



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

Sunday 3rd November 2024, **31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk
Clergy: Administrator 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			Sydney Molloy, RIP
Sunday	10am, 12 noon, 1:30pm (Polish) & 7pm			10am – Amy Oxford (SI) 12pm – People of the Parish 7pm – James Wardhaugh (Anniversary)
Monday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass	St Charles Borromeo	Margaret Wylie (Anniversary)
Tuesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Elizabeth Mason, RIP
Wednesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Robert Cheape (Sick)
Thursday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass Novena at 7pm		Mary Flora MacNeil, RIP
Friday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Padre Pio at 6pm	Bl. John Duns Scotus	Anna Marshie, RIP
Saturday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Linda McFarlane, RIP
St Anthony's				
Sunday	11am			James McAuley (Anniversary)
Monday	9:30am	Rosary at 9am		John & Susan O'Donnell
Wednesday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Clare Kilgannon, RIP
Friday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Joan Dunnigan, 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 for infant baptism will be **Monday, 25th November, at 7pm** in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. If you would like to register your child for this beautiful sacrament, please email Deacon Kenneth for further information:

baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity. Last week's offertory cash collection was **£2006.43**.

RCIA continues this Tuesday, 5th November, in St Francis Xavier's church at 7pm. All are welcome!

From Fr Joshua - The Dead Can Still Be Forgiven by Our Merciful God. Beloved in Christ, a few questions that have always crossed my mind to reflect on are: can God the Father forgive the dead? Who should be forgiven? Since God cannot behold sin, what happens to those pious and struggling Holy people who died with one or two venial sins unconfessed - will they also be cast into Hell with the hardened and unrepentant sinners?

Friends in Christ, scripture tells us that, whilst God is a consuming fire, He is also a merciful and just Judge. Again, the Bible says that the soul that sins shall die, because nothing impure shall enter Heaven or see the face of God (Heb 12:14). However, the Catholic Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believes that there is a place called PURGATORY. Purgatory is a

Latin concept which means to purge or refine. It is a state, house of purification or atonement, where Holy Souls who are supposed to enter heaven but, for a few small stains of sin, (a wee sin) are kept until they have been completely washed clean before they can be admitted to the Kingdom of God.

It is because of this belief in PURGATORY that I said God can forgive the dead, that it is possible, especially for those who died with venial sins. That is why the Church always ask us to pray for the Holy souls of the faithful departed. There are Scriptural passages which support this belief, namely in 2Maccabees 12:38-45, Judas Maccabeus asked the people to pray for the fallen Soldiers, that God may grant them a merciful judgment. Again in 2Timothy 1:18, St. Paul offered prayer for Onesiphorus, that

God may grant him mercy.

Furthermore, the Catechism of the Catholic Church has this to say about praying for the dead, *"All who died in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve that holiness necessary to enter the joys of Heaven"* (CCC. Art. 1030).

This explains why the Church's prayer for the dead at a Funeral Mass teaches us that the Funeral Mass is an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief. It says that it is a time when the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased, to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, and to commend the deceased to God's loving mercy. The prayers hope that God will free the person, who has died, from any burden of sin, and grant them eternal rest.

Beloved in Christ, this explains why the Church encourages us to pray for the dead always, and especially in this month of November, that God will be merciful to them...

Anniversaries: Placido Do-Rego, Catherine Gallagher, John McKillop, Patricia Hanrahan, Rosa Bertolini, Walter Wood, Marjorie Nutley, John Devlin, Eleanor Malley, Maria Kane, Giorgio Onori, Catherine Torrance, William Hardie, Elizabeth McEwan, Michael McElroy, Teobald Swierklansv, Janus Flis, Molly Brogan McBeath, Eddie Strain, Mary Ferrie, Bridie Raymond, Molly McBeth, Francis Harvey, Joe Winters, Mary Smith, Jessie Cannon, James (Jimmy) Doyle, Robina Dougall, James Martin Gallagher, Elaine Lynch, Margaret McKenna, Melanie Costa, Susan McQuade, Peggy McKenna and Mary Heanue.

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

Bible Study Group meet every Tuesday at 7:30pm in St Francis hall, spiritual library. All welcome.

Parish Finance From the new calendar and financial year, the parish will manage its financial resources according to a set budget so that the management of parish finances will not only comply with audit requirements, but also with basic financial protocols. As we move to this new model, it is necessary that certain procedures are put in place to make this work effectively. Therefore, with immediate effect, **all** perceived necessary items of expenditure must be explicitly requested for and individually approved by myself. No commitment to spend parish funds should be made without prior approval. Fr Allan.

Thank You The family of the late Linda McFarlane would like to thank everyone for their prayers, messages, cards and Mass cards. Thanks also to the clergy and Bereavement Group for all their support. The retiral collection will be split between Macmillan Nurses and Strathcarron Hospice, it amounted to £756.53.

Christmas Parish Toy Giveaway!

We kindly ask for preloved toys and gifts which would be suitable to give a child on Christmas morning. Drop-Off and Pick-Up at St Francis Xavier's Church Hall, Hope St, next to the library. Drop-Off; Sat 23rd Nov, 10am-4pm and Sun 24th Nov, 11am-3pm. Pick-Up; Sat 30th Nov, 9am-3pm and Sun 1st Dec, 11am-3pm. Thanking you in advance for your great generosity as always.

Warm Places continues **this Thursday**, 7th November, in St Francis Xavier's hall from 12 noon until 2pm. All are welcome.

St Francis Stall – can you help to man the stall after Sunday Mass? If so please contact the parish house. Grateful thanks to Moira and Ellen for their dedication over the years.

The next UCM meeting will take place in the Church Hall on Wednesday 6 November from 1:30-3:30pm. Please note the change of time. This is an opportunity for Catholic women to build bonds of friendship through social activities, prayer and charitable outreach. New members are very welcome!

Choir practices: Thursday 7th November 1pm and Thursday 21st November 1pm. All are welcome.

Altar Servers' Training Fr Peter would like all current altar servers, and those who have expressed an interest in becoming an altar server, to attend training in St Francis Xavier's Church at 11am on Saturday 9th November. He would like to thank all those who are currently serving for their continuing support and is looking forward to meeting our new and existing altar servers on the 9th November.

Hogmanay Ceilidh tickets cost £10 and are on sale in St Francis Xavier's hall after 10am Mass on Sundays **until 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 meet on Wednesday, 20th November, at 7pm in St Francis Xavier's hall.

Remembrance Sunday, next Sunday, 10th November. Our Remembrance Mass will be celebrated at 10am in St Francis Xavier's Church, where we will be joined by members of our Parish Scout Group.

'May the Angels Lead Her into Paradise'

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Anna and remember her family in your prayers.

	Anna Struthers
Requiem Mass	Mon 11 th at 10am
Church	St Francis Xavier's

