



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's
St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches
Sunday 8th December 2024, **2nd Sunday of Advent**



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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			Catherine McCann (Anniversary)
Sunday	10am, 12 noon, 3pm (Polish) & 7pm			10am – People of the Parish 12 noon – Margaret Fallon (Anniversary) 7pm – Sr Mary Josephine (Anniversary)
Monday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	Catherine Gallagher (Anniversary)
Tuesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Robert Cheape, RIP
Wednesday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass		Mathew Mayilackal (Anniversary)
Thursday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am Rosary after Mass Novena at 7pm		Deceased Family & Friends of Cathleen Young, RIP
Friday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am	St Lucy	Hugh Lavelle, RIP
Saturday	10am	Exposition 9-9:45am	St John of the Cross	Janette Hylands (Anniversary)
St Anthony's				
Sunday	11am			Elizabeth Lynch (SI)
Monday	9:30am	Rosary at 9am		Teresa Oloko, RIP
Wednesday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Nora Fleming, RIP
Friday	9:30am	Exposition at 9am		Joan Kerns, 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 is **Monday, 27th January, at 7pm** in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. To register your child, please email Deacon Kenneth for further information: baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity. Last week's offertory cash collection was **£2391.50**

Warm Places continues this Thursday, 12th December, in St Francis hall from 12noon until 2pm.

From Fr Allan

Well how is the shopping and the preparations going as we enter the second week of Advent? As the saying goes, *'how time flies,'* enough, I suppose, to induce a sense of panic about what we have still to do, to buy etc and the list goes on and on!

Maybe, like me, you promised yourself last year this year would be better. Well is it, or like me are you trying to find your tail never mind chase it?

It's amazing the fankle we can get into without really trying.

Last week, en route to the Canons' Chapter Mass at the Cathedral, I wandered through the Christmas market on Princes Street, it was relatively early and relatively quiet. I just stopped and people watched and then caught a little of the buzz and excitement of the crowd, and that was good.

Advent, as I stated at the Masses last weekend, is about waiting, watching, and preparing. It's also about stillness, letting our minds unclutter, and learning to be still and silent. I am not saying it's easy because it's not, but we need to give it a try.

To help may I offer a song I play a lot at this time on my Alexa, it's called, 'Mary did you know' by Pentatonix. Give it a listen in a quiet space in your home and chill a bit as you really listen to the words. It is a powerful song about this time of waiting.

Have a good second week of Advent.

Hall Bookings following an electrical survey on the church buildings at St Francis, it has come to light that certain critical jobs need carried out immediately to comply with health & safety regulations and insurance obligations. To facilitate this work, with immediate effect, no further bookings for

the hall will be taken until the work is successfully completed in the next four weeks. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for updates.

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 will meet again in January. Date to be confirmed.

Mary's Meals Join us this Sunday (8th December) for coffee, cake and the prize draw in St Anthony's church hall after 11am Mass. There will be stalls with toys, home baking and small Christmas presents for sale. Donations of home baking are welcome. All funds raised will be donated to Mary's Meals.

Carols at Tesco. Join us on Sunday the 15th December at Tesco in Redding (2pm – 4pm) as we reach out to the local community with song, joy and the message of Christ's coming this Christmas. All donations taken will go to Mary's Meals.

Praise Music for Friends – Christmas edition, will be Friday 27th December at 10:45am for half an hour with tea and coffee in St Anthony's hall afterwards. All are welcome.

Strathcarron Singers' Concert, Wednesday 18th December at 7:30pm in Trinity Church. Entry is free.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting on the 17th December has been postponed until the New Year.

Christmas Film Afternoon. The Children's liturgy leaders at St Francis are organising a Christmas film afternoon on Sunday 15th December from 1pm-3pm in St Francis hall. If your child attends children's liturgy and would like to come along, please collect a permission form from children's liturgy and return it **this Sunday, 8th December**. Children can bring cushions and blankets to snuggle on and snacks will be provided.

Children's Christmas Party in St Anthony's church hall on Sunday 22nd December between 12-2pm. All primary school children from St. Anthony's are invited. The children must be happy to stay without parents. Liturgy leaders will be in the foyer after Mass taking names of children interested in attending and giving parents consent forms to be returned by next Sunday, 15th December. Donations of home baking would be much appreciated. Any queries, contact Paula on 07732983079.

An Introduction to Prayer by Bishop Robert Barron is available to purchase in both church stalls, this Advent, for only £3.

Christmas Edition of Bible Alive is available in both church porches.

Advent Rosary The annual Advent Rosary continues on Zoom this Monday (9 Dec) at 7:45pm, with a reflection from Fr Peter Shankland. Join us to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/adventrosary

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is this Monday, 9th December. To commemorate this special day, the Legion of Mary will lead the Rosary from 10:45am and on the hour from 12noon until 4pm. All are most welcome to come along.

The Stall at St Francis has lovely Christmas cards and boxes for sale. Please drop in after Mass if you would like to buy any.

Choir Practice: This Thursday 12th December at 2pm. All are welcome.

Anniversaries: Mary Mohan, Maud McHugh, Catherine Gallagher, Giacomo Marchi, Margaret Aitken, Eamon McLaughlin, Stefan Politoski, Mary Bell, Margarite Fallon, Henry Savage, Margaret Alexander, Mary McCourt Gallagher, Kathleen Toland Winters, Mary Cruickshanks, Emily Carr, Nancy McLaren, Maureen O'Donnel, Michael Burt, Mary Skrzyszowski, Martin Reynolds, Deirdre Mailer, John Crawford, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Devoy, Muriel Watson, Rosaleen Casey, AnnMarie Lemetti, Tom McCartney, H. Hughes, Jean Stanners, Anthony Reynolds, Eadie Wauch, Jessie Murison, William McIntyre, Michael Winters, Sadie (Lumsden) McGuckin, Peter Walls, Margaret Murray, Maggie Coull, Edward O'Donnell, Peter Winters, Antonio Marino Giannandrea, Peter Winters, Kathleen Scott, Roberta Canavan, Margaret Kerr, Anne O'Brien, Mary McCafferty, Anne Meakin, John Lynn, Ann Lynagh, Janette Hylands and Peggy Ford.

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

Christmas Mass Information

Date	Mass	Church
Christmas Eve	5:30pm readings & Carols; 6pm Vigil Mass	St Anthony's
Christmas Eve	7:30pm readings & Carols; 8pm Vigil Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Eve	11:30pm readings & Carols; Midnight Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Day	10am Mass	St Francis Xavier's
Christmas Day	10:30am Mass	St Anthony's

