



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

Sunday 18th February 2024 1st Sunday of Lent - B

Email: office.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk Website: 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

Rosary after 10am Mass Monday-Thursday, and Saturday.

Divine Mercy after 10am Mass, Friday.

Morning Prayer 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

Rosary 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

Thursday – Chair of St Peter the Apostle – Feast
Saturday - Our Lady

Lent 2024 What a wonderful start to Lent. The number of people at the Masses on Ash Wednesday was very impressive, as was the great turnout for Stations of the Cross on Thursday evening. Well done and thank you. Try your best to attend one extra Mass and/or Stations of the Cross and/or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each week during Lent. To aid your prayer and reflection of the Sacred Scriptures, there is a great wee book in each porch 'Walk with Me'. It only costs £1.

Lent edition of Bible Alive is in both church porches.

Vigil Mass Time. Hopefully most people are aware that the Vigil Mass for Sundays, from this weekend onwards, will be at 5pm on Saturdays. This will be preceded with Confessions from 4:15-4:45pm.

Parish trip to York 30th September to 4th October. What an excellent response so far for this trip! If you would like to sign up, please complete the booking form and return your deposit to the parish house at your earliest convenience.

Filled Rolls will be served this Sunday after 11am Mass and next Sunday after 10am Mass. All proceeds for the Youth for Lourdes Fund 2024.

This Weekend at all Masses we will welcome a representative from the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sr Rosario. Sr will share with us a little about their order and the work they do here in Scotland. The second collection will be taken up to assist them in their very important work.

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!

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

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.

UCM Wednesday 21st February Members meet in St Martha's hall at 1.30pm. New members welcome! At 2pm, Ian Scott will give a talk on Falkirk and the reasons why the streets received their names – all welcome!

Parish Hall/Social Committee meet this Monday in St Francis Xavier's hall at 7pm.

Women's World Day of Prayer for 2024 will be held in Trinity Church, Falkirk on Friday 1st March at 2pm. All parishioners are very welcome!

SPRED meets with friends on **Wednesday 21st February at 7pm** in the hall at St Francis Xavier's. We are still looking for volunteers, if you would like to ask for information, please get in touch with Jennifer Lightfoot 07946 538958.

"Praise Music for Friends" is on at St. Anthony's 10.45am February 23rd but there will be no March date as the last Friday in March is Good Friday.

Exploring the Mass: Reception of Holy Communion Unless one is incapacitated in some way, we must all come solemnly toward the altar to receive the Lord, coming to the Lord in the procession. If one is unable to kneel to receive the Lord, they must make a profound bow or genuflection before receiving the Lord as a sign of profound reverence for the Almighty and living Lord now here present before us and who desires to come to us, sinful and unworthy though we are to receive him. In Holy Communion we totally surrender ourselves, completely and entirely to God in order to be ennobled and enriched; we give up our nothingness and we receive all, we receive Divine life from God. Christ receives us, incorporating us into himself. We know we do not deserve this and always lowering ourselves on our knees, conscious of the fact that we are unworthy of this Divine gift, we acknowledge, "Domine non sum dignus" by kneeling, or making a profound bow, or genuflect. • **Post Holy Communion and concluding Rite:**

Thank you for your generosity, the offertory cash collection last Sunday was £2069.79.

Infant Baptism All enquiries about infant Baptism should be emailed to baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Welcome to Freddie, Jonah and Mia Murray who were baptised last weekend. Congratulations to their parents!

once you return to your place, if able, please kneel in thanksgiving and then join in the thanksgiving hymn in preparation for the final blessings. **Post Mass:** It is strongly encouraged that we spend a short time after Mass in thanksgiving and to leave the church in silence, also another opportunity to light a candle. It is time to give thanks to God for this wonderful gift of himself we have undeservedly received and reflect on how the meaning and benefits of the Mass we have celebrated will be realised in our lives with our neighbours. It is important to look at this Mass as a happy oasis to our lives so that with a right heart, we may resume our daily lives, conscious of the Lord's loving kindness and indulgent aid in which even the burdens which we often find beyond bearing may be made light. It is also time to beg the Lord to lead us henceforth along the way in which we should go. It is also a time that we may wish to avoid unnecessary work or shopping, so we have dedicated the Lord's day to the Lord!

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 OR *speak to Fr Martin.*

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: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-xaviers-senior-youth-group?edit=page>



Scan me!

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>

Free places at SPUC Youth conference! SPUC's Youth Conference is a weekend which brings together 200 like-minded young pro-lifers to learn effective strategies and fuel your passion for defending the most vulnerable among us – unborn children and their mothers. The Conference runs 23-25 February at Yarnfield Park Training Centre in Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NL. The Archdiocese has five fully funded places available, including travel. Contact the Pro-Life Office for more info: prolife@staned.org.uk.

Remembering Service A service for those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support, to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise their loss and help with healing. Sunday 3 March, 5:00pm at St John the Baptist RC Church, Edinburgh. Ecumenical and open to all.

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 Hagens 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

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

Retreat for young adults The ARISE retreat on Saturday 24 February is for 16-35 year-olds across Scotland to gather for a day of faith, fun and friendship at St Albert's Chaplaincy, George Square, Edinburgh. The day includes Mass, Adoration, talks, small group discussion, opportunities for Confession and more. Tickets £15 which includes lunch & dinner. Register at <https://www.youth2000.org/events/Edinburgh>

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 5-12 July 2024. To find out more visit <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24>

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

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, beginning on 19 February, and lasts around 30 minutes. We will be praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/lentstations

The Angelus Prayer

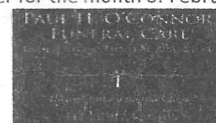
V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
 R. And she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary...
 V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
 R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word. Hail Mary...
 V. And the Word was made flesh,
 R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...
 V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
 R. That we may be made worthy of the promise 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: Thomas McAteer, Andrew Montgomery, Bernard Gallagher, Patrick McGlynn, Margaret Canny, Erwin Watt, William F Jordan, Antonio Vettraino, Ernest Koszary, Stanley Woods, Anthony Winters, Mary Pow, Wladyslaw Stasiowski, Robert Ure, Ann McKinlay, Joe McGeever, Baby Paul Gilligan, Rena McRorie, Margaret Foster, Marjory Laing, Jimmy Welsh, Winifred McGeehan Canny, Mary Catherine Lynn, Neil McKinlay, Margaret Craig, Charles Byrne, Catherine McLaughlin, Daniel Doherty, Frank Doherty, Kathleen McDermott, David Silcock, Theresa Hamilton, Diane Hill, Owen O'Neil, Michael Kennedy, John McCabe, Kathleen Smith, Edward Mowem, Joseph Marley, Rebecca Jordan, Nancy McPaul, Hugh Welsh and Kathleen Burgoyne.

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.



Name	Funeral Reception	Funeral Service	Church
Mary Toye		Friday 23 rd February @ 2pm	Grandsable Cemetery
James Edward Bell		Thursday 7 th March @ 10am	St Francis Xavier's