



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 First Sunday of Advent Year B**

Email: office.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk Website: [www.falkirkcatholics.org](http://www.falkirkcatholics.org)  
Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Clergy: Fr Daniel P. Doherty, Fr Martin J. Eckersley, Fr Matthew Ngiye, Deacon Kenneth Mununga

Mass Times at St Francis Xavier's	
Monday	10:00am Mass
Tuesday	10:00am Mass
Wednesday	10:00am Mass
Thursday	10:00am Mass 7:00pm Candlelit Mass
Friday	10:00am Mass
Saturday	10:00am Mass 6:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	10:00am Mass 12:00pm Mass 1:30pm Polish Mass 7:00pm Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Monday-Saturday 9:00-9:55am	
Rosary after 10am Mass Monday-Thursday, and Saturday.	
Divine Mercy after 10 am Mass, Friday.	
Morning Prayer 9:30am Monday-Saturday	
Confessions	
Thursday – 7:15-7:40pm	
Saturday – 10:30-11:15am and 5:45-6:15pm	
Mass Times at St Anthony's	
Monday	9:30am Mass
Tuesday	9:30am Mass
Thursday	9:30am
Friday	9:30am Mass
Saturday	9:30am Mass
Sunday	11:00am Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
One hour preceding every Mass	
Rosary Monday 9am	
Confessions	
Saturday 10:00-10:30am	
Saints of the Week and Feast Days	
Monday- St John Damascene	
Wednesday- St Nicholas	
Thursday- St Ambrose	
Friday – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Saturday- St Juan Diego Cuauthlatozin	

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023** be available after Mass this Sunday and must be completed and returned prior to the Archbishop will visit the parish and event.

**This Sunday- First Sunday of Advent** celebrate the 11am Mass at St Anthony's.

**Advent/Christmas Flyer** These were baking for the Childrens Liturgy party next available last Sunday, there are still copies Sunday. Please hand into St Francis Xavier's available in the church porches. hall or chapel house on Saturday or Sunday morning. **No nuts please!**

**Advent Calendars** and Christmas Cards are now available in both piety shops. **SCIAF Real Gifts-** see noticeboards for further details.

**Mary's Meals Christmas Cards on Sale-** in both piety shops. They cost £5 a pack- if you buy four packs, you have paid for a child to attend school for a year and have a meal provided.

**Candlelit Masses** Last year these Masses were very popular, even people from neighborhood parishes came along! Once again, they will take place on each of the three Thursdays of Advent starting at 7pm in St Francis Xavier's Church. Try and keep Thursday evenings free, so this can be the day during this holy season that we try and make a special effort in attending an extra Mass, especially encouraging our young people to attend.

**Community Carol Singing:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 11.30am - 12.30pm, on the steps of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Falkirk. All are welcome!

**Carols at Tesco in Redding** will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm All are welcome from across the whole Parish! There will be rehearsals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2pm for anyone wishing to practice the hymns beforehand.

**St Andrew's Primary School PTA Christmas Fayre** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 12pm-3pm. Please come along to support our school and local small businesses. Santas Grotto, food trucks, fairground rides, home baking and lots more. This will be a great family day out for everyone. The PTA are looking to raise funds to support the new school library and provide more events for the kids throughout the rest of the school year.

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**Thank you** for your generosity the offertory collection last Sunday was £ 2542. Catholic Education £684.

**Congratulations to** Derek James Hilley and Laura-Ann Mill Meade who were married in St Anthony's last Saturday. We wish them both a very long and blessed marriage.

**New Liturgical Year begin today** we now move to Year B for Sunday Readings and on the weekdays Year 2.

**Next weekend** confessions will be heard during all Sunday Masses (including the Vigil) in St Francis Xavier's.

**Christmas Parish Toy Giveaway!** Today, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 11am-3pm, St Francis Xavier's Parish Hall.

**Christ the King Youth Day** - last Saturday almost 50 children from our Parish joined children from around the Archdiocese for a day of faith, fun, and friendship (and sweets!) A huge thank you to all our big and little people who supported the event and made it the success or was!!

**Hospital Admissions** The clergy are very happy to visit you at home if you feel that you would benefit from the Sacrament of the Sick, especially before major surgery.

**St Andrew's Night** which took place last Saturday (25<sup>th</sup> November) in St Francis Xavier's church hall was a great success. It was great to see the hall full, where we enjoyed tasty fish suppers, great company and excellent entertainment led by Ian Scott. A big thank you to the members of the social committee and additional helpers who organized, set up and cleaned-up- very much appreciated. The £240 proceeds of the evening will be used to purchase a new microwave for the St Francis Xavier's hall and contribute to the new hot water boiler in the small kitchen.

**Hogmanay Supper and entertainment** Thank you to all those who have signed up for this great parish social. Can we now ask you to make your food choices from the sheets in the porches. The closing date to book a place and make a food choice is 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bible Alive** The December edition is available in both church porches.

