

The Parish of St Francis Xavier's
Parish Newsletter,
Sunday 15th November 2020, 33rd Sunday of Year A
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Pastoral Assistant: Anne Buhrmann

Our **First Holy Communion liturgies**, despite restrictions, have been beautiful celebrations. We notice a deep intimacy in the liturgies we are celebrating as smaller groups, and give thanks for this great blessing at a difficult time. Please keep our young people in your prayers.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME – Date for the diary; our very first Laudato Si Circle meets Monday 14th December online at 7pm, rooted in the principles of See-Judge-Act. All are welcome, no matter where you are at on your eco journey. Please email the office and we will send you the Zoom link – office@falkirkcatholics.org. Our eco focus this week is the impact our food choices have on the environment. Cutting back on meat impacts land use and methane levels. If this sounds like a big challenge, perhaps start with just one meat-free day a week?

Alpha Online – Please continue to pray for all involved as we plan our Holy Spirit Retreat on Sunday 6th December. More challenging online, but the Holy Spirit overcomes all barriers.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults – pray too for the Seekers and the team. If you know anyone interested in exploring the faith, please ask them to contact office@falkirkcatholics.org.

Attending Mass Please continue to book online for weekend Masses at www.falkirkcatholics.org/booking. Booking closes 4 hours before Mass. We thank everyone for continuing to book with consideration of others.

Toy Exchange. What an amazing community this is – the generosity has been a joy to behold, those involved are welcoming the chance to work together for such a great goal. We are happy to announce the date of the Toy Exchange, which is open to all young families will be on Saturday 28th November. If you know of a circumstance where young parents would welcome toys at no cost, please invite them, keeping the idea general eg 'Everyone is finding it hard.' This is our mission.

During the month of November, we are encouraged to pray for all the faithful departed. **Our annual memorial service** will take place at 7:00pm on Thursday 19th November. This event will be online only, as we cannot accommodate all the bereaved in the church. If you wish for a former parishioner who has died out with the parish in the past year to be mentioned, please provide their name by Wednesday at the latest.

Anniversaries Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Rose Byrne, Diana McCartney, Anna McFeat, William H Jordan, Mary Alke McKenna, Joseph Dooner Jnr, Catherine Harkins, Teresa O'Hara, the Crosbie Family, Rose Ann Gallagher, Christina Kidd, Mary Ruterford, Elizabeth McGlynn, Natalie McCue, Colette Carter, Winfred Gladys Olley, Helen Kosoris, Elizabeth Forsyth, John McMahan, John MacDonald, Hugh Laurence, Norma Canny, Hugh Forsyth, Joseph Grogan, Catherine Harvey, Dolly Woods, John Hardie, Jeremiah Callan, James Callaghan, John Meighan, Rose Marie Watson, Michael Kelly.

Christmas Cards

Boxed Christmas cards have been ordered and we hope to have them on sale as soon as we can.

Pope Francis

Pope Francis continued his catechesis on prayer on Wednesday, focusing on the quality of *perseverance* in prayer.

Jesus Himself, the Pope said, “has given an example of continual prayer, practiced *perseveringly*.”

The Pope notes that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sees three parables that especially highlight this characteristic of prayer. In the parable of the unexpected guest who arrives in the middle of the night, we learn that prayer must be tenacious. “Our Father knows well what we need,” the Pope says. “Insistence is necessary not to inform Him or to convince Him, but is necessary to nurture the desire and expectation in us.”

The parable of the unjust judge helps us understand “that faith is not a momentary choice, but a courageous decision to call on God, even to ‘argue with Him,’ without resigning oneself to evil and injustice.”

And in the parable of the pharisee and the publican, Jesus shows that “God does not listen to the prayer of those who are proud,” but “He does grant the prayer of the humble.” Pope Francis adds, “There is no true prayer without a spirit of humility.” “The teaching of the Gospel is clear,” says Pope Francis: “We need to pray always, even when everything seems vain.” Even when it is difficult to pray, and even when it seems God is not listening, it is necessary to persevere in prayer.

The Archdiocese is offering an online Diploma in Catechetics. It is aimed at lay people who are involved in the catechetical work of the Church, e.g. children’s liturgists, RCIA team members, teachers, youth group leaders etc., but also anyone who wants to learn more about their faith and perhaps become more involved at parish level. We would encourage as many people as possible to take part. Accompanying others is a huge part of our faith. The cost is very reasonable – only £100. Please speak to one of the priests if you’d like to do the course, and could commit, but finance is an issue.

The course will be run over a year (January - December 2021) and will be coordinated by Sr. Anna Marie McGuan and will consist of 6 modules of 6 classes each, taught in weekly 45-minute lectures (Thursday evenings at 7:30pm). Assessment will be oral, a short interview via Zoom at the end of each module. The course will be taught by a variety of religious and diocesan priests, lay people and religious sisters.

There will be an **introductory online session for anyone interested in finding out more about the Diploma on 24 November 2020** and the course will begin officially on **12 January 2021**. Details will be published on the Archdiocese’s social media and website. For any further information please do not hesitate to contact Sr. Anna Marie at sranna.marie@staned.org.uk

Finance - Offertory Collection November 1st £1634.59 / Standing Orders £ 300 (avg)

Weekly Schedule Day /Date	Feast	Time	Church	
Sunday 15th November	<i>33rd Sunday, Year A</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am 12 :00 pm 1.30 pm 7:00 pm	St Francis Xavier's St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Mass Polish Mass Mass
Monday 16th November	<i>St Margaret of Scotland - Feast</i>	9:30 am 10:00 am 12.00pm 6:00 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Funeral Mass (Family only) Rosary & Benediction
Tuesday 17th November	<i>St Elisabeth of Hungary - memorial</i>	10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Wednesday 18th November		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Thursday 19th November		9.30am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Memorial Service (online)
Friday 20th November		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
Saturday 21st November	<i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - memorial</i>	9.30am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass 1 st Holy Communion Mass Vigil Mass