

Weekly Mass Schedule

Sunday 23rd February	10.00am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	11.00am	St Anthony's	Mass
	12.00 pm	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	1.30 pm	St Francis Xavier's	Polish Mass
	7.00pm	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Monday 24th February	7:30 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	9:30 am	St Anthony's	Mass
	10:00am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Tuesday 25th January	7:30 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	10.00am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Wednesday 26th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	12.30 pm	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	7.00 pm	St Anthony's	Mass
	7.30pm	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Thursday 27th February	10.00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	7:00 pm	St Francis Xavier's	Stations of The Cross
	7:30 pm	St Francis Xavier's	Confessions
Friday 28th February	10.00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass and Adoration
	7:00 pm	St Anthony's	Stations of The Cross
Saturday 29th February	9:30 am	St Anthony's	Mass
	10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
	10.30 am	St Francis Xavier's	Confessions
	5.45pm	St Francis Xavier's	Confessions
	6:30pm	St Francis Xavier's	Vigil Mass

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am Monday to Saturday at St FX, Rosary after 10:00 am Mass Monday to Saturday (except Tuesday and Friday) at St FX, Divine Mercy Chaplet after 10:00am mass Tuesdays. Exposition on Fridays

The Parish of

St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk

The Church of St Anthony, Rumford

Seventh Sunday of the Year, 23rd February 2020, A

We find our liturgy on page 139 of the yellow Mass book

"Love your enemies"



The Law of Talon, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, seems barbaric to us today, in the light of the gospel of love, mercy and forgiveness. But when it was introduced it seemed like an advance—only one person being hurt or maimed or killed rather than the decimation of entire families and tribes demanded by the honour system of the times. Jesus is asking us for an advance today. He continues to encourage us to stretch far beyond our humanness, past the desire for revenge when we are hurt, past the demands of our angry hearts and egos to offering 'no resistance' to those who harm us. To give to those in need more than they are asking for. For sacrificial giving, giving that costs, for love of the other. The 'wisdom of this world' sometimes encourages us to be angry or selfish. This is, as our Second reading puts it, 'foolishness to God.' The God of Love knows that what the world *really needs* is love. And love starts with us, with one person having the grace to move beyond themselves, to answer the call of God to love our neighbour. Such grace comes from humility, from the recognition that we have been forgiven much: 'He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.' We give thanks to God for His endless compassion and mercy.

PARISH CONTACTS

Very Rev. Jamie Boyle V.E. (Parish Priest)

Rev. William McQuillan (Assistant Priest)

Rev. John Peter Sippai Siluvappan CPPS Rev. Kenneth Anyanyeya Atia

Deacon Rev. Kenneth Mununga

Anne Buhrmann (Pastoral Assistant)

St Francis Xavier's, Chapel House, Hope Street, Falkirk FK1 5AT

Telephone: 01324 623567

St Francis Xavier's is a parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrew & Edinburgh.
A Charity registered in Scotland Number SC008540

Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Pat O'Donnell, Owen O'Neil, Michael Kennedy, John McCabie, Edward Mowen, Joseph Marley, John McKenna, Bob Meighan, Bill Gallacher, William F Jordan, Michael McGarvey, Mathew Collins, Jimmy McCarroll, Edward Donnelly, Alice Reilly, John Mitchell, John O'Brien, Elizabeth Green, Edward Travers, Elizabeth Haaney, Mahri McFeat McDonald, John Marshall, John Farrell, John Murray, James McFadden, Bernard Sweeney, Mary McAllister, Kathleen Smith, Charles McCue.

May they rest in peace.

Leadership Summit

Thank you to all the groups who provided feedback on our parish vision—Fr Jamie will address some of the core questions at our Leadership Summit after 12pm Mass today. We are grateful to everyone who is giving up part of their day today to help set up our new communication model in the parish. Communication was easily the issue which came up most in the feedback, so the new structure is being put in place to improve communication across the parish. Each parish group now has a representative who has a point person on the Leadership Team, so issues can be raised and addressed and our 'wins' as a parish can be celebrated as we move forward. We look forward to the communication loop working both ways— from the groups to the Leadership Team, and from the team to the groups.

If you don't belong to a parish group we would love for you to get involved. Please do contact the church house on 623567 with any ideas or questions you have, or for more information.

New Parishioners. If you are new to our community, welcome! Please introduce yourself to the clergy, and join us for coffee after Sunday 10am Mass. We'd ask you to fill out a parish registration form too, either online at www.falkirkcatholics.org or using a registration form which can be found in the porch. For any **Safeguarding** issues, please contact the Parish Priest/see safeguarding contacts in porches.

	St Anthony's	St Francis Xavier
Offertory	£408.33	£1731.98

NEWS & EVENTS

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, falls on Wednesday the 26th of February and is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.

Friday 28th February is a **Day of Prayer for all those who have suffered abuse.**

House Visits—if you have not already done so, please collect and fill out the information sheets for housebound parishioners being visited by a Eucharistic Minister. We then have signed permission for visits, from a safeguarding perspective, but the forms also enables visits to happen more easily and frequently as we have up to date contact details.

Leadership Summit Representatives from the various parish groups will come together today after 12pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's in the hall to discuss parish feedback on the vision and next steps. The new structure has been set up to help us overcome communication issues in such a large parish. Thank you to everyone for participating.

There will be a gathering for World Day of Prayer Service at St Francis Xavier's **in the church hall** on Friday 6th March at 7.00 pm. The **World Day of Prayer** is an international ecumenical Christian initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. All welcome, and we will have fellowship and refreshments afterwards. If anyone would like to come along to represent the various nationalities in

the parish, you would be most welcome indeed. Please come pray with us on the night, and bring a friend, either from the parish or another faith tradition.

There is also another service being held the same day at 2pm in Trinity Church, for anyone who can't attend that evening.

Foodbank—would you feel able to collect the items which are dropped off for the foodbank and to take them there every week by car? We are looking for a volunteer to help in this way. Please contact the office on 623567.

Please pray for our **Alpha retreat** which takes place next Saturday, that it be a special day of prayer and encounter with Our Lord for the retreatants.

The **Scanlan family** would like to express their appreciation to all those who contributed so generously to the British Heart Foundation after the recent funeral of Joe Scanlan, and for all the sincere wishes and sympathy extended to them at this time.

As we approach the season of **Lent**, parents and parishioners can find **helpful resources** from the Scottish Catholic Education Service to accompany our Primary and Secondary students, as well as our parish community journey through Lent together. See one of the helpful resources in the church porch. There are further suggestions for families and school communities on the SCES website: <https://sces.org.uk/parents-lent-newsletter-2020/>