

Confessions will take place during all Masses today in St Francis Xavier's. Additional times every day this week are listed below.

Going to Confessions Sometimes we need a little help to encourage and help us to celebrate this Sacrament most effectively, especially if we have not been for some time. You will find handouts with a guide and an Examination of Conscience in the porch of both churches.

SCIAF Wee Box Can you please return at your earliest convenience. Last day to hand in is Sunday 7th April.

Altar Servers Holy Week Practices - Thank you in advance to our faithful parish altar servers! Practice times for the Holy Week liturgies are as follows: Holy Thursday: St Anthony's today Sunday 12noon - 1pm & St Francis Xavier's today Sunday 4-5pm; Good Friday: St Anthony's 10-11am & St Francis Xavier's 11 - 12noon; Holy Saturday: St Francis Xavier's 11-12noon.

Good Friday 3pm Passion, Veneration and Holy Communion In both churches our Children's Liturgy leaders have agreed to offer Stations of the Cross as an alternative to the Passion. Any children who would like to take part, can they proceed to St Francis Sacristy at 2:55pm and St Anthony's hall at the same time. The children will return to the church in time for the Veneration.

Divine Mercy Novena Will take place every morning at 9:45am during Easter week in St. Francis Xavier's.

Easter Decorations: Last year we decorated both churches with white lilies. Many people have asked if we can repeat this. If you would like to donate white lilies in memory of a loved one who has gone before us, so that the flowers will be fully bloomed for Easter Sunday, please place them in the buckets (in both church porches) **between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday**. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Chrism Mass Tuesday 26th March at 7pm. Coach leaves St Francis Xavier's at 5:30pm and St Anthony's at 5:45pm. Returns about 9:15/9:30pm.

Easter Egg Hunt after 11am Mass (weather permitting) on Easter Sunday at St Anthony's. Children who would like to participate should meet at the bell tower in the grounds outside the church.

Thank you for your gift to God and His Church: Last week's offertory cash collection: £2251.26. **Gift Aid envelopes** are now available for the coming tax year. Please contact the office if you no longer pay tax or need to change your address.

Parish Trip to York Thank you to the 42 people who have signed up and sent deposits for this trip. If you have still to send your deposit, please do so as soon as possible. If you would still like to join us on this trip, please email/telephone the parish office by Easter Sunday. It is our intention to offer the remaining 8 places to other parishes in the deanery. There will be an information meeting after Easter.

Update on Warm Places. This initiative has been ongoing since early January and it has been very well supported by people from the area including our own parishioners. A huge thank you to the two teams of ten each who offer the hospitality every Thursday from 12-2pm. It was due to stop this Thursday, but the volunteers would like to continue until at least the end of May. Please pass the word that warm places will continue every Thursday until the end of May.

Finance Committee meet tomorrow, Monday, at 7pm in St Francis Xavier's chapel house.

Fabric Committee meet tomorrow, Monday, at 8pm in St Francis Xavier's chapel house.

Bible Alive. Easter edition is available from the church porches.

Conversion Practices The Scottish Government is consulting on a proposal to end 'conversion practices' in Scotland. The Catholic Church unequivocally condemns violent, abusive, coercive practices. The proposals, however, risk criminalising the mainstream pastoral work of churches and parental guidance given lovingly and in good faith. Respond to the consultation using the guidance at <https://bit.ly/guidancescot>. The closing date for responses is Tuesday 2 April.

Assisted Suicide warning What will be the impact if assisted suicide is legalised in Scotland? Watch the Archdiocesan webinar 'Euthanasia: A Warning from Canada' on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (30 mins). Sign the online petition at www.carenotkilling.scot

Anniversaries: John Cumming, Annie Quigley, Roger McPeake, Sarah Herron, Christine Murphy, John Waugh, Isa Hughes, Gerald Walshe, Elizabeth (Maira) Strain, Mary Hylands, James Cogano, Dolly McKenna, Tony Dodds, Louise McGhee, Neil Molloy, Norah Savoy, Mary Dickson, Eleanor Rice, Hannah Farrell, James Bell, Frances McKean, Rosina Wallace, Jessie Allan, Philip Donnelly, Teresa Rankin, Janet Cogans, David Millar, Winnie Gow, John Lafferty, Thomas Shannon, Frances McKean, John Gerard Keane, William McGuire, Francis Little, Helen Danks, Maureen Harkins and Gerry Lynagh.

