



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's
St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches

Sunday 15th December 2024, **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Email: office.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk Website: www.falkirkcatholics.org
Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Clergy: Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier's, Monsignor Allan T Chambers

Fr Joshua Kauras, Fr Peter Shankland and Deacon Kenneth Mununga



St Francis Xavier's	Mass Times	Devotions	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Saturday	5pm Vigil			John & Frances McGeever (SI)
Sunday	10am, 12 noon, 3pm (Polish) & 7pm			10am – Stella Biauou (Anniversary) 12pm – People of the Parish 7pm – Winters Family (anniversaries)
Monday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Deirdre Mailer (Aniversary)
Tuesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Mary Bell (Anniversary)
Wednesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Jacqueline Robertson (Anniversary)
Thursday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass Novena at 7pm		Tommy O'Rourke (Anniversary)
Friday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am		Tom Buchanan (Anniversary)
Saturday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am		John Bain, RIP
St Anthony's				
Sunday	11am			Winnie Curran (Anniversary)
Monday	9:30am	Rosary at 9am		Anne Ward (Anniversary)
Wednesday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Deirdre Mailer (Anniversary)
Friday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Michael McNally, RIP

Confession is available in St Francis Xavier's church on Saturday morning from 10:30am until 11:15am and on Saturday evening from 4:15pm until 4:45pm.

Morning Prayer takes place in St Francis Xavier's Church (Polish Chapel) at 9:30am Monday to Saturday. All are welcome.

Infant Baptism. The next preparation meeting is **Monday, 27th January, at 7pm** in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. To register your child, please email Deacon Kenneth for further information: baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity. Last week's offertory cash collection was **£2146.50**

A Special Collection for SVDP will be taken this weekend. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Warm Places has finished until January. Thank you to everyone who gave their time & donations to enable this great initiative to run every week.

Pondering the mysteries of our faith. During Advent we ponder one of the greatest mysteries of our faith. How a helpless baby boy (Jesus), born in a lowly manger into an ordinary humble family, could become the saviour of the world - our messiah. We also ponder one of the great mysteries of the nature of Jesus, He is born in human flesh, born of a woman, just like us. However, as he showed at the wedding feast at Cana he is unique in that he is fully divine as well as being fully human. We hold by faith that he is divine, and we see plenty of examples of miracles and healings that he performs throughout scripture. Our faith is an important part of understanding the mysteries. It allows us to be comfortable with not knowing everything about how these things happen but by faith we know that they do. It's fine to find out some things about these mysteries but our faith allows us to be satisfied with not knowing everything. This recognises that our human

knowledge is finite and what we are pondering in Jesus is someone infinite in His power by means of his divinity. Perhaps the best example of how to cope with the mysteries of our faith is Mary who we are told at the presentation of our Lord in the temple in Luke 2:19 pondered in her heart all the things that Jesus would achieve throughout his life. In humility she understands that what she is being told is beyond human knowledge but in faith she trusts that in time these things will be revealed to her. One of the greatest mysteries for us is that we do not know when Christ will come again. What we can do is, like Mary did, prepare ourselves in faith and trust that he will reveal himself to us again and we will be ready when he returns.

Mary's Meals. A big thank you to everyone who helped, supported and gave so generously to the Mary's Meals event at St Anthony's. We raised the magnificent sum of £1870. Once again, thank you.

Advent Penitential Service with reconciliation and adoration this Wednesday (18th) at 7pm in St Anthony's church. All are welcome.

Hot Rolls in St Francis hall next Sunday after 10am Mass to raise funds for the young people traveling to Lourdes next year.

Hogmanay Ceilidh tickets cost £10 and are on sale in St Francis Xavier's hall after 10am Mass **until this Sunday, 15th December**. The evening includes a meal. If you would like to come along, please add your name to the sign-up sheet, in both church porches, and indicate your food choice by the 15th December. Please contact John McPherson (07526 392 876) for further information. All are most welcome.

SPRED friends will meet again on the 15th January from 7pm – 9pm in St Francis hall.

Carols at Tesco. Join us this Sunday the 15th December at Tesco in Redding (2pm – 4pm) as we reach out to the local community with song, joy and the message of Christ's coming this Christmas. All donations taken will go to Mary's Meals.

Praise Music for Friends – Christmas edition, will be Friday 27th December at 10:45am for half an hour with tea and coffee in St Anthony's hall afterwards. All are welcome.

Strathcarron Singers' Concert, Wednesday 18th December at 7:30pm in Trinity Church. Entry is free.

Christmas Film Afternoon. The Children's liturgy leaders at St Francis have organised a Christmas film afternoon this Sunday 15th December from 1pm-3pm in St Francis hall. Children can bring cushions and blankets to snuggle on and snacks will be provided.

Children's Christmas Party in St Anthony's church hall next Sunday 22nd December between 12-2pm. All primary school children from St. Anthony's are invited. The children must be happy to stay without parents. Liturgy leaders will be in the foyer after Mass taking names of children interested in attending and giving parents consent forms to be returned this Sunday, 15th December. Donations of home baking would be much appreciated. Any queries, contact Paula on 07732983079.

An Introduction to Prayer by Bishop Robert Barron is available to purchase in both church stalls, this Advent, for only £3.

New Missal – copies are now available in the church stall at St Francis Xavier's for £17.

The Stall at St Francis is selling copies of the new missal along with lovely Christmas cards and boxes. Please drop in after Mass if you would like to buy any.

Mass for the Opening of the Jubilee Year

Archbishop Cushley will solemnly open the Jubilee Year 2025 for the Archdiocese with Holy Mass and the blessing of the Jubilee Cross at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, at

midday on Sunday 29 December. Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit www.iubilaeum2025.va for more details about this special year.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting on the 17th December has been postponed until the New Year.

Explore the new Lectionary

Join Fr Jamie McMorrin at 7:00pm this Wednesday (18 Dec) on Zoom as he continues his series exploring the new Lectionary. Register at bit.ly/lectionaryadvent. Catch up on the YouTube channel of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

Christmas Edition of Bible Alive is available in both church porches.

Anniversaries: 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, Rosina Kennedy, Monica Marshall, Edward Maguire, Edward O'Donnell, Mary Jane Hanlon Smith, Christina Sneddon, Susan Friel, Peter Lynagh, Joseph Hughes, Peter Campbell, Agnes (Sweeney) Coffey, John Coffey, Siobhan Coffey, Cathie Harvey, Stella Walsh, Doris Fraser Bell, Guiditta Notarangelo, Ruth Helen Adams, Martin James Bell, Annie Szmlac, Elizabeth Campbell, Patricia McGeehan, Phyllis Reilly, Alex McGlynn, Stanislaw Jerwzal, Mary Reid, Michael Quinn and John Meighan.

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

Christmas Mass Information

Date	Mass	Church
Christmas Eve	5:30pm readings & Carols; 6pm Vigil Mass	St Anthony's
Christmas Eve	7:30pm readings & Carols; 8pm Vigil Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Eve	11:30pm readings & Carols; Midnight Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Day	10am Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Day	10:30am Mass	St Anthony's

