

# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020



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## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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**W**ith the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus the cycle of the Lord's manifestations continues. It began at Christmas with the Birth in Bethlehem of the Incarnate Word, contemplated by Mary, Joseph and the shepherds in the humility of the crib. The Epiphany, when the Messiah, through the Magi, showed himself to all the peoples, marked an important milestone. On this day, on the banks of the Jordan, Jesus reveals himself to John and to the People of Israel. It is the first time that he enters the public scene as an adult, after leaving Nazareth. We find him with John the Baptist to whom multitudes have flocked, in an unusual scene. The baptism John offers is one of repentance, a sign that is an invitation to conversion, to a change of life, because One is coming who will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire". Indeed it is impossible to aspire to a new world while remaining immersed in selfishness and habits linked to sin. Jesus too leaves his home and his customary occupations to go to the Jordan. He arrives among the crowd that is listening to John the Baptist and queues up like everyone else, waiting to be baptised.



As soon as he sees Jesus approaching, John realises that there is something unique in this Man, that he is the mysterious Other for whom he has been waiting and to whom his whole life is oriented. He understands that before him stands One who is greater than he, the straps of whose sandals he is not even worthy to untie.

At the Jordan Jesus reveals himself with an extraordinary humility, reminiscent of the poverty and simplicity of the Child laid in the manger, and anticipates the sentiments with which, at the end of his days on earth, he will come to the point of washing the feet of the disciples and suffering the terrible humiliation of the Cross. The Son of God, the One who is without sin, puts himself among sinners, demonstrates God's closeness to the process of the human being's conversion. Jesus takes upon his shoulders the burden of sin of the whole of humanity, he begins his mission by putting himself in our place, in the place of sinners, in the perspective of the Cross.

While absorbed in prayer he emerges from the water after his Baptism, the skies break open. It is the moment awaited by so many prophets: "O that you would rend the heavens and come down!", Isaiah had prayed (64: 1). At that moment, in going up out of the water, as St Gregory Nazianzen says, Jesus "sees the heaven opened which Adam had shut against himself and all his posterity" (*Discourse 39 per il Battesimo del Signore*, PG 36). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come down among human people and reveal to us their love that saves. If it is the Angels who bring the shepherds the announcement of the Saviour's birth, and the star that conveys it to the Magi who came from the East, now it is the Father's voice that indicates the presence of his Son in the world to human beings and invites them to look to the Resurrection, to Christ's victory over sin and death.

*Pope Benedict XVI, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 2010*

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# THIS WEEK IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

## SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

*SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SUNDAY*

4.15PM CONFESSIONS UNTIL 4.45PM

5.00PM VIGIL MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

*FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD*

9.00AM HOLY MASS

11.00AM SOLEMN HOLY MASS

## MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM HOLY MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT KENTIGERN (PATRON OF GLASGOW)

6.00PM VIGIL & RECEPTION FOR PATRICIA MCCLENAGHAN

## TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM REQUIEM MASS FOR PATRICIA MCCLENAGHAN

6.00PM VIGIL & RECEPTION FOR NELLIE LAFFERTY

## WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM REQUIEM MASS FOR NELLIE LAFFERTY

## THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM HOLY MASS

## FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM HOLY MASS FOR THE MEMORIAL OF SAINT ANTONY OF EGYPT

## SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

10.00AM HOLY MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR BLESSED LADY

4.15PM CONFESSIONS UNTIL 4.45PM

5.00PM VIGIL MASS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

9.00AM HOLY MASS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11.00AM SOLEMN HOLY MASS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## OUR LADY & SAINT FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 should register for school during the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Registration will be available daily, Monday to Friday, from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Parents who wish to register should bring along the child's Birth Certificate, current Council Tax bill and Baptismal Certificate where available. Please note that all children should enrol in their designated catchment area school where advice will be given regarding placing requests. Please pass the above registration arrangements to any friends or neighbours who have children of age to start school in August 2020.

