

The Parish of St Francis Xavier's
Parish Newsletter,
Sunday January 10th 2021, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 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.

The Baptism of the Lord brings the season of Christmastide to a close and we move to Ordinary time. Throughout the coming year the church once more, invites us to discover the unfolding mystery of Christ. The times we are living in just now are indeed a mystery and a great challenge. We are faced with lots of questions and we try to see God amid them. What we do know, as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, is that we are baptised into a community and into Christ's mission. The power of the Holy Spirit is ongoing in our lives and our witness. Thank you for all you are doing to spread His Good News in these worrying times.

Please pray for the staff and pupils of St Mungo's as we celebrate the feast of St Kentigern on Wednesday 13th. Both the staff and the young people are affected in so many ways, emotionally and educationally. Pray particularly for those who are risking their own health for the well-being of others. We keep in our prayers Scott Martin R.I.P. who died recently and we pray for his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Over the past ten months we have proven beyond a shadow that our **community** exists far beyond the walls of the churches we worship in. We have adapted and even grown, reaching out to those within the community and out to those we exist to love and serve. Thank you to everyone who has given of themselves and their resources to help us all stay united. For the next few weeks we encourage everyone to continue to take every opportunity to take part in community life where that is possible. **Small groups** have taken root in a different way in the parish, with existing groups doing an amazing job of supporting each other and those they minister to, new groups forming, and people taking the chance 'ad hoc' to come together for community and worship online, as life permits. If you want to take part online but need a bit of help, ask family or friends, or contact office@falkirkcatholics.org and we will be delighted to do what we can to get you online. Keep going, God delights in all you are doing!

This Sunday we will re-start **our informal 'tea and toast' gatherings after 10am Mass on Sunday** – here's the Zoom link and the gathering starts at 11.15am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88604145871?pwd=aW15ZTIKNGFHV1FhUFQ3bEY4WTkyQT09>

Discipleship – lockdown has shown us all the inner resources we have through our faith, and we've been reaching for other resources – spiritual devotionals, scripture, private prayer. Please share with others how God is helping and guiding you. What are you using in these days of quiet and questions to seek Him? If you have a felt need for guidance here, please reach out on office@falkirkcatholics.org and we will be glad to recommend resources, or help you join a small group. Our parish **Fed by the Word** resource will also be offered on our Face Book page and the parish website from next week on. Why not use it to open up the gospel for the coming Sunday and share your thoughts with friends?

Makaton Training Events offered through Falkirk Churches – great, free opportunity for anyone interested.

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. Three sessions will be held, via Zoom, on the following dates:

Tuesday 26th January at 10 am

Wednesday 27th January at 7 pm

Thursday 4th February at 2 pm

The sessions are being offered free of charge as funding has been received for them but spaces are limited on each session. If you would like to improve your communication skills please book your place by emailing Jennifer at admin@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk giving your name and date you would like to attend.

Recently deceased: Please pray for the **recently deceased**, Eileen McKay funeral Mass on Tuesday 12th January at 10:00am. Louisa Lunn R.I.P- funeral Mass on Monday 18th January at 10:00am. Bernice Gallagher RIP – funeral arrangements to be announced.

Anniversaries –

Hugh Miller, Sr M Anthony Poor, Clare (Betty Tait), Patrick Ferguson, Sean Byrne, Richard John Murdoch, John Joseph Beattie, Jean Gillespie, Richard John Murdoch, Dan O'Donnell, Jack Boyle, Margaret O'Neill, Hugh McCormack, John McKenna, Hugh Short, Gerard Gorman, Margaret McSheaffrey, Janet Henderson, Daniel McGowan, Annie Walsh, John McKenna, Mary Grogan, Francis Kotrys, Margaret Winters, Mary Walker, John McDermott, Margaret Watson, Archibald McElroy, James McCarroll, Sadie Nolan, James Anthony Hendrie, Helen Covertry, Bridget McCue, Thomas Quinn, Alice Donaghue, Marian O'connor, Stanley Garner, Jean Howden, Margaret Watson, Thomas Mailer, Hugh McLellan Snr, Agnes Ross, Peter Donoghue, Janet Quinn, Bridget Little, Anne O'Donnell.

Finance - Offertory Collection January 3rd £2020 Standing Orders £ 300 (avg) Many thanks to everyone for their continued support and generosity to the parish during these difficult times. A reminder that you can use this link https://www.mygivinghub.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086319&type=2

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

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| Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday | Mass will be livestreamed at 9:00 am |
| Tuesday | Funeral Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00 am |
| Sunday | Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00 am |
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