



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

Sunday 11th February 2024 6th Sunday of the Year 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	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	9:45am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9:00-9:55am
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
Tuesday	9:30am Mass
Ash Wednesday	9:30am Mass 6:00pm Mass
Thursday	9:30am Mass
Friday	9:30am Mass 7:00pm Stations of Cross
Saturday	9:30am Mass

Rosary Monday at 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

Thank you for your generosity, the offertory cash collection last Sunday was £2242.08

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

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

Message for Lent from Archbishop Cushley My dear friends, Ash Wednesday is this week and marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of

fasting and abstinence to acknowledge our mortality and begin preparing ourselves, as we head into six weeks of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday. I want to offer three things we can do in Lent. **1. Receive your Ashes.** Make every effort to get your ashes on Ash Wednesday and embrace this day of prayer and fasting. The ashes signify repentance and death. When the priest places the ashes on your forehead, he says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Or he will say: "Repent and believe the Gospel". So, it is a chance to come before God in humility and to say sorry for our sins.

2. Take time out for private prayer. Pope Francis has suspended his busy schedule for the first week of Lent to dedicate himself to private, prayerful spiritual exercises. He is putting prayer first, and we can follow that example. Whether that means getting up a little earlier to spend time with God, or switching off the TV or radio, let us prioritise prayer each day in Lent.

3. Make sacrifices. Often, we resolve to 'give up' something in Lent, such as chocolate, alcohol, caffeine. Done in the right spirit, with an intention to get closer to God, this is a good thing. Let us also make small sacrifices for others, to help them, especially when it may be inconvenient to ourselves. That way we can imitate Jesus who sacrificed his life for us all. Please also read the Holy Father's message for Lent 2024 at <https://bit.ly/popeLent24>. God bless you!

Lent 2024 To aid us in our prayer during Lent, there will be many opportunities to attend the extra Masses, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross along with Confessions. Find attached to this newsletter a handout which gives details of all our services and explains Lent. The 'Walk with Me' Lenten reflection books which were very popular last year, are available in the church porches for only £1. Please leave the money in the CTS box or piety shops. Have a very prayerful and peaceful Lent.

Palms Can you please return your palms and place them in the baskets provided in the porches. These will be burned and used on Ash Wednesday.

Lent edition of Bible Alive is in both church porches.

Vigil Mass Time. Many thanks for the excellent response from parishioners who posted their vote for the preferred Vigil Mass time. The majority of people have voted to have the Mass at 5pm rather than 6:30pm. It is appreciated not everyone will be happy their choice was not successful. As from the First Sunday of Lent – next weekend – and thereafter, the Saturday Vigil Mass will be at 5pm. Please pass this information onto as many people as possible.

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 the 11am Mass. All proceeds for the Youth for Lourdes Fund.

Finance Committee will meet tomorrow, Monday at 7pm and the Fabric Committee will meet also tomorrow at 8pm.

Next 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!

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

Exploring the Mass: The Liturgy of the Word (continued) § The triply signing of ourselves with the Cross upon our foreheads, our lips, and our breasts is to indicate our intellectual acceptance of the Truth of the Gospel, our readiness to confess it with our lips, and our heartfelt attachment to it. With the cross of Jesus, we sign our foreheads, our lips, and our hearts, that we believe his Gospel and for his sake, we humbly pray that we in thought, and word and deed will his holy Gospel obey. **Liturgy of the Eucharist:** the high point of the Mass. Bowing/Kneeling: Is a gesture of humility, a gesture of one who knows, like the tax collector, they cannot endure the gaze and presence of God, and so bow down before him. We bow before this the greatest of the mysteries and acknowledge the Holy Presence. In particular, the Elevation affirms this Holy Presence in a magnificent gesture which, at once, raises to heaven and shows to the whole congregation, the bread which has become the Body of Christ. We bow down in profound adoration in fullness of faith and hope before

these Eucharistic species which veil the greatest of all mysteries. It is a physical expression and reminder of the profoundly spiritual attitude essential to faith before the Lord who is indeed now really, truly, substantially, and uninterruptedly present to us under these Eucharistic species.

Day of Prayer for Those who have Suffered Abuse. This day is marked each year on the Friday following Ash Wednesday (16 February). We unite in prayer for those who have suffered abuse: **A Prayer for Survivors:** *Bestow healing, Lord God, upon your beloved children, wounded by the pain and fear inflicted on them by others. Cast light on the darkness of their hearts and draw near to them to restore what is lost. Shelter them safely in your love and make them confident in the knowledge that they have been powerfully redeemed. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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!

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>

World Day of the Sick – 11 February The World Day of the Sick was introduced by St Pope John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes being a place of pilgrimage renowned for healing. Please pray for the sick of our parish and the family members, friends and professionals who help them.

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.

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 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

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

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:

Margaret Wood, Joseph Crossley, Daniel Byrne, David Dickson, Marion Maguire, Joseph Patrick McQuade, Tom Turnbull, Hugh John MacLennan, Anne McLaochlin, Brigid Sweeney, Hugh Welsh, John Walton, Jozef Koncz, Johnny Kildare, Thomas McElroy, Douglas Crawford Horn, John Brown, James McGuirk, James Johnston Dundee, Christina Travers, Ian Alexander, John McColl, Wallace Anderson, Pat Wood, Nellie Devine, John McGuckin Snr, Mary Cameron, John Welsh, Joan Flucker, Mhairi Nutey, Patrick Sweeney, Catherine Beattie, Helen Moore Marshall, Margaret Marshall, Agnes (Nancy) McPaul, John O'Donnell, Anthony Hanlon, James Silcock, Grace Blo

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
Patricia Crossley		Monday 12 th February at 12:15pm	Falkirk Crematorium
Katharine Curran	Monday 12 th February at 6pm	Tuesday 13 th February at 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Anne Lynagh	Friday 16 th February at 6pm	Saturday 17 th February at 10am	St Francis Xavier's