Funerals

| Name | Reception | Requiem Mass/Service | Church |
|-------------------|-----------|--|---------------------|
| Maureen Adams | | Wednesday 27 th March at 3:15pm | Falkirk Crematorium |
| Lisa Marie Toland | | Tuesday 2 nd April at 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| James McRorie | | Wednesday 10 th April at 10am | St Francis Xavier's |



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 Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@stened.org.uk
 Clergy: Fr Daniel P. Doherty, Fr Martin J. Eckersley, Fr Matthew, Deacon Kenneth Mununga
 Sunday 24 March 2024, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS



PALM SUNDAY

Today the liturgy invites us to contemplate the face of the suffering Lord. Jesus' mission, purpose, goal, and glory are revealed in his Passion. We encounter today the pure and perfect witness of God's love. If you are tempted to doubt God's Love, look at Christ crucified. Here the mystery of God's love is revealed. Jesus would have died on the cross if there was only one of us to die for. Only his death, his sacrifice, his laying down of his life for us, could reconcile us with the Father, open heaven to us and secure for us life eternal, which was lost through the fall of Adam.

MONDAY

All four Evangelists record an account of a woman anointing Jesus. The version found in Luke 7:36-50 stands on its own, offering us the same message but set against a slightly different backdrop (and including Simon the Pharisee's reaction). What all four accounts have in common is that they reveal an incident which captures so beautifully, so powerfully and so movingly a love for Jesus which is difficult to find words to describe. You see, what the Christian life is all about is actually very simple and straightforward. Mary witnessed to love. Her "waste" of nard and her profound willingness to humble herself and wash the Lord's feet were an expression of her deep, unashamed and uncompromising love for her Saviour.

TUESDAY

Judas was one of the twelve apostles. We can sometimes lose sight of this fact. Jesus chose him to be a member of the most dynamic group of men the world has ever known. We are not given the details of how Judas became a follower of Christ, as we are with some of the other apostles. We can be certain, however, that the Lord chose him because he saw in him the necessary qualities. What happened to change him can really only be the subject of conjecture. We just don't know what was going on in his heart to betray the Lord as he did.

WEDNESDAY

The clear indication of scripture is that Judas was motivated by greed and avarice and completely misunderstood Jesus and his mission. What was really going on in his mind, we cannot really know. What we do know is that Jesus would have forgiven him. Jesus taught forgiveness and love of one's enemy.

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus' disciples are offended, even scandalised, by the humility of this gesture of washing their feet. Peter protests strongly, keen to prevent his Lord and Master adopting such a humble and lowly position. Peter was not showing false humility: he was genuinely shocked, horrified even, that Jesus should adopt the position of a slave. Jesus washed his disciples' feet because he wanted to set them an example. In the same way that he had humbled himself and washed their feet, so they should humble themselves and wash one another's feet.

GOOD FRIDAY

Today a special grace flows through the Church. Today the mystery of the cross shines out. Today, the cross, not the Eucharist, is the highpoint, the focus of our celebration. Our thoughts and prayers are focused on the cross. We adore, worship and venerate the cross by which the world was saved. We will go forward today to venerate the cross. In this gesture we show our love and our dependence on Christ. For Jesus, his glory was his cross. For him his death was not defeat but victory; death was not the end but the beginning.

HOLY SATURDAY

We invite you, today, on this most holy and sacred of days, to ponder the rich wisdom offered to us in this ancient homily for Holy Thursday. The early believers had a profound grasp of the drama of our salvation played out before them in the liturgy. "O Christ, you slept a life-giving sleep in the grave, and didst awaken mankind from the heavy sleep of sin. All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven".

Celebration of the Holy Week and Easter

Loving God, we are the body of your Son in the world today. As we begin our journey to Calvary, give us the courage to carry our crosses. Help us to know that when we suffer, we share in the suffering of Christ. Give us the faith to believe that with Christ our crosses never end in death, but in the resurrection. As we await Easter Day, fill our hearts with joy. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ who is our crucified and risen Saviour for ever and ever. Amen.



The six weeks of Lent are a preparation for the last three days of this week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. During them, we celebrate the central event of our religion, the death and resurrection of Christ, the Saviour of the World.

PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)

Today the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal mystery. The death and resurrection of Christ cannot be separated and so we have the readings of the Passion to remind us of Christ's death.



