



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's  
St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent - 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	
Sunday	10:00am Mass 12:00pm Mass 1:30pm Polish Mass 7:00pm Mass
Monday	7:00am Mass 10:00am Mass
Tuesday	10:00am Mass
Wednesday	10:00am Mass 7:00pm Mass
Thursday	10:00am Mass 7:00pm Stations of Cross
Friday	7:00am Mass 10:00am Mass
Saturday	10:00am Mass 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Sunday	9:00-9:45am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9:00-9:50am
Saturday	10:30-11:15am
<b>Rosary</b>	after 10am Mass Monday-Thursday, and Saturday.
<b>Divine Mercy</b>	after 10am Mass, Friday.
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	9:30am Monday-Saturday
Confessions	
Thursday	7:30-8pm
Saturday	10:30-11:15am and 4:15-4:45pm
Mass Times at St Anthony's	
Sunday	11:00am Mass
Monday	9:30am Mass
Tuesday	9:30am Mass
Thursday	9:30am Mass
Friday	9:30am Mass 7:00pm Stations of Cross
Saturday	9:30am Mass
<b>Rosary</b>	Monday 9am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday and Thursday	8:30-9:20am
Confessions	
Friday	7:30-8pm & Saturday 10-10:30am
Saints of the Week and Feast Days	
Monday	– St Casimir (commemoration)
Thursday	– Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs (commemoration)
Friday	– St John of God (commemoration)
Saturday	– St Frances of Rome (commemoration)

**Infant Baptism.** Preparation courses for infant baptism will be held on the last Monday of every month, at 7pm, in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. Please email the parish to register.

**Lent 2024** Another great response by so many of you coming to our additional weekday Masses, Adoration and especially Stations of the Cross. Please remember we have two 7am Masses on Mondays and Fridays along with a 7pm Mass on Wednesdays in St Francis Xavier's. These Masses hopefully allow workers, pupils and students to come to Mass more easily. Persevere, almost at the mid-point!

**Only a few 'Walk with Me'** Lenten prayer reflection books still available, priced £1, in both church porches.

**SCIAF Wee Box** can be collected from the church porches and returned by Easter Sunday at the latest.

**Congratulations** to Adele Gallagher and Simon Brown who were married in St Francis Xavier's last Saturday. We wish our newly married many blessed and fruitful years of life together.

**Planning a wedding.** Please contact the parish office at least six months in advance.

**Next weekend,** at all Masses, there will be a special collection for Papal and Episcopal charities, including Scottish International Aid Fund (SCIAF). Please use your Gift Aid envelope, if you have one. Archbishop Leo Cushley said: "The money you donate is used to support much needed projects for people in need across the world and we pray for all those involved in the charitable works of the Church. Thank you for your generosity in almsgiving during Lent." – Archbishop Leo Cushley.

**Vigil Mass Time.** Hopefully most people are aware that the Vigil Mass for Sundays now begins at 5pm on a Saturday. This is preceded with Confessions from 4:15-4:45pm.

**Warm Places** Lunch will be available every Thursday from 12 to 2pm in St Francis Xavier's Hall. Homemade soup, toasties, biscuits and hot drinks will be served, along with great company!

**Inserts for Newsletter** Please note these must be sent to the parish email address by 9am every Thursday to be included in the Sunday edition.

**RCIA** takes place on Tuesday in St Francis Xavier's sacristy from 7pm.

**This Saturday, 9 March** after the 10am Mass, the children, who do not attend our two Catholic schools in the parish, will celebrate their first confession. Please keep the children, their parents and catechists in your prayers.

**The Parish Clergy** will be visiting all the sick and housebound over the next four weeks in preparation for Easter. Can Communion Ministers please inform those they visit that the priests will be happy to celebrate the Sacrament of Confessions during their visit in preparation for Easter.

**Union of Catholic Mothers** Wednesday 6th March. Members meet in the hall at 1PM - please note change of time. At 2PM there will be a Lenten Reflection with Fr Daniel and ladies from Trinity and Grahamston Utd churches will join us.

**The Walking Group** have arranged a Walk of Faith from St. Paul's Church, Milton of Campsie to Schoenstatt Shrine for 19th March 2024. We will meet at St Paul's for Mass at 09.30, have tea in their hall, then walk 3.5 miles to Schoenstatt. Return walk after Stations of the Cross outdoors. If you wish to join us, please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing depending on the weather. For more information contact Neil at 07718625511 or by text.

**St Patrick's Night Celebration, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March,** in St Francis Xavier's Hall. Doors open at 7pm with food served at 7:30pm. The cost is £15 per person and includes a two-course meal and entertainment. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet (in both church porches) and put your payment in an envelope, marked St Patrick's night with your name, and post it through the door of the church house. All welcome & BYOB!

**Primary 7 pupils from** St. Francis Xavier's Primary School are welcoming you to a coffee morning that will be held in the school hall, to raise money for SCIAF, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The coffee morning will

**Thank you** for your generosity, the offertory cash collection last Sunday was £2376.69.

**Welcome** to Hamish McLaren who was baptised last weekend. Congratulations to his parents!

begin at 9:30am and end at 11:30am. There will be an entrance fee of £2.00, which covers coffee/tea and cakes on arrival.

