

Weekly Mass Schedule

Due to the Corona Virus, all public worship continues to be suspended until further notice.

Please pray and worship with us online. This is a vital way for us to stay in and even build community. We would urge those comfortable with technology to reach out to family and neighbours and to show them how to connect with the community in this way. Keep Mass as normal as possible, following its rhythms, saying the responses out loud, sharing in the hymn singing.

We live stream the Mass daily at 10am, on www.falkirkcatholics.org and on our Face Book page, Falkirk Catholics.

We encourage you to pray the Rosary. The Legion of Mary prays the Rosary daily at 4pm, and invites you to join them on Zoom. Anyone interested should contact the office on:

office@falkirkcatholics.org and you'll be sent the Zoom ID and password, as well as scripture/prayer cards for the different mysteries.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will continue, and will be streamed after the Friday Mass at approximately ten thirty on the parish website and on Facebook.

Confessions are available on request. We ask you to carefully consider the risks to both yourself and the priest.

Act of Spiritual Communion:

Please be aware you can pray this prayer in the absence of receiving the Eucharist:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

The Parish of

St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk

The Church of St Anthony, Rumford

Second Sunday of Easter, 19th of April 2020, Year A

“ Eight days later, Jesus came.”



Today's readings: Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 117; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; Gospel—John 20: 19-31

“I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.” These are the words of St Thomas in our gospel today. Thomas is a questioner. Earlier in the gospel he wants to know *exactly* where Jesus is going. But he then also has the courage to follow Him, even when it's dangerous. When the Risen Christ returns He responds to Thomas' exact words, inviting him to explore His wounds; He knows Thomas' doubt precisely. He also knows the remedy for that doubt, meeting Thomas with the perfect response, giving him what he needs to overcome it. Whatever our need or doubt is this week—do we know what that is? Have we shared it with Jesus? —He will meet us there. And so 'by believing in him (we) will have life by the power of his name.'

PARISH CONTACTS

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

Rev. William McQuillan (Assistant Priest)

Rev. Kenneth Anyanyeya Atia

Deacon Rev. Kenneth Mununga

Anne Buhrmann (Pastoral Assistant)

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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

Mary Fitzpatrick, Duncan McDonald, Willie Elliot, Patrick Lynagh, Catherine Boyle, William McGenily, J Minski, P Sheils, Margaret Dunnigan, Victor Fernandes Delrio, Peter Swords, Beth Nelson, Robert Gorman, Jessie Doherty, Catherine McFarlane, John Geoghegan, Christine Marshall, Martha Hendren, David Corrigan, Cathie O'Donnell, Jean Gillespie, C Minski, Sarah Dooner, Daniel Campbell, Daniel Kane, Margaret Lynski, **May they rest in peace.**

Please pray for the recently deceased.

Josephine Sisman R.I.P.

Funeral on Wednesday 22nd at 11:00am at Camelon Cemetery

Many of us have noticed a deeper impulse to pray at this time. Natural, given the uncertain circumstances we are facing. But people are also reporting a keener sense of God's presence with us, perhaps because we have time to 'be still and know'. In that sense, our enforced isolation has become a gift.

The loss of the Eucharist, which draws us into God so strongly, is great. But we are a Church of *Word* and *Sacrament*. It is still possible for us to be nourished through the Living Word, to receive through Him food and strength for the journey. Many of our parishioners have already discovered this secret to a deeper life in Christ. Our bible studies are still 'meeting' on WhatsApp. Our daily live streamed Mass is feeding those who watch online through the daily Mass readings. Our prayer course attendees are 'feasting' on the Word.

We don't know how long the 'lockdown' will continue. Given this special 'Kairos' moment, where we have more time, we are going to begin meeting as small groups online to very simply 'break open' the Gospel for the coming Sunday. This will be done in a phased way, but we hope everyone will eventually join us so we can pray as a whole parish together. No Theology degree required; God speaks to every heart.

Alternative ways of giving and supporting the work of the parish.

Text-to-give: Text "give" to the following number +44 7723 493474

You will receive a link to register your card details. Once set up, all you need to do is text the amount you wish to donate to the number above. There is an option to set up recurring payments too.

Visit www.falkirkcatholics.org and click the green "Give" button.

There is a small fee to use the above methods.

If you wish to give directly through your bank please use the following account details:

Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh sort code: 83-06-08 Acc no: 10417107

NEWS & EVENTS

Today is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. We will stream Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Chaplet at 3:00pm. Here's a link to how to pray the chaplet: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

Our '**Teach me how to pray**' course on Zoom continues to be a joy and an inspiration to all those taking part. This week we practiced a prayer approach called *Lectio Divina* or 'sacred **reading**', which invites us to savour a short piece of scripture, and listen out for where God is drawing our attention. We stay with a 'sticky word' or phrase, **meditating** on it, and then move into **reflection**—what is God saying to me here? Sometimes we receive a gift, a time of **contemplation** or resting in God's love. Ultimately, this prayer experience moves us into **action**, as we follow God's will in what He has shown us. You can find more simple steps and encouragement to pray this way here—<https://www.prayerandpossibilities.com/lectio-divina-prayer/> *What is God waiting to tell you?*

Thank you to everyone who has been more active on our **social media**—our Facebook posts record an astonishing *eight hundred percent* more engagement. As a way to encourage everyone to stay in community as much as possible, can we ask everyone to do the following:

Comment on Facebook posts—doesn't have to be a great 'pearl of wisdom', just a natural, spontaneous reaction. Be yourself and let us all enjoy you!

Engage with posts—we want to get to a place where people answer questions we post, share experiences, or prayers or ideas, so that we can get to know each other better. There is a fount of wisdom and love in our community, let's share it!

Comment on each others' posts—always being kind! But help each other know we are thinking of and value the other.

Share parish posts to your own feeds—we all have the potential to be digital missionaries today, and there are so many people out there who need a message of hope!

The Kids bulletin is available here: <https://thekidsbulletin.com/> and our **children's liturgy for each week** is posted on our FB page, Falkirk Catholics.

The priests can respond to emergency calls only. They will endeavour to administer the **Sacrament of the Sick** in danger of death. **Funeral** attendance is restricted to immediate family.

Saints' days: Tuesday 21st, Memorial of St Anselm, made Archbishop of Canterbury 1093; Thursday 23rd—Memorial of St George, martyred under the Emperor Diocletian; Saturday is the Feast of St Mark, the evangelist.