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| MONDAY: | Holy Mass | 7am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Exposition & Confessions | 8:30-9:20am | St Anthony's |
| | Holy Mass | 9:30am | St Anthony's |
| | Exposition & Confessions | 9-9:50am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Holy Mass | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Ecumenical Stations of the Cross | 7pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| TUESDAY: | Exposition & Confessions | 8:30-9:20am | St Anthony's |
| | Holy Mass | 9:30am | St Anthony's |
| | Exposition & Confessions | 9-9:50am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Requiem Mass | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Chrism Mass | 7pm | St Mary's Cathedral |

Archbishop Leo Cushley will celebrate the Mass of Chrism with the priests from all over the Archdiocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. During the Mass the Holy Oils (the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of Chrism) which will be used in Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination are blessed. Archbishop Cushley and priests will renew their priestly vows to serve Christ and Church.

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| WEDNESDAY: | Exposition & Confessions | 9-9:50am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Holy Mass | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Holy Mass | 7pm | St Francis Xavier's |

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| HOLY THURSDAY: | Morning Prayer | 9:30am | St Anthony's |
| | Morning Prayer | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Mass of the Lord's Supper | 6pm | St Anthony's |
| | Confessions | 7-7:30pm | St Anthony's |
| | Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Confessions | 8-8:30pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| | Night Prayer | 8:45pm | St Anthony's |
| | Night Prayer | 10:45pm | St Francis Xavier's |

On Thursday night we wait as the Body of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. We share in the fear and loneliness of Jesus as he reaches the depths of despair.

FUNERAL MASSES ARE NOT CELEBRATED ON HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, OR HOLY SATURDAY

GOOD FRIDAY:



We meditate on the Passion and the death of Jesus. We focus on the cross- the crude instrument that took the life of our Saviour-the key that opened eternal life for us all. We venerate the wood of the cross on which hung the Saviour of the world.

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| Morning Prayer | 9:30am | St Anthony's |
| Morning Prayer | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Walk of Witness | 12noon | St Francis Xavier's |
| <i>We walk with Jesus on the path of Calvary.</i> | | |
| Passion, Veneration and HC | 3pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| Divine Mercy Novena | 4:15pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| Confessions | 4:15-5pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| Passion, Veneration and HC | 3pm | St Anthony's |
| Confessions | 4-15-5pm | St Anthony's |
| Stations of the Cross and Veneration | 6pm | St Anthony's |
| Confessions | 6:45-7:15pm | St Anthony's |
| Tenebrae Service | 7pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| Confessions | 7:45-8:15pm | St Francis Xavier's |

This is a day of Fast and Abstinence. There is an obligation to fast (one main meal, two light meals in the course of the day and to abstain from meat). **The Law of Fasting** obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (except the sick). **The Law of Abstinence** obliges all Catholics over the age of 14 years.

HOLY SATURDAY:

On this day we wait as the body of our Saviour lies dead in the tomb.

The Easter Vigil: in the words of St Augustine "this is the mother of all vigils". The Easter Triduum reaches its high point on this most holy night. On this night we tell our story, it is our family story. It is not just a distant memory; it is not only historical fact - it is living reality. It is the story of salvation. We are a saved people. Through his cross and resurrection, Christ has set us free. We symbolise our salvation and freedom through the use of the fire and the single flame of the paschal candle. We have been called out of the darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. All the readings at the Vigil reveal to us that we are God's chosen people. The blessing of the Easter water and the renewal of our baptismal promises all express the fact that we belong to Christ and so are a resurrected people.

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| Morning Prayer, <i>we wait at the tomb</i> | 9:30am | St Anthony's |
| Confessions | 9:45-10:15am | St Anthony's |
| Confessions | 9:15-9:45am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Morning Prayer | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Easter Food Blessing (Polish) | 1pm | St Francis Xavier's |
| Easter Vigil | 7pm | St Francis Xavier's |

Tonight, is the high point of the Church's year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour. Ceremony of the Light. The Story of Salvation. Baptised in Christ. Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

EASTER SUNDAY:

We are a resurrected people and alleluia is our song.

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| Holy Mass (Polish) | 7:30am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Holy Mass | 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Holy Mass | 11am | St Anthony's |
| Holy Mass | 12noon | St Francis Xavier's |

No Easter Sunday 7pm Mass

