



Sunday 10th December 2023 Second Sunday of Advent Year B

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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 Requiem 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 – 7:00-7:40pm	
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 Mass
Friday	9:30am Mass
Saturday	9:30am Mass
Sunday	11:00am Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
One hour preceding every weekday Mass	
Rosary Monday 9am	
Confessions	
Saturday 10:00-10:30am	
Saints of the Week and Feast Days	
Monday- St Damasus I	
Tuesday- Our Lady of Guadalupe	
Wednesday- St Lucy	
Thursday- St John of the Cross	
Saturday- Our Lady	

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023

Candelit Mass on Thursday was very prayerful and great to see so many spiritual preparation for Christmas. Why not come along. Confessions will be available during Mass.

Confessions this weekend will be during all the Masses at St Francis Xavier's. Next weekend confessions will take place at the Vigil, 10am Mass, 11am Mass and 7pm Masses. Examination of conscience is available in both porches.

Visitation The clergy will be visiting the sick and housebound during the course of this month. They are happy to make themselves available for Confessions.

Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards are now available in both piety shops.

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.

Carols at Tesco in Redding All are welcome from across the whole Parish as we spread the Gospel message to our local community. Join us on the 17th December 2-4pm for Carols at Tesco in Redding. There will be one more rehearsal on Sunday 10th December 2pm at St. Anthony's Church.

Advent Rosary The Advent Pro-Life Rosary continues on Monday (11 December) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Fr Gerard Hatton (St Patrick's, Cowgate). Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions.

at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Last Year we introduced poinsettias to decorate both church sanctuaries and many people supported this initiative.

We have had many requests to do this again. If you would like to donate a red poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please bring it to the church porches from next Sunday 17.

Toy Give Away went extremely well. The generosity of you all was very impressive, so thank you so much. Also a huge thanks to the team of volunteers who set up and displayed both halls with all the toys and books, etc and organized and helped people access the donations. Well done!

Christmas Party this Sunday 10th Dec. from 1:30 to 3:00pm there will be a Christmas Party in St. Francis Xavier church hall. Children who regularly attend the children's liturgy in either St Francis or St. Anthony's are most welcome to attend. Permission slips for the party will be available after Mass this Sunday and must be completed and returned prior to the event.

Gift Aid- if you have envelope no 104, please contact parish office.

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 10th December.

New Liturgical Year begun last week we now move to Year B for Sunday Readings and on weekdays Year 2.

A letter of thanks was received from Fr Michael- see notice board.

Parish Grounds We are very fortunate to have large and well kept carparks, grounds and gardens. A big thank you to the large team in both churches, who have cared and maintained the grounds/gardens since March, especially for your time, tools, materials and talent. Register Well done and greatly appreciated.

Snow and Ice Winter has certainly arrived! If you can help in any way when we have snow and ice, to keep access to our buildings safe, it would be very

appreciated.

Warm Places – One of the items on our first meeting last month of our newly established Parish Pastoral Council was the possibility of restarting Warm Places in early January. If anyone is interested in helping on Thursdays please give your details to the parish office or text Neil at 07718625511.

Lonely Not Alone- Christmas Dinner is being provided for those who may find themselves alone, possibly after a bereavement or an illness, in Masonic Hall, 200 Grahams Rd on Christmas Day. This is very kindly being offered free by one of our local funeral directors Merrilees Family Funeral Directors, Thistle Street, 01324636446. Please contact them directly if you would like to attend on the day.

SCIAF Real Gifts- see noticeboards for further details.

Youth for Lourdes- last year this parish sent 7 pupils from St Mungo's high school to experience Lourdes and to assist elderly pilgrims in the hospital there. This year we have 23 pupils signed up to go! Your prayerful and financial support last year was invaluable and we're so grateful for the support you've already given us for the next year! During Advent we'll be offering the opportunity to win a selection of amazing prizes after Sunday Mass. Keep an eye out for our YFL pupils selling tickets after Sunday Masses - not only could you win an awesome prize, but you'll also be giving one of our young people the chance to meet Mary in Lourdes this summer!

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. Anthony's Music Group offer "Praise Music for Friends" on the last Friday of the month. If you are free, please come and join us. Our next get together will be the 29th December at 10.30am in St. Anthony's Church. It's just 30mins of music, this month - Christmas Carols, with tea and coffee to the available afterwards."

Laudato Si See Facebook for this week's message.

Dates for the Sunday 10am Mass choir The Angelus Prayer

practices: 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. Questions srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk.

St Paul's Bookshop For Christmas gift ideas, cards, bibles, rosary beads, holy images calendars and lots more, visit St Paul's Bookshop at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh (beside John Lewis). It is open seven days a week from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

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

'Buffer Zone' Bill A new bill proposes criminalising prayer and offers of help to women in designated 'buffer zones' around abortion centres in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please respond to the government consultation which ends on 20 December at bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey.

Please also write to your MSP to express your concerns. Visit <https://rcpolitics.org/buffer-zones> for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced, including help with responding to the consultation and writing to your MSP.

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: Margarite Fallon, Ann Ward, John Crawford, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Devoy, Muriel Watson, Rosaleen Casey, Tom McCartney, H. Hughes, Jean Stanners, Anthony Reynolds, Eadie Wauch, AnnMarie Lemetti, Jessie Murison, William McIntyre, Michael Winters, Sadie (Lumsden) McGuckin, Peter Walls, Margaret Murray, Maggie Coull, Edward O'Donnell, Antonio Marino Giannandrea, Peter Winters, Kathleen Scott, Roberta Canavan, Margaret Kerr, Anne O'Brien, Mary McCafferty, Anne Meakin, John Lynn, Ann Lynagh, Janet Hylands, Peggy Ford, V. Rev. Canon Bracelin, Jack Woodhouse, Jack McCafferty, Jayne Helen Burns, Kathleen McGuckin, Thomas Guy, John Spinks, Anthony John Bell, Isabella Whoriskey, Barbara Geoghegan, Isabella Redding, Chrissie Montague. 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
Kenneth McBride R.I.P.		Thursday 14 th December 10am	St Francis Xaver's
Milley Valentine R.I.P		Thursday 21 st December 10am	St Francis Xaver's
Denis McHugh R.I.P.	Thursday 21 st December 6:00pm	Friday 22 nd December 10am	St Francis Xaver's
Bernard Curran R.I.P.		TBC	St Francis Xaver's

