

Going to Confessions Sometimes we need a little help to encourage and help us to celebrate this Sacrament most effectively, especially if we have not been for some time. You will find handout with a guide and an Examination of Conscience in the porch of both churches.

SCIAF Wee Box Can you please return at your earliest convenience. Last day to hand in is Sunday 16th April.

Altar Servers Holy Week Practices - Thank you in advance to our faithful parish altar servers! Practice times for the Holy Week liturgies are as follows:

Holy Thursday: St Francis Xavier's X 12noon - 1pm, St Anthony's 12noon - 1pm

Good Friday: St Francis Xavier's 12noon - 1pm, St Anthony's 12noon - 1pm

Holy Saturday: St Francis Xavier's 12noon - 1pm

Holy Week Please try your best to attend as many of the Holy Week Liturgies as you can, but try to make the Easter Triduum a priority.

Easter Vigil Cheese and Wine After the Vigil please try and pop down to the hall to continue the celebration of the Resurrection and an opportunity to welcome and congratulate those who will have just been baptized and received into the church.

Good Friday 3pm Passion, Veneration and Holy Communion In both churches our Children's Liturgy leaders have agreed to offer Station's of the Cross, alternative to the Passion. Any children who would like to take part, can they proceed to St Francis Sacristy at 3:55pm and St Anthony's hall at the same time. The children will return to the church in time for the Veneration.

Chrism Mass will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh on Tuesday, 4th April at 7pm. At this Mass we not only celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, the Priesthood and the blessing of the oils that will be used in all the parishes in the Archdiocese during the next twelve months, the clergy also renew the priestly promises. It is our intention to organise a coach to this Mass, so that we can join the Archbishop, clergy, religious and lay faithful throughout archdiocese praying for the needs of the clergy and archdiocese. Please consider coming along. There is a list in the porch in each church for you to sign up. The coach will leave St Francis Xavier's at 5:30pm and St Anthony's at 5:45pm. We should return to Falkirk around 9:15/9:30pm

Thank you for your gift to God and His Church: Last week's offertory cash collection: £1774. SCIAF collection £1512.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 7th - 14th July: By air from Edinburgh. Prices start at £919. Bookings can now be made directly online or contact Tangney Tours on 01732 886666. Further details available by following this link: <http://www.tangneytours.com/Edinburgh>

Gift Aid envelopes are now available for the coming tax year. Please contact office if you no longer pay tax or need to change your address.

Neil McNelis intends to walk 120 miles in April to support Mary's Meals Dalmally to Malawi appeal. Anyone wishing to support should follow the link www.justgiving.com/fundraising/neil-mcnelis

Afternoon of Music will be held in St Francis Xavier's hall on Thursday 20th April from 2-4pm. Live music, dance time, tea, cakes, etc. Cost £5. Contact Moira Kennedy or parish house for tickets.

Meet, Eat and Heat will meet in St Francis Xavier's hall this Thursday. It is the last meeting until the autumn.

Called & Gifted Workshop Identify your charisms (spiritual gifts) and discern God's call through the Called and Gifted Workshop. It is hosted by the Archdiocese in collaboration with the St Catherine of Siena Institute and takes place on Saturday 20 May from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Cost is £25 and includes materials, online access, and lunch. Details and registration at bit.ly/calledgifted2023.

School Holidays We wish the staff and pupils from our schools a very enjoyable and restful Easter break.

Divine Mercy Novena Will take place every morning at 9:45am during Easter week in St. Francis Xavier's.

Anniversaries: Please Pray for: Gerald Walshe, Elizabeth (Moira) Strain, Mary Hylands, James Cogano, Dolly McKenna, Tony Dodds, Louise McGhee, Neil Molloy, Norah Savoy, Mary Dickson, Eleanor Rice, Hannah Farrell, James Bell, Frances McKean, Rosina Wallace, Jessie Allan, Philip Donnelly, Teresa Rankin, Janet Cogans, David Millar, Winnie Gow, John Lafferty, Thomas Shannon, Frances McKean, John Gerard, Keane, William McGuire, Francis Little, Helen Danks, Maureen Harkins, Gerry Lynagh, Mary Mohan, Bridgit Thomas, Andrew Winters, Hugh O'Donnell, Ian Gold, Annie Hussey, Richard John Murdoch, Christopher Mallet, Kathleen (Collins) Cassidy, Hugh McAllister. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace, Amen.

