

The Parish of St Francis Xavier's

St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches

Parish Newsletter,

Sunday 7th February, 2021, 5th 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. Its hard to believe but Lent is not too far away. Ash Wednesday is on 17th February. Now is the time to begin thinking about how you will embark on your Lenten journey. There are lots of resources available to help us through the season.

Thursday February 11th is World Day of the Sick and the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We pray for all who are sick, and for all who care for them. A particularly vital day in this time of pandemic. The Legion of Mary will be praying the Rosary from 7am to 7:00pm for peace and healing in the world. They invite you to spiritually unite with them and take some time to pray the rosary, adding your own intentions as well.

Friday 19th is a **Day of Prayer for Those who have Suffered Abuse**, a very pertinent Lenten reminder for us as a Church, as we call to mind the conditions which allowed the abuse to happen as well as the need to care for our brothers and sisters in the global church who have suffered and continue to suffer. Jesus, our Healer, pray for us.

Thank you to everyone involved in Safeguarding for your work in helping us as a community to keep everyone safe.

Here's the link for 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. Good fun, a chance to connect, why not join us and spread the word? Everyone is welcome.

The **Parish Leadership Team** prayed with and considered the Call to Discipleship in this place. What is Christ calling us to, as individuals, and as a community, and how can we plan for that and live it out together as He is asking us to?

Laudato Si – our next Circle is Saturday 20th February, at 11am online. The Zoom link will be offered closer to the time, but our focus will be single use plastics – how we can eliminate them, how we recycle them, what the options are locally. And we will be praying together about how we can live Lent simply. Please join our Laudato Si Falkirk Circle on Facebook, where our community is growing as we learn to live our faith sustainably.

The next **Baptism Preparation Meetings** will be on Wednesday 24th Feb and Wednesday 3rd March, both meetings online at 7:00pm. Please contact office@falkirkcatholics.org for the Zoom link. Both parents and godparents (one of whom must be a fully practicing Catholic) are warmly invited to attend.

First Confession Due to the continued closure of churches and our primary schools, and to help ease the pressure on parents and staff, the Sacrament of First reconciliation for children currently in Primary 3 will take place in the autumn. Hopefully, we will be able to properly prepare the children by then.

First Holy Communion We would hope to celebrate First Holy Communion before the summer break, however I would think that even by then numbers will still be severely restricted. We will arrange online parent sessions in due course as much of the onus will be on you this year to make sure the children are fully prepared.

Confirmations for children in Primary 7 are scheduled to take place on 28th May, again this will be subject to restrictions.

Recently deceased:

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Jean Irwin	St Anthony's	Monday 8 th Feb	10:00 am
Tam Garner	St Anthony's	Tuesday 16 th February	10:00 am
Tommy Forbes	St Anthony's	Wednesday 17 th Feb	9:30am
Elizabeth Kerkoff	St Anthony's	TBA	
Bill Young	St Francis Xavier's	Thursday 18 th Feb	10:30 am

Anniversaries Please Pray for: Mary Fotheringham, Rose Silcock, Agnes Campbell, Joseph McQuade, Andrew Smith, Theresa Murison, John Hylands, Thomas Dodds, Margaret McCafferty, James Gallagher, William Mochan, Bella Welsh, Veronica Moir, Thomas McCanley, Hugh O'Neill, May Short, Daniel Gray, Tom Scott, Alison Jane Fletcher, Helen Schofield, Johanna Cieply, Aidan McEvoy, Margaret Wood, Joseph Crossley, Daniel Byrne, David Dickson, Marion Maguire, Joseph Patrick McQuade, Tom Turnbull, Hugh John MacLennan, Anne McLaochlin, Brigid Sweeney, Hugh Welsh, John Walton, Jozef Koncz, Johnny Kildare, Thomas McElroy, Douglas Crawford Horn, John Brown, James McGuirk, James Johnston Dundee, Christina Travers, Ian Alexander.

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. If you wish to set up a standing order the parish bank details are Sort Code: 83-06-08 Account Number 10417107 St Francis Parish. A reduced number of envelopes for those who regularly use them have been ordered. Our new electronic system will also be in place when we re-open – a 'tap' system, with a choice of amounts. If you pay income tax and are not already Gift Aiding to the parish, please consider doing so. It does not cost the giver 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	Funeral Mass will be livestreamed from St Anthony's at 10:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday	Mass will be livestreamed at 9:00 am
Sunday	Mass will be livestreamed at 10:00 am

Feast Days

Wednesday 10th February, Memorial of St Scholastica, sister to St Benedict and the first Benedictine Nun.

Thursday 11th February, Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes