

**The Parish of St Francis Xavier's**  
**Parish Newsletter,**  
**Sunday 29th November 2020, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B**  
**Tel: 01324 623567 email: office@falkirkcatholics.org**  
**Website: [www.falkirkcatholics.org](http://www.falkirkcatholics.org)**

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

### **View from the Sanctuary**

My dear people, it's hard to believe that a year ago this weekend we launched our parish Vision Statement. What a year it has been. Throughout the pandemic we have lived out our Vision in many ways and our parish has been looked to as "Beacon of light and hope". My immense gratitude to each one of you who have come on board with the Vision and our Divine Renovation journey. I encourage you to take some time during this Season of Advent and reflect on our Vision and how each of us try to live it in our daily lives.

**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.**

The **Season of Advent** and the new Church year begins this Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Celebrate this period of joyful hope with us as we come together online for four sessions, every Advent Monday at 8pm. The Zoom invitation link will be put on our FB page in the comments of the Advent post and you can also click it here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980725103?pwd=bn5TaitTbjducTRnMHUzS2VPZTkQT09> Meeting ID: 829 8072 5103 and Passcode: 096483. We will be looking at how we can live Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in this pandemic Advent and always. We will also have candlelit Masses on Thursdays at St Francis Xavier's & Fridays at St Anthony's.

Two special celebrations this week in the parish – the **Solemnity of St Andrew on the 30<sup>th</sup>**, and the memorial of our patron, **St Francis Xavier on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December**. Please pray for all the children and staff of St Andrew's Primary School, and St Francis Xavier School, and pray particularly for the intentions of the parish on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to St Francis Xavier, who spent gave his life to spread the Gospel.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

In order to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass over Christmas, the following Masses will be celebrated:  
**St Anthony's** – Two vigil Masses on the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm and 9pm, Morning Masses at 9am and 10.30am.

**St Francis Xavier's** – Two vigil Masses on the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm and 7.30 pm, Midnight Mass, Morning Masses at 10am and 12pm.

**Polish Community** – Christmas Eve at 9.30pm and Christmas Day at 1.30 pm.

To request a place at Mass please complete the google form using this link : <https://forms.gle/JAUCarSpkmMwBZgZ6>  
Booking opens on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and end on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. If you don't have access to the internet please call the church house between 11 am and 12 noon. Please note other than the 10:am Mass we will not be using Eventbrite.

In order to make this possible we need more volunteers to join our existing team of stewards who are doing such a great job of welcoming and keeping us all safe. Please speak to a priest or contact us on 623567.

**Great Toy Giveaway!** It has been such a privilege to hear the reactions of parents to this parish initiative – 'You have no idea - the weight of the world has been lifted off me.' Thank you to each and every person who was involved, whether by donating, collecting, organising, sorting, or being there on the day to help with this beautiful work of outreach. We can report that in excess of 250 families received gifts for their children. For us as a parish we have strengthened connections with the community, the outreach we have been working towards – a real work of the Holy Spirit. Again and again we heard the words, 'This parish is a beacon'.

**Padre Pio Prayer Group** meet on the **First Friday of December** at 6pm in St Francis Xavier's, and is streamed.

**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. The response to our Toy Giveaway shows how badly needed ec0-work is. Please email the office if you'd like to join the meeting, no commitment. [office@falkirkcatholics.org](mailto:office@falkirkcatholics.org).

**Pro-life Rosary.** Join with the unborn Christ and His Mother on the journey to Bethlehem. Every Monday in Advent you can pray the rosary to prepare for Christmas. Registrations now open & you can reserve your spots below. Each event will last about 30 minutes, starting at 7pm. First Monday in Advent: 30 November <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advent-rosary-for-life-30-november-tickets-129996000537>

**Alpha Online** – both groups are thriving, thank you for your prayer! Please pray for the upcoming retreat for both groups, that the Holy Spirit come in power.

Please pray for the **recently deceased**, especially **Rodney Moore and Isabell Burt**. May they departed rest in peace.

**Anniversaries** Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: William McQuade, John Ross, Joan Malley, Kathleen McKenna, Thomas Grant, Anthony McNelis, Mary Noble, Andrew McCartney, Paul O'Neill, Annie McGuckin, Kathleen McKenna, Frank McCabe, John McLeish, Bridget Cannon, Jane Scott, Tom Buchanan, Frances Hainey, Elizabeth Taylor, James Bell, Rose Hanlon, Frank Simpson, Rose McGuire, James Hedivan, Julia Kane, Mark Mitchell, Leonard (Lenny) McCauley, Packie Boyle, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Edward Doherty, Julia O'Neill, Margaret Cumming, Mary (Doherty) Lynagh, Aldina Bellinetti, Verediana Concelves, Elizabeth Mochan, Anne Marie Kelly, James Crow.

#### Christmas Cards

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

**Finance** - Offertory Collection November 22nd: £1409.57 / Standing Orders £ 300 (avg) Many thanks to everyone for their continued support and generosity to the parish during these difficult times.

#### SVDP

Last year on average, our SVDP needed £1000 a month to fund their vital support to people in need. This year due to the pandemic their income has been almost zero. If you can support them in their work, please use the collection buckets as you leave the church or consider setting up a payment through your bank.

**Account name: Society of St Vincent De Paul Sort Code: 83-20-32 Account number: 00255488**

Thank you for your continued support.

Weekly Schedule Day /Date	Feast	Time	Church	
<b>Sunday 29th November</b>		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 30th November</b>	<i>St Andrew - Solemnity</i>	9:30 am 10:00 am	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's	No Public Mass Mass
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>		10:00 am	St Francis Xavier's	Mass
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<i>St Francis Xavier's - Memorial</i>	9.30am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Candlelit Mass
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>		10:00 am 7.00pm	St Francis Xavier's St Anthony's	Mass Candlelit Mass
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>		9.30am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	St Anthony's St Francis Xavier's St Francis Xavier's	Mass Mass Vigil Mass