Funerals

Name	Reception	Requiem Mass/Service	Church
Jean Leask R.I.P.	Monday 3 rd April 6:00pm	Tuesday 4 th April 10:00am	St Francis Xavier's
Norah Prylewski R.I.P.		Wednesday 5 th April 10:45am	Camelon Crematorium
Roman Szczesniak R.I.P.		Tuesday 11 th April 10:00am	St Francis Xavier's
Jean Ferguson R.I.P.		Monday 17 th April 12noon	St Mary's Bo'ness



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's

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Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Clergy: Fr Daniel P. Doherty, Fr Martin J. Eckersley, Fr Michael Akintolu, Deacon Kenneth Mununga

Sunday 2nd of April, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS



PALM SUNDAY

Today the liturgy invites us to contemplate the face of the suffering Lord. Jesus' mission, purpose, goal, and glory are revealed in his Passion. We encounter today the pure and perfect witness of God's love. If you are tempted to doubt God's Love, look at Christ crucified. Here the mystery of God's love is revealed. Jesus would have died on the cross if there was only one of us to die for. Only his death, his sacrifice, his laying down of his life for us, could reconcile us with

the Father, open heaven to us and secure for us life eternal, which was lost through the fall of Adam.

MONDAY

All four Evangelists record an account of a woman anointing Jesus. The version found in Luke 7:36-50 stands on his own, offering us the same message but set against a slightly different backdrop (and including Simon the Pharisee's reaction). What all four accounts have in common is that they reveal an incident which captures so beautifully, so powerfully and so movingly a love for Jesus which is difficult to find words to describe. You see, what the Christian life is all about is actually very simple and straightforward. Mary witnessed to love. Her "waste" of nard and her profound willingness to humble herself and wash the Lord's feet were an expression of her deep, unashamed and uncompromising love for her Saviour.

TUESDAY

Judas was one of the twelve apostles. We can sometimes lose sight of this fact. Jesus chose him to be a member of the most dynamic group of men the world has ever known. We are not given the details of how Judas became a follower of Christ, as we are with some of the other apostles. We can be certain, however, that the Lord chose him because he saw in him the necessary qualities. What happened to change him can really only be the subject of conjecture. We just don't know what was going on in his heart to betray the Lord as he did.

WEDNESDAY

The clear indication of scripture is that Judas was motivated by greed and avarice and completely misunderstood Jesus and his mission. What was really going in his mind, we cannot really know. What we do know is that Jesus would have forgiven him. Jesus taught forgiveness and love of one's enemy.

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus' disciples are offended, even scandalized, by the humility of this gesture of washing their feet. Peter protests strongly, keen to prevent his Lord and Master adopting such a humble and lowly position. Peter was not showing false humility: he was genuinely shocked, horrified even, that Jesus should adopt the position of a slave. Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he wanted to set them an example. In the same way that he had humbled himself and washed their feet, so they should humble themselves and wash one another's feet.

GOOD FRIDAY

Today a special grace flows through the Church. Today the mystery of the cross shines out. Today, the cross, not the Eucharist, is the highpoint, the focus of our celebration. Our thoughts and prayers are focused on the cross. We adore, worship and venerate the cross by which the world was saved. We will go forward today to venerate the cross. In this gesture we show our love and our dependence on Christ. For Jesus, his glory was his cross. For him his death was not defeat but victory; death was not the end but the beginning.

HOLY SATURDAY

We invite you, today, on this most holy and sacred of days, to ponder the rich wisdom offered to us in this ancient homily for Holy Thursday. The early believers had a profound grasp of the drama of our salvation played out before them in the liturgy. "O Christ, you slept a life-giving sleep in the grave, and didst awaken mankind from the heavy sleep of sin. All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven".

Celebration of the Holy Week and Easter

Loving God, We are the body of your Son in the world today. As we begin our journey to Calvary give us the courage to carry our crosses. Help us to know that when we suffer. We share in the suffering of Christ. Give us the faith to believe that with Christ our crosses. Never end in death. But in the resurrection. As we await Easter Day fill our hearts with joy. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ who is our crucified and risen Saviour for ever and ever. Amen.



The six weeks of Lent are a preparation for the last three days of this week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. During them we celebrate the central event of our religion, the death and resurrection of Christ, the Saviour of the World.

PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)

Today the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal mystery. The death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated and so we have the readings of the Passion to remind us of Christ's death.



