

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH PARISH NEWS

31ST 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?



World Rosary with Pope Francis



Funerals & Anniversaries

View from the Sanctuary



Thank you to Sr. Kathleen for her wonderful reflections on the Holy Spirit. She certainly set the scene well for us in preparation for Pentecost. Thank also to all those who have sent in pictures and thoughts of what the Holy Spirit means to them. It is great to see how much the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our parish community. We have seen this in so many different ways -New Phone Ministry, small groups reflecting on the Word, groups praying together using Zoom, people looking out for one another. We give thanks for all these things and we ask the holy Spirit to be poured upon us in new and exciting ways so that we can continue to grow closer Jesus Christ and be his disciples in the world of today.

What has been happening?



On Friday, we entered phase one of the easing of lockdown restrictions. I am sure many of us were delighted to be able to see family and friends again, even at a safe social distance! Let us pray that these measures continue to keep us all safe and move us closer to the ending of Lockdown for everyone.

The leadership team are in the process of putting together a small team to help with planning for when we can begin to open our churches. At this stage we are on the lookout for people who have the skills to help us establish best practice for safe reopening of our churches. Maybe you have some experience of setting up social distancing in your own workplace or perhaps a health and safety background. Ideally we would also like someone like an architect who can help us map out safe "routes" within our churches. If you can help out please get in touch. Once this group has been established we will need an army of healthy volunteers to welcome and direct people in the church and also to carry out regular cleaning and disinfection.

Rosary Rally



Archbishop Cusley is encouraging Catholics to take part in the National Rosary Relay Rally **this Sunday at 1pm.**

The event will see dioceses across Scotland, England and Wales allocated a 'Rosary hour' on Pentecost Sunday (31 May) to pray for a range of intentions, including deliverance from the coronavirus pandemic and the re-opening of Churches. He said: "The Rosary Rally follows the

Pope's request to pray the Rosary at home throughout May. Our diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 1pm and I warmly invite you to take part."

Fed By The Word



A few weeks ago we launched our "Fed by the Word" small group prayer & reflections on the Sunday Gospels. We would love to hear if you have started or joined a group and how you are getting on with it. Please let us know by emailing the parish office.

Pope Francis on Pentecost



The Spirit transforms the hearts of the timid disciples from fearful men, "huddled behind closed doors", to bold men who "bear witness to [Jesus]". His action frees hearts, impels service, guides people in new directions, and makes "the lukewarm thrill to new dreams. That is what it means to change hearts". Pope Francis suggests that since the Holy Spirit provokes change that we turn to Him for a "powerful 'jolt' " when "we are in need of real change". He is "the power of God" and the "giver of life". "How good it would be for us each day to feel this jolt of life! To say when we wake up each morning: 'Come, Holy Spirit, come into my heart, come into my day' ". Pope Francis recalled that as the soul of the Church, the Holy Spirit renews her with hope, fills her with joy, and causes her to blossom with new life. Even after 2000 years, "the Spirit reminds the Church that...she is always the youthful bride with whom the Lord is madly in love". (*Pentecost Sunday Homily May 2018*)

Reopening our churches



At Present there is no change to the current situation regarding places of worship. Churches and places of worship will be able to open for private prayer in phase 2. We do not know when we will move to phase 2. I know this is so frustrating when we see the shops and other places so busy. It remains for us as a church to be patient and comply with what the Government is asking of us. Obviously, this will be a continued source of anguish for many and especially the bereaved. Please continue to pray that we will soon be able to open the doors.

The bishops of Scotland have commissioned two working groups to help plan and prepare for when our churches can open. There is an infection control group who will deal with making sure we have clear guidelines for keeping our churches free of the virus. The second group will look at the longer term pastoral and liturgical life of the church. In the coming weeks I will be setting up a team of volunteers to make sure we can do all that will be required to safely open our churches.

Finance



The archdiocese has set up an online giving platform to allow those who are able to continue to give financial support to their parish and also other causes. The link below will take you to the diocesan donations page where you can donate to a specific parish or a cause such as Communication, SCIAF or the Aged & Infirm clergy fund.

https://donor.secure-operations.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086319&type=2

Day for Life



The theme this year is "Choose Life" During the corona virus crisis calls from mothers to be are still being received so your donations will be well used by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office to help local mothers and children with their pregnancies. You can donate online (see above) or cheques can be sent to Pro-Life Office, Archdiocesan Offices, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Please make cheques payable to Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

Funerals



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:

Pearl Swords R.I.P.

William Lawrence R.I.P.

Anniversaries



Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jadwiga Kzawczyk, Pauline McGoff, Margaret McPaul, Margaret Ashe, Maria Liza Flores, The Rankin Family, Helen Mary Barry, Kevin Hanlon, Laura Cousins, Wilhemina Lindsay, Tom Kenna, Elizabeth Barr Moore, Eleanor McLaughlin, Owen Gormley,

May they rest in peace.

Weekly Schedule



Mass will be celebrated every day at 10:00 am

Rosary & Benediction on Monday 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

Prayers and Padre Pio devotion on Friday at 6:00pm.

Parish Leadership Team



This week the Parish Leadership team have been discussing the best way for us to celebrate Pentecost—the great feast on which we celebrate the birth of the church. We decided to invite our young people to send us a picture of what the Holy Spirit means to them. We have had a fantastic response and we will include the pictures in this week's Mass and Children's liturgy. We also invited people from the parish to offer their thoughts on the Holy Spirit. Again, we had a great response and it has been very encouraging to hear how the Holy Spirit is at work in people's lives.

We also discussed the ongoing phone ministry and began thinking about what other ways we can reach out as a parish community.

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