

The Parish of St Francis Xavier's

St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches

Parish Newsletter,

Sunday January 31st 2021, 4th Sunday on Ordinary Time, Year B

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Pastoral Assistant: Anne Buhrmann

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.

View from the sanctuary.

As lockdown continues, I encourage you to do all that you can to keep yourself and others safe. In recent weeks we have been very much aware that more and more people in the parish are contracting the virus, some of whom have been admitted to hospital. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. My thanks to the Phone ministry team who are continuing to keep in touch with our more elderly parishioners. If you are not receiving a regular call but would appreciate one please let us know.

Our informal 'tea and toast' gatherings after 10am Mass on Sunday –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4238924048?pwd=d2pYTGhld1BmOGxVTklzWG5uZk5KQT09> and the gathering starts at 11.15am. Why not join us and spread the word?

The **Parish Leadership Team** considered ways the parish might prepare for Lent, given the restrictions. How can we continue to live out our vision, when we cannot meet face-to-face? How can we be 'inspired by the Holy Spirit' and grow as missionary disciples in our personal relationship with Christ? A need which has become clearer for us as a community is a desire for more confidence in our knowledge of scripture. Though we hear almost the whole bible from the altar over the course of the Church's three-year cycle, it hasn't been so common for Catholics to come together to 'break open the Word'. With the result that we don't find out just how much we **do** know from our years of 'pondering these things' in our hearts. Over Lent (just a few short weeks away!) we will have opportunities to do that. We want to make this as encouraging an experience for people as possible. No one will be asked to contribute anything unless they want to, so no being 'put on the spot'. We look forward to being together and to learning from each other.

Tuesday 2nd February is World Day of Consecrated Life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ. Please pray for Srs Assumpta and Kathleen who shine Christ's light so selflessly in our community. If you are experiencing a call towards living for God as a religious, please contact the office and we will happily put you in touch with the sisters. office@falkirkcatholics.org.

Laudato Si – an action focus is learning more about the Holy Father's teaching through the videos by Fr Dan Horan on YouTube. Why not try the videos and join us for our next circle in February? [fr dan horan laudato is - YouTube](#)

Human Fraternity for Peace and Living Together

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the Ahl Al-Bait Scotland Society host this online conference to mark the signing of the document on Human Fraternity by Pope Francis and Sheikh Al Azhar. Keynote speakers are Dr Mohammad Ali Shomali and Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald. [Monday 01 February 2021, 5-7pm](#). To register, search 'Human Fraternity for Peace and Living Together' on Eventbrite. The Holy Father has written a beautiful encyclical on global fraternity, which he sees a main route to healing for our world. It's called Fratelli Tutti, and can be found on the Vatican website. Please click to open the hyperlink: [Fratelli tutti \(3 October 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)

Recently deceased: George O'Brien, RIP, Funeral Service at 10:45 am on 1st February at Francis Xavier's, Susan Kosoris R.I.P. Funeral on Thursday 4th February at 10:00am, Jean Irwin R.I.P. Funeral on Monday 8th February at 10:00 am in St Anthony's

Anniversaries

Guilia Harrington (3rd Jan) Eileen Rock, Gerald Murphy, Hugh Whorisky, Alan O'Hagan, Scott McManus, Henry O'Hara, Pat Lynn, Peggy Campbell, Rita Eddie Coyle, Bernard Kerrigan, William O'Hagan, Jack O'Donnell, Dora Butler, Gerald Murphy, Hugh O'Connor, Molly McFadden, Hugh Hart Jnr, Anne Marie Ashcroft, Heather Dolan, Mary McCabe, William McGhee, Anthony James Duffy, Stanley Rowlings, Charles Byrne, Thomas Kennedy, James Gerald, Spink, William Hart, Jamie Fraser, Billy Divining, Jean Thomson, Patrick Ford, Bridget Tweedie, John Karwowski.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace, Amen.

If you know of someone recently deceased and being buried through the parish, please let their loved ones know about our **Falkirk Catholics Book of Condolences** page on Face Book. Run by the Bereavement Team in a very pastoral way, it's a source of comfort and connection for people grieving family and friends. Do sign up if you can. A large part of the ministry is praying for the dead and for their families – something we are all called to do.

Finance – GIFT AID

During the past year, many parishioners have changed from using Gift Aid envelopes to online donations, either direct from their bank to the parish or using the Archdiocesan Online payment portal. As a result, we have been left with lots of unused Gift Aid envelopes. To help us ascertain how many sets of envelopes to order for the coming year and to update our Gift Aid database could you please complete the Google Form below? This will help us to make sure we have the correct details for everyone who Gift Aids their donations and give us an indication of how many sets of Gift Aid envelopes to order.

Thank you so much for taking the time to do this and for your continued support and generosity.

If you pay income tax and are not already Gift Aiding to the parish, please consider doing so. It does not cost you anything, but the parish gains an extra 25p for every pound you donate.

Click here: <https://forms.gle/5KbLzcJKmuDrQN24A>

SVDP

Thank you for your support of the SVDP – please continue to support them in their work, as the new lockdown affects families and incomes. During this lockdown you may consider setting up a payment through your bank.

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

Weekly Schedule

During lockdown, weekday Mass will be livestreamed at 09:00 am. If there is a funeral, then Mass will be at the usual time of 10:00am. You can of course view Mass online at time.

www.falkirkcatholics.org/livestream Facebook – Falkirk Catholics Youtube – Falkirk Catholics

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday	Mass will be livestreamed at 9:00 am
Thursday	Funeral Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00 am
Friday	Padre Pio Devotions 6:00pm
Sunday	Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00 am

Feast Days

Tuesday 2nd February – Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. World Day of Consecrated Life

Friday 5th February – Memorial of St Agatha

Saturday 6th February – Memorial of St Paul Miki and companions