

**The Parish of St Francis Xavier's  
Parish Newsletter,  
Sunday 22nd November 2020, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
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Website: [www.falkirkcatholics.org](http://www.falkirkcatholics.org)**

Parish Clergy: Fr Jamie Boyle, Fr Sean Bradley, Deacon Kenneth Manunga  
Pastoral Assistant: Anne Buhrmann

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

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Celebrate this period of joyful hope with us as we come together online for four sessions, looking at the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we live this pandemic together, preparing our hearts for His coming. More details next week. We will also have candlelit Masses on Thursdays & Fridays

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

I hope to have our Christmas mass schedule worked out for next week. Obviously, attendance will be greatly restricted and we will need to look into the best way to accommodate as many people as possible. I would hope that starting in December we will stream Mass into the hall where people can watch Mass together and receive Holy Communion. In order to this we will need more volunteers to join our existing team of stewards who are doing a great job of welcoming and keeping us all safe.

**Toy Exchange.** Praise be to God for the generosity shown – and in anticipation of all the joy which will spread at Christmas, as the presents are opened. The toys, books and games gifted are in beautiful condition. Thank you all for this beautiful work of outreach. Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far, and to the teams who have worked so hard to get everything organised, sorted and displayed. Please continue the work by sharing the date of the Toy Giveaway with anyone who might want to know: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 10am till 4:00pm. If you know of a circumstance where young parents would welcome toys at no cost, please offer an invitation, saying simply eg 'Maybe there would be something the children would like, *come and see.*' Please note that for safety reasons we can no longer accept donations of toys. Thank you.

**CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME** – Date for the diary; our very first Laudato Si Circle meets Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 if you'd like to join the meeting, no commitment. [office@falkirkcatholics.org](mailto:office@falkirkcatholics.org). This week, perhaps invite your children or grandchildren to join feed the birds and enjoy them, then offer thanks for your time together with God's creatures?

The **Legion of Mary** will offer **the rosary for All Souls** all day, from 7am to 7pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Miraculous Medal. The hours themselves will be covered by the Legion, but they would like to invite all parishioners to participate in praying the rosary with them from home, for the same intention, particularly those souls who have no one to pray for them.

**Alpha Online** – both groups are thriving, thank you for your prayer! Please pray that those attending are given the courage to invite others, Catholic and non-Catholic to our next Alpha sessions, so we can continue to grow this outreach ministry and share the Good News with those who need it.

**Our annual memorial service** took place online on Thursday. Thank you to the Bereavement Team and Fr Jamie for such a moving liturgy, despite restrictions.

**Anniversaries** Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: H. Wilson, J Roy, Mary Kane, Maureen Relf, Sr Mary David, John O'Connor, Jim McElroy, Margaret Jackson, Jacqueline A Robinson, Charlie McGhee, Eugene Cox, Annie McGhee, Janet McFadden, Thomas Cowell, William Byrne, Jacqueline Ann Robinson, Peter Swords, Tommy O'Rourke, Margaret Hannah, Maureen Xoland, Mary Scott, John McGlynn, Thomas Holleran, Sr Mary of St Martha Convent, Eileen Hayes

**Christmas Cards**

Boxed Christmas cards with religious themes are available at the back of the Church for £3.50

**Pope Francis**

Pope Francis greeted the faithful on Wednesday morning, saying: "Today we meet the Virgin Mary as the prayerful woman." Continuing his catechesis on prayer during the weekly General Audience, , the Pope upheld Mary as a model for our own life and prayer.

He recalled her in her youth, "the young girl of Nazareth wrapped in silence, in dialogue with God, who would soon entrust her with a mission." Although she was already full of grace and immaculate from the moment she was conceived, the Pope said, she knew nothing "of her surprising and extraordinary vocation and the stormy sea she will have to cross." "One thing is certain," he said. "Mary belongs to a great host of the humble of heart whom the official historians never include in their books, but whom God used to prepare for the coming of His Son."

Pope Francis went on to describe how Mary waited for God to take the reins of her path and guide her, and how she prepared, with great docility, "the grand events in which God takes part in the world." The Catechism, he said, recalls her constant and caring presence in the benevolent design of the Father throughout the course of Jesus's life.

Pope Francis said there is no better way to pray than to place oneself in an attitude of openness: "Lord, what You want, when You want, and how You want". He said that this attitude allows many believers to face reality without getting upset when their days are filled with problems, "knowing that in humble love offered in each situation, we become instruments of God's grace."

**A reminder there will be a taster session for the Diploma in Catechetics on 24 November 2020 and the course will begin officially on 12 January 2021.** Details are on the Archdiocese's social media and website. The diploma is priced very reasonably at £100. For any further information please do not hesitate to contact Sr. Anna Marie at [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk)

**Finance** - Offertory Collection November 15<sup>th</sup>: £963.02 / Standing Orders £ 300 (avg) Many thanks to everyone for their continued support and generosity to the parish during these difficult times.

**Building maintenance**

Recently the diocese conducted a survey of all our church buildings and although the buildings are in general good order, we will need to begin a program of ongoing maintenance and safety inspections. Fr Jamie is hoping to establish a new fabric group to help with the planning an execution of everything that needs done. If you have any skills that may help, please get in touch.

Weekly Schedule Day /Date	Feast	Time	Church	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<i>Christ the King</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
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>		9:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Rosary & Benediction
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<i>St Andrew Dung Lac and Companions</i>	10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>		9.30am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Novena and Devotions
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>		9.30am 6:30 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Vigil Mass