Eve. As the years passed, the timing of these Masses in some places got earlier and earlier. However, I am aware that there has been a custom of an early vigil Mass here in Saint Francis Xavier's. I also am well aware that people will simply go elsewhere if there is not an opportunity to celebrate a vigil Mass here. Also, I have taken soundings amongst a number of parishioners and I get a sense that there is no great appetite for a 'Midnight Mass'. Consequently, this is what I propose:

Christmas Eve

- ♦ Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm
- ♦ First Mass of Christmas at 9.00pm
with Blessing of the crib

Christmas Day

- ♦ Christmas morning Mass at 10:30am

N.B.: I know that Christmas day falls on a Saturday but there will be no vigil Mass of the Sunday on Christmas Day.

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)

Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at 10.00am and 12.00noon

The following weekend

- ♦ Friday 31st December (Hogmanay) 7.00pm Mass
- ♦ Saturday January 1st, New Year's Day
Mass at 11:00am.
- ♦ Sunday January 2nd (Feast of the Epiphany)
Masses at 10.00am and 12.00noon

COLLECTION FOR SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Last week's collection came to £ 775

Many thanks for your generosity.



**Don't leave it
to others to do
all the work.**



**C'MON NOW,
EVERYBODY
SINGS**

Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."



PARISH CHOIR PRACTICE

Due to the church being out of commission during weekdays, the choir practice this Monday will be in the Glass chapel, 7.30pm

**NEW MEMBERS WILL
ALWAYS BE WELCOME.**

Carfin Grotto Centenary DVD

Sancta Familia Media are looking for interviews, anecdotes and stories of the grotto and about Canon Taylor from earlier days. If you can help out, please get in touch with them.

sanctafamiliamedia@gmail.com

COMING TO TELEVISION

**Joint Scottish-Irish
Documentary on St Columba.**

This is a collaboration between BBC Alba and TG4 in Ireland and will transmit on **7th December at 9:30 pm.**

The documentary about seminarians at the Pontifical Scots College in Rome, **Priest School**, is being repeated at 10pm on BBC Scotland on **Tuesday 14 December 2021.**

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Bishop Toal has accepted three young men to begin formation for the Priesthood.

They are: Aidan Farrell, (Lanark) Matthew O'Neill (Whifflet), and Aidan Kelly from Hamilton. He has asked for our prayers and support for these men.

The bishop, asks us to take the opportunity to invite others who might be interested in pursuing a Vocation to the Priesthood to make themselves known to their Parish Priests or by contacting the Vocations Director, Fr Charles O'Farrell, at Our Lady and Saint Anne's parish on 01698 423044.

CHURCH HEATING UPDATE

The work continues. Radiators are installed and working. There is a need for some 'cosmetic' work to be done to tidy them up (boxing in pipe-work, plastic sills etc etc.). The 'hold up' is with the company employed by the diocese to remove the old heating. There is a strict method they have to follow which means they can only remove two heating units per week.