**Scottish Catholic Ceilidh Ball** - last Friday the SKY bar in Edinburgh was home to an evening of ball gowns, kilts, cocktails, ceilidh dancing, and Catholic celebration! To mark the WYD from across the country got together to share faith, memories, and a night to remember. Thanks to all those many young adults from our Parish who attended the night and made it the incredible event it was!!

**Faith Winter Conference** - a three-day event for young people (16-30) to encounter Jesus and ask the questions 'where does God Speak to me?' and 'how do I listen to him?' Join us for prayer, faith formation, socialising and much more this January the 2-4<sup>th</sup> at the Emmaus

porch!

**Help Yourself** to a range of medals, statues, holy pictures, prayer books wrapping paper etc from the table in St Francis Xavier's church porch.

**Union of Catholic Mothers**, Christmas lunch-Croft and Creel-Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December-1230 for 1pm Many thanks

**Advent Rosary** Archbishop Cushley will give a reflection at the first weekly Advent Pro-day of faith, fun, and friendship (and sweets!) Life Rosary tomorrow (Monday 4 December) at 7:45pm. Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/archprolifeevents](http://bit.ly/archprolifeevents)

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of December There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Rosary, on the hour, from 11 am to 6 pm in St Francis Xavier's. The Holy Rosary will be led/facilitated by the Legion of Mary. Parishioners can sign on the sheet at the back of the church to indicate preferred times to help cover the Exposition. Join us on this wonderful feast day

**St. Anthony's Music Group** offer "Praise Music for Friends" on the last Friday of the month. It is just for half an hour beginning at 10.30am and we would like to open it up to anyone who would like to come along and join in. Our next get together is this coming Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. The following one will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> December at which we will be singing lots of Christmas related songs. There will be tea and coffee in the hall afterwards.

**Laudato Si** See Facebook for this week's message.

**Dates for the Sunday 10am Mass choir practices:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm, and 21 December at 1:00pm. New members most welcome.

**Diploma in Catechetics 2024** Explore the richness and depth of our Catholic faith with the Diploma in Catechetics from the Archdiocese, led by Sr Miriam Ruth Ryan RSM. Tune in each Thursday at 7:30pm for an expert-led Zoom Webinar. Includes guided readings, one-to one support and a retreat. The course begins . on Thursday 25 January 2024. Visit [bit.ly/archdiploma2024](http://bit.ly/archdiploma2024). Questions [smiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk](mailto:smiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk).

**Sex & relationships education** The Scottish Government has removed all reference to Catholic schools in a draft document that will be used in Relationships, Sexual Health and

Parenthood education in classrooms. It means children could be exposed to lessons contrary to Church teaching. Catholics across Scotland are being urged to respond to a consultation to ensure our voice is heard on this matter. For a guide on how to submit your responses go to: [bit.ly/detailsandresponse](http://bit.ly/detailsandresponse)

**The Angelus Prayer**

**V.** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

**R.** And she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary...

**V.** Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**R.** Be it done unto me according to Your Word. Hail Mary...

**V.** And the Word was made flesh,

**R.** And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

**V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray.** Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts; that as the incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an angel, so by His passion and cross, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Anniversaries:** Julia Kane , Mark Mitchell, Leonard (Lenny) McCauley, Patrick Boyle (Packie), Bridget Kelly White, Mike Kelly, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Edward Doherty, Julia O'Neill, Margaret Cumming, Mary (Doherty) Lynagh, Aldina Bellinetti, Archibald McDonald, Verediana Concelves, Elizabeth Mochan, Anne Marie Kelly, James Crow, Jessie Gorman, Michael McIntyre, Edward Marshall, James McGuire, Isabella Beck, David Joseph Fischer, Catherine McCann, Margaret Corrigan, Thomas Francis Murphy, Brenda Gallagher, John Little, Donald McIntyre, Thomas Francis Murray, William Burn, Annie Envy, Mary Anne Nugent Campbell, Mary Mohan, Maud McHugh, Giacondo Marchi, Margaret Aitken, Eamon McLaughlin, Stefan Politoski, Mary Bell, Margarite Fallon , Henry Savage, Margaret Alexander, Mary McCourt Gallagher, Kathleen Toland Winters, Mary Cruickshanks, Emily Carr, Nancy McLaren, Maureen O'Donnell, Michael Burt, Mary Skrzyszowski, Martin Reynolds, Deirdre. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace, Amen.

**Paul H. O'Connor Funeralcare** 13b High Street, Bonnybridge, FK4 1BX, have very kindly sponsored the Newsletter for the month of December.



**FUNERALS**

Name	Reception	Service	Church
Mary Burt R.I.P.	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Kenneth McBride R.I.P.		Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xaver's

