



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Third 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	
Sunday	10:00am 12:00pm Mass 1:30pm Polish Mass 7:00pm Mass
Monday	10:00am Mass
Tuesday	10:00am Mass
Wednesday	10:00am Mass
Thursday	10:00am Requiem Mass 7:00pm Candlelit Mass
Friday	10:00am Requiem Mass
Saturday	10:00am Mass 6:30pm Vigil Mass
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Monday-Saturday	9:00-9:55am
Rosary	after 10am Mass Monday-Thursday, and Saturday.
Divine Mercy	after 10am 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	
Sunday	11:00am Mass
Monday	9:30am Mass
Tuesday	9:30am Mass
Thursday	9:30am Mass
Friday	9:30am Mass
Saturday	9:30am 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	
Thursday	St Peter Canisius
Saturday	St John of Kanty

which help us prepare for the wonderful celebration of Christmas. Confessions will be available during Mass. helpers and of course the parents who supported the event.

**Confessions** This weekend confessions will take place at the Vigil, 11am and 7pm Masses. Examination of Conscience is available in both porches.

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

**This Sunday** after 10:00am and 12:00noon Masses young people from our parish will be selling candles made from recycled wax from our parish. Stars at £1.5 and snowflakes at £2 to support Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative. All hand made with love to a good cause. May Baby Jesus bless You all.

**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.

**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** is today 17<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm All are welcome from across the whole Parish!

**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 as soon as possible.

**Archdiocesan Directories** have arrived and available in both piety shops. Lots of coverage in photo section of this parish.

**January edition of Bible Alive** available in both church porches.

**Children's Liturgy Christmas Party** The joint party of the two groups took place in St Francis Xavier's last Sunday afternoon. What a great time everyone had, especially when Santa arrived. A huge thanks to those who donated home baking, the children's liturgy leaders and

**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 maintain the grounds/gardens since March, especially for your time, tools, materials and talent. 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, so to keep access to our buildings safe, would be very appreciated.

**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!

**Welcome** to Imogen Violet Raeburn who was baptized last Saturday and congratulations to her mum, dad and big sister.

**Last chance to book a place at the Hogmanay Supper and entertainment** If you would like to come along to this great social evening, please contact the parish office by email or telephone by this Wednesday the 20 December.

**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. It is just for half an hour beginning

**Thank you** for your generosity the offertory collection last Sunday was £ 2036.

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023**

**What a wonderful turn out we had at our Candlelit Mass on Thursday.** This Thursday we will have our final Candlelit Mass for this Advent. Please try and make an extra effort to come along to these very popular and prayerful Masses

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 24th. 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.

**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.

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

**Dates for the Sunday 10am Mass choir practices:** Thursday 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/archdiplomaz2024](http://bit.ly/archdiplomaz2024). Questions [srmiiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk](mailto:srmiiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk).

**Save the date** The Archdiocesan Music Day is on Saturday 27 January 2024 at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. It is for those who contribute to the liturgy in their parish through music and/or singing, as well as for anyone interested in finding out more about sacred music. Please save the date - details to be confirmed soon.

**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)

**'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 Kentigern's Church, Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, Edinburgh, on Saturday 10 February 2024. Details to follow soon. Consultation which ends on 20 December at [bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey](http://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.

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

**Advent Rosary** The Advent Pro-Life Rosary concludes on Monday (18 December) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Mgr Allan Chambers (St Mary's, Bathgate). 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 Holy Innocents** Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents at midday on Thursday 28 December at St Margaret's Chapel, The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Complimentary refreshments and social afterwards. Register at [bit.ly/archprolifeevents](http://bit.ly/archprolifeevents)

**Explore God's will** Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, the first one takes place on Sunday 28 January, 4-7pm at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues same time/venue: 25 Feb, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 12 May and 22 June. To register email [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

**Save the Date** The Archdiocesan Valentine's Retreat for Married and

**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:** Stella Biaou, Janet Hylands, Anthony John Bell, 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, Mary Reid, Patricia McGeehan, Phyllis Reilly, Alex McGlynn, Stanislaw Jerwzal, Mar Michael Quinn, John Meighan, Elizabeth Campbell, Edward Dowd, Peter Woods, Patrick McLaughlin, Rea Boyle, Martha Woodhouse, Michael & Esther Connell, Alice McFarlane, William Imrie, Ramsay Young, James Meade, Jan Krupa, Samuel Fitzpatrick, Winfred Paton, James McGuckin. 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
Milley Valentine R.I.P		Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xaver's
Denis McHugh R.I.P.	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 6:00pm	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xaver's
Bernard Curran R.I.P	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Catherine Gallagher R.I.P	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December 10am	St Francis Xavier's