**Chrism Mass** Archbishop Cushley will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday 26 March at 7:00pm at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral with priests from throughout the Archdiocese. If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus to travel to the Mass, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in both church porches. The coach will depart from the front of St Francis Xavier's Church at 5:30pm.

**The Senior Youth Group** have decided to do the Big Lent Walk in aid of SCIAF this year. We will be walking as far as we can every Thursday night over Lent with the aim of reaching 200km and we would be very grateful of donations to our Just Giving page. Donations can be offered via the link or the QR code below or at the back of the church:

St. Francis Xavier's Senior Youth Group  
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-xaviers-senior-youth-group?edit=page>



Scan me!

**Choir practice:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1pm and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2pm. All are welcome.

**Called to be Saints - Youth Day** A day of inspiration, friendship and prayer for S1-S4 pupils that asks the question, *What does it take to be a saint in the modern world?* Run by Fr Robert Taylor and Fr Martin Eckersley, it features talks from guests including Judith Ralston, television presenter. It takes place on Saturday 23 March, midday to 4:00pm at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register your child for this FREE event at [bit.ly/calledtobesaints](http://bit.ly/calledtobesaints) **OR** [speak to Fr Martin](http://speaktofrmartin.org).

**Day for Catechists** If you are involved with RCIA, children's liturgy, sacramental preparation or any other catechist role, please register for the Archdiocesan *Day for Catechists* at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on Saturday 9 March from 10:30am-3:00pm. While the day is aimed at Catechists, all are

welcome.

Visit <https://bit.ly/dayforcatechists>

**Lourdes Pilgrimage July 5 - 12<sup>th</sup> 2024:** Every year the Archdiocese makes a pilgrimage to the Marian site of Lourdes in South West France. Whilst there, pilgrims can expect to explore the Marian Grotto, receive the miraculous waters, enjoy intimate Masses as a group, International Mass with thousands of pilgrims from around the world, and take part in services for healing and for reconciliation. Faith meets fun as pilgrims get together to enjoy social time, singing, shopping, and soaking up the southern sun. The group contains a mix of Assisted Pilgrims (those who would like some extra help whilst on the trip - either medical or mobility). The Young Pilgrims (YFL) travel out to assist those pilgrims on their pilgrimage, pushing wheelchairs, keeping company, and generally doing what they can to enhance the Assisted Pilgrims experience of Lourdes. The Pilgrimage, however, is open to everyone and anyone. As a non-assisted pilgrim, you can expect to stay in one of Lourdes many all-inclusive hotels, with time to pray, explore, eat & drink! To sign up for a truly soul changing trip visit: [Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](http://Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com))

**Pathways of Hope** A forum on Catholic Social Teaching and Poverty titled 'Pathways of Hope' takes place on Saturday 16 March 10:30am-3:00pm at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register at [bit.ly/pathwaysofhopeevent](http://bit.ly/pathwaysofhopeevent)

**Stations of the Cross.** Join people across the Archdiocese each Monday throughout Lent for our annual Stations of the Cross. It takes place on Zoom at 7:45pm, every Monday during Lent, and lasts around 30 minutes. We will be praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/lentstations](http://bit.ly/lentstations)

**Laudato Si** weekly message is available on the parish Facebook page.

#### **Catholic Families for Life**

The latest issue of newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life can be downloaded from [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk).

#### **Music at 12pm Mass**

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Offertory:

God of mercy and compassion,  
Look with pity upon me.  
Father, let me call Thee Father,  
'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.

*Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;  
Let me not implore in vain;  
All my sins—I now detest them,  
Never will I sin again.*

By my sins I have deserved  
Death and endless misery;  
Hell, with all its pains and torments,  
And for all eternity.

By my sins I have abandoned  
Right and claim to Heav'n above,  
Where the saints rejoice forever,  
In a boundless sea of love.

See our Saviour, bleeding, dying,  
On the cross of Calvary;  
To that cross my sins have nailed Him,  
Yet He bleeds and dies for me.

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Communion Hymn: Hear us, almighty Lord (No. 196)

Marian Antiphon for Lent:  
*Ave, Regina caelorum,  
Ave, Domina Angelorum:  
Salve, radix, salve, porta  
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:*

*Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,  
Super omnes speciosa,  
Vale, o valde decora,  
Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

**Anniversaries:** John McKenna, Bob Meighan, Rosina Marley, Isobella McCluskey, Mary Simpson, Mary McGarvey, William McEwan, Michael C Malley, Rina Pellegrini, William Marshall, Patrick Cullen, David H Merchant, Charles McGhee Jnr, John Lindsay Allan, Thomas McFarlane, Tony Visaliko, Jess McCafferty, Edmund Stremlau, Bridget Devlin, Catherine Dowd, Dominic McGinley, James Clarkin, Patrick Cullen, William Carberry, Sr. Margaret Travers, Jane McGhee, Joseph Callaghan, June Lydia Blair McEwan, Kathleen Logan, Janet Devlin, James Reiley, Theresa Rankin, Denis O'Donnell and Bridget Silcock.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

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



