

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH PARISH NEWS

17TH MAY 2020

At the parish of St. Francis Xavier's, we are a joyful, inclusive community on fire with the love of God, each growing in our personal relationship with Christ. As His missionary disciples, inspired by His Holy Spirit and nourished by our worship, we use our talents freely to serve others and take the life-changing message of the Gospel into the world.

Top stories in this newsletter



View from the Sanctuary



What has been happening?



Parish Database



Funerals & Anniversaries

View from the Sanctuary



I would like to take this opportunity to update you on how things are going and what has been happening in the parish over the past couple of months. Who would have thought that we would have to close our doors just prior to Holy Week and Easter?

However, we are all very much aware of the spread of Covid-19 and the necessity for social distancing and safety precautions. Our thoughts and prayers are indeed with all those whose lives have been affected and especially with the bereaved. God willing will soon be back together again.

What has been happening?



As you will know, since the closure of the church buildings to the public we have continued to offer Mass everyday though live streaming on the internet and Facebook. At the start of the lockdown there were some issues due to the unprecedented number of people viewing Mass online. Hopefully, things will remain stable to allow everyone to enjoy our liturgies online. I am looking into using different camera's to create a more "close up" viewing experience.

You can view Mass each day at 10:00am.

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-francis-xavier>

<https://www.facebook.com/falkirkcatholics/>

You can also view our liturgies on Amazon Fire TV. Search for Falkirk Catholics in apps.

Zoom



Until a few weeks ago many people had never heard of "Zoom". Now, it has become an everyday part of our lives. People in the parish are using Zoom in many ways - mostly to keep connected with one another. The Legion of Mary have been meeting online ever day at 4:00 pm to pray the Rosary.

We have our "Virtual" tea & Toast on Sundays after Mass

The Youth Group have also been catching up on Zoom on Thursday evenings. Some of our new "Fed by the Word" small groups are meeting online to reflect and pray with the Sunday Gospels. Sr. Kathleen led a group "Teach me to pray" which was very well received.

The Leadership Team



Over the past nine weeks the Parish Leadership Team have been meeting online to discern the best ways we can continue to live out our parish vision despite the current Covid -19 restrictions. Perhaps, now more than ever, it is a time for us a parish to be challenged about our way of life and how we take the life changing message of the gospel into the world.

Parish Database



A big project during the Lock down has been getting the new parish database up and running. It is so important that we have an up to date record of everyone in the parish so that we can keep in touch and keep everyone updated about what is happening. Thank you to everyone who has already registered. If you have not yet registered please do so by visiting the registration page

<https://www.falkirkcatholics.org/connect/>

Phone Ministry



Now that our database has been updated we have started our new "Phone Ministry". Initial calls were made to the over 75's by the leadership team. Thanks to a great team of volunteers we will be calling all those in then parish over the age of 70, so long as we have up to date details. This phone ministry is an opportunity to connect with people, find out how they are coping and most importantly have an opportunity for prayer and a friendly chat. Please contact the parish office if you would like to make sure someone is on our list.

Reopening our churches



We all long for the days when we will be able to open the doors of our two churches and we will be able to gather for Mass and the sacraments. However, I do not think that we will be able to do so anytime soon, at least not in the way we were accustomed to. At this time the Bishop's conference of Scotland has established working groups to dialogue with the Government to ensure that a plan is in place for when we can safely open our churches and enable public worship and the celebration of the sacraments. It goes without saying that this will be a gradual process and will take a long time before we return to anything like what we were used to. I know this is a great cause of concern for so many, especially those who attended Mass on a daily basis. In the meantime, we need to try our best to be strengthened in our faith by our prayers and the Word of God.

Until we are clearer when our doors will open and things get back to some sense of normal, it is not possible at this time to have any indication as to when First Confessions and First Holy Communion will be able to take place. The same is true for our RCIA candidates and those waiting on baptism for their children. Sadly too, all of the weddings for this year have had to be postponed. Please keep all those affected in your prayers.

Finance



Firstly, thank you, to all those who have continued to give financial support to the parish since our doors were closed to the public. Your contributions are indeed very much appreciated. To help with online giving the archdiocese has set up an online donation system, please use this if possible and **only if you are still able to donate** – we know we are facing very challenging times and people will be struggling financially. https://donor.secure-operations.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086319&type=2&reference=FALKF&amount=

[charity_id=1086319&type=2&reference=FALKF&amount=](https://donor.secure-operations.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086319&type=2&reference=FALKF&amount=) Thank You!

Funerals



One of the most difficult situations of the current pandemic is the ongoing restrictions to the way we celebrate funeral rites for our deceased loved ones. At present we are still not able to have a reception or funeral Mass as we would usually do. Even at the graveside the number of mourners is restricted to immediate family. Let us pray that we will soon be able to have funeral liturgies in the church so that the bereaved may draw the strength and comfort they need as they come to terms with the death of their loved ones.

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Agnes Donnelly R.I.P.
Annie Fotheringham R.I.P.

Anne McMorrow,
John Docherty R.I.P.

Ann Marchi R.I.P.
Tom Callaghan R.I.P.

Anniversaries



Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Susan Coyle, Franciszek Waclawski, John Lavens, Lily McFarlane, Gloria Cannon, Joseph Robinson, Hugh Lindsey, Fr Norman Cooper, James Campbell, John Kennedy, William Blair, Sister Maureen, Michael Bell, Thomas Kane, Mary Smith, John Corrigan, Jack Downie,

Terence McAteer, Mary Conroy, Annie Molloy, Margaret Paterson, Patrick Cumming, Margaret McGorie, Audrey McGuinness. May they rest in peace.

Weekly Schedule



Mass will be celebrated every day at 10:00 am

Rosary & Benediction on Mondays at 7:00pm

Divine Mercy will be recited on Tuesdays after Mass

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Benediction on Thursdays at 7:00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays after Mass until 11:00am

We are looking into other ways in which we can continue to develop the spiritual life of the parish. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Prayers for St Mungo's



On Thursday –The Solemnity of the Ascension, there will be a Rosary Vigil, to pray for our pupils, currently at school, those who have left and those new pupils coming up and their families, teachers and all school staff, The Focolare Community, The Legion of Mary, friends and parishioners from St Francis Xavier's Church, we will begin our Rosary Vigil at 8:00am, stopping for Mass at 10:00am from St Francis Xavier's and finishing at 3pm.

We will pray for an end to the Coronavirus and we will entrust all our pupils and their families, their teachers and all school staff as well as all the intentions we have been asked to pray for to the loving and protective care of Mary Our Mother.

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