MONDAY:	Holy Mass	7am	St Francis Xavier's
	Exposition & Confessions	8:30-9:20am	St Anthony's
	Holy Mass	9:30am	St Anthony's
	Exposition & Confessions	9-9:50am	St Francis Xavier's
	Holy Mass	10am	St Francis Xavier's
	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross	7pm	St Francis Xavier's
TUESDAY:	Holy Mass	7am	St Francis Xavier's
	Exposition & Confessions	8:30-9:20am	St Anthony's
	Holy Mass	9:30am	St Anthony's
	Exposition & Confessions	9-9:50am	St Francis Xavier's
	Requiem Mass	10am	St Francis Xavier's
	Chrism Mass	7pm	St Mary's Cathedral

Archbishop Leo Cushley will celebrate the Mass of Chrism with the priests from all over the Archdiocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. During the Mass the Holy Oils (the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of Chrism) which will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. Archbishop Cushley and priests will renew their priestly vows to serve Christ and Church.

WEDNESDAY:	Holy Mass	7am	St Francis Xavier's
	Exposition & Confessions	8:30-9:20am	St Anthony's
	Holy Mass	9:30am	St Anthony's
	Exposition & Confessions	9-9:50am	St Francis Xavier's
	Holy Mass	10am	St Francis Xavier's
	Stations of the Cross	7pm	St Anthony's

HOLY THURSDAY:



MAUNDY
Thursday

Morning Prayer	9:30am	St Anthony's
Morning Prayer	10am	St Francis Xavier's
Mass of the Lord's Supper	6pm	St Anthony's
Confessions	7-7:30pm	St Anthony's
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7pm	St Francis Xavier's
Confessions	8-8:30pm	St Francis Xavier's
Night Prayer	10pm	St Anthony's
Night Prayer	10:45pm	St Francis Xavier's

On Thursday night we wait as the Body of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. We share in the fear and loneliness of Jesus as he reaches the depths of despair.

FUNERAL MASSES ARE NOT CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, OR HOLY SATURDAY

GOOD FRIDAY:



We meditate on the Passion and the death of Jesus. We focus on the cross- the crude instrument that took the life of our Saviour-the key that opened eternal life for us all. We venerate the wood of the cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.

Morning Prayer	9:30am	St Anthony's
Morning Prayer	10am	St Francis Xavier's
Walk of Witness	12noon	St Francis Xavier's
<i>We walk with Jesus on the path of Calvary.</i>		
Passion, Veneration and HC	3pm	St Francis Xavier's
Divine Mercy Novena	4:15pm	St Francis Xavier's
Confessions	4:15-5pm	St Francis Xavier's
Passion, Veneration and HC	3pm	St Anthony's
Confessions	4-15-5pm	St Anthony's
SOTC and Veneration	6pm	St Anthony's
Confessions	6:45-7:15pm	St Anthony's
Tenebrae Service	7pm	St Francis Xavier's
Confessions	7:45-8:15pm	St Francis Xavier's

This is a day of Fast and Abstinence. There is an obligation to fast (one main meal, two light meals in the course of the day and to abstain from meat. **The Law of Fasting** obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (except sick). **The Law of Abstinence** obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years.

HOLY SATURDAY:

On this day we wait as the body of our Saviour lies dead in the tomb.

The Easter Vigil: in the words of St Augustine "this is the mother of all vigils". The Easter Triduum reaches its high point on this most holy night. On this night we tell our story, it is our family story. It is not just a distant memory; it is not only historical fact-it is living reality. It is the story of salvation. We are a saved people. Through his cross and resurrection Christ has set us free. We symbolise our salvation and freedom through the use of the fire and the single flame of the paschal candle. We have been called out of the darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. All the readings at the Vigil reveal to us that we are God's chosen people. The blessing of the Easter water and the renewal of our baptismal promises all express the fact that we belong to Christ and so are a resurrected people.

Morning Prayer, <i>we wait at the tomb</i>	9:30am	St Anthony's
Confessions	9:45-10:15am	St Anthony's
Confessions	9:15-9:45am	St Francis Xavier's
Morning Prayer	10am	St Francis Xavier's
Easter Food Blessing (Polish)	1pm	St Francis Xavier's
Easter Vigil	8:30pm	St Francis Xavier's

Tonight, is the high point of the Church's year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour.

Ceremony of the Light.

The Story of Salvation.

Baptised in Christ.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

EASTER SUNDAY:

We are a resurrected people and alleluia is our song.

Holy Mass (Polish)	7:30am	St Francis Xavier's
Holy Mass	10am	St Francis Xavier's
Holy Mass	11am	St Anthony's
Holy Mass	12noon	St Francis Xavier's

No Easter Sunday 7pm Mass