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## THANK YOU

Janette and the Mays family would like to thank Fr Seàn and Fr Krzysztof, Deacon Jim, the organist and cantor for the beautiful Mass for the repose of Jim's soul. Thank you to all parishioners for their attendance at the Mass, for prayers, cards, messages of sympathy and support received. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

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## VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Thank you to those Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have given the details of those they visit with Holy Communion to Fr Wyllie. Could those who have still to pass on this information do it this weekend so that visits to the sick can be arranged.

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## WHITE MASS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The Annual White Mass for Healthcare Professionals and others who work in the health and care sectors will take place in Motherwell Cathedral on Sunday 9th February at 10.30am, followed by refreshments in St Bride's Hall. This Mass is held annually in a particular diocese throughout Scotland and this year Motherwell Diocese is hosting the Mass.

Bishop Toal will be the Principal Celebrant.

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## THE GOLDEN BOOK

Just before Christmas the Golden Book of Remembrance Mass Cards sold out. We ordered them at that time and contacted the supplier again between Christmas and New Year. We have contacted them again and are currently waiting on confirmation that they will be sent out within the next few days. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused but we hope to have it rectified soon.

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## MONTHS MIND MASS

The Months Mind Mass for Fr Martin O'Keeffe and Fr John Breslin, both recently deceased priests of the Diocese of Motherwell, will take place on Thursday 30th January at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Toal.

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## GIN IN CARFIN

A Gin Charity Night will take place in the Xavier Centre on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February from 7pm-midnight. Tickets are priced at £25.00. Music will be provided by Stevie Donaghan. For details and Tickets call Mick McCormick on 07827975271

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**WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY - £1855.00**

Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish

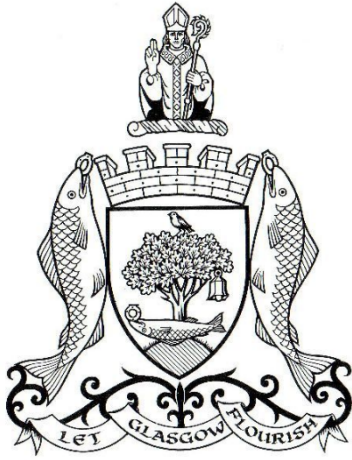
**JUSTICE AND PEACE COLLECTION - £763.00**

Many thanks for your generosity to the Second Collection last week

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## SAINT KENTIGERN

Saint Kentigern, or Mungo, was the Bishop who founded the Archdiocese of Glasgow. St. Mungo is said to have performed four miracles whilst in Glasgow. Though most Glaswegians may have long forgotten, their city's coat of arms is all about Saint Mungo and his miracles.



Atop the tree at the centre of the arms is the bird that never flew: This refers to a bird that Mungo restored to life after it had been killed by some of his classmates.

Then we have the tree that never grew: When Mungo was left in charge of the fire at St. Serf's monastery but it died out when he fell asleep. On awakening, he took a hazel branch and restarted the fire.

Hanging from the right-hand side of the tree is the bell that never rang: Refers to a bell which Mungo brought back from Rome which was then used at Mass and to mourn the dead.

Then at the bottom and flanking each side of the arms is the fish that never swam. This refers to the story about Queen Languoreth of Strathclyde who was suspected of infidelity by her husband. King Riderch demanded to see her ring, which he claimed she had given to her lover. (In reality the King had thrown it into the River Clyde.) Faced with execution, the helpless Queen appealed for help to Mungo, who ordered a messenger to catch a fish in the river. On opening the fish, the ring was miraculously found inside, which allowed the Queen to clear her name.

### PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Francey Connelly, Patricia McClenaghan (*Reception of Body on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm, Requiem Mass on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am*), Nellie Lafferty (*Reception of Body on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm, Requiem Mass on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am*), Rose Davy, Danny Gibb, Anna Friel, Catherine Swan, John McGinley (Corby), Fr. John F. Breslin, Duncan McCorquodale, Alex Espie, Norah McNally, Margaret McAuley (Paisley), Frank Hastie, Martyn McGuigan, Betty Lynch

**MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** – Mary Masson, Mary Krusinski, Alex Brown, John O'Neill, Alice Goldie, Samuel Goldie, James Cullen, Catherine Watters

Intimations for inclusion should reach the Chapel House by 7pm on a Thursday evening

### CONTACT US

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