



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

Sunday 19th January 2025, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Email: office.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk Website: www.falkirkcatholics.org
Telephone: 01324 623567, Hall bookings: hallstfrancis.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk
Clergy: Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier's, Monsignor Allan T Chambers
Fr Joshua Kauras, Fr Peter Shankland, Deacon Kenneth Mununga



Mass Times and Intentions

St Francis Xavier's Church

Saturday Vigil, 5pm; *People of the Parish (Anniversary)*

Sunday, 10am; *David Gerard Williamson (Anniversary)*

12 noon; *Susan Kosoris (Anniversary)*

3pm (Polish)

7pm; *Joe Di Paola (Anniversary)*

Monday, 10am; *Colin Archer, RIP*

Tuesday, 10am; *Aileen Young (SI)*

Wednesday, 10am; *Robert Cheape, RIP*

Thursday, 10am; *Martin Dolan (Anniversary)*

Friday, 10am; *John Bain, RIP*

Saturday, 10am; *James Queen (Anniversary)*

St Anthony's Church

11am; *James McGoldrick (Anniversary)*

9:30am; *Mary Dillon (SI)*

9:30am; *Margaret McGoldrick (SI)*

9:30am; *Margarite Sibbald (SI)*

Confession is available in St Francis church on Saturday morning (10:30am - 11:15am) and on Saturday evening (4:15pm - 4:45pm).

Thank you for your generosity. Last week's offertory cash collection was **£2011.16**.

Infant Baptism. The next preparation meeting is **Monday, 27th January, at 7pm** in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. For further information, please email Deacon Kenneth: baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk
If you would like your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are most welcome to attend this meeting. **Welcome** to Rowan and Sophia Holburn who were baptised in St Francis Xavier's Church last weekend. Congratulations to them and their family.

Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Details of these celebrations will be published in next week's newsletter. I thank parents for your patience and look forward to meeting with you soon. Fr Allan.

Ordinary Time

From this weekend we enter what is called Ordinary Time in our Liturgy. The vestments are green, unless we have a particular feast day, and the readings follow a pattern until we enter the Season of Lent. This year, Lent begins on Wednesday March 5th. This important penitential period of Lent is markedly different from the Season of Advent.

Sometimes we may become misled by the title Ordinary Time, thinking it is less important than the Seasons of Advent and Lent. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

I think it's Carly Simon, in a song I heard years ago, who sings the line; *'Things never change they always remain the same'*. For me, this sums up the Liturgy we celebrate - it remains the same and that constant is God's generous and continuing love for all of us, his daughters and sons. Whether it's the solemn liturgies of the above - named feasts or the season of Ordinary Time, God's unconditional love is ever present. His invitation to 'come to the banquet and all are welcome' is never rescinded it is a perpetual

invitation that comes from an overwhelming love for us daily and we hopefully respond as generously. *Fr Allan*

This Week's Mass Schedule

has returned to normal. I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst the electrical work was carried out. *Fr Allan*.

RCIA

We are very fortunate in our parish to have a substantial number of people not only enquiring about our Faith, but wishing to be initiated into our parish family. This is so encouraging, and I am very grateful to Shirley who faithfully oversees the Tuesday night sessions. Please do keep our RCIA members in your prayers as they prepare, on the first Sunday of Lent, to journey to the Cathedral for the important Rite of Election, led by Archbishop Cushley. We have organised a coach so that family members and parishioners can travel to the Cathedral together to prayerfully support our RCIA Group.

Praying for Christian Unity this Week. Please join us in St Francis Xavier's church at 6:30pm this Monday for our ecumenical prayer service to celebrate Christian Unity. There will be other services available this week as follows from 6.30-7pm:

Sun 19th - Bainsford Parish Church (Hendry St)

Mon 20th - St Francis Xavier's Church (Hope St)

Tue 21st - Falkirk Baptist Church (Weir St)

Wed 22nd - 11.30am-12 Trinity Church (Manse Pl) or 6.30-7pm Christ Church (Kerse Lane)

Thur 23rd - Grahamston United Church (Bute St)

Fri 24th - Quakers at Trinity Church (Manse Pl)

Sat 25th - Rev Jim Campbell at Christ Church (Kerse Ln)

SPRED friends meet on Wednesday, 29th January, from 7pm – 9pm in St Francis hall.

Morning Prayer takes place in St Francis Xavier's Church (Polish Chapel) at 9:30am Monday to Saturday. All are welcome.

Building Fund Collection

As I have indicated previously, due to several financial imperatives, I have reluctantly decided to introduce a time-limited special second collection specifically to enable us to address a number of significant and urgent building/property maintenance issues. This collection will be taken up on the last weekend of every month, starting at the end of this month, January 2025. I want to thank you all in advance for your continued generosity. Fr Allan.

Pilgrims of Hope and the Diploma in Catechetics

As we journey through this Jubilee Year, let us focus more on coming to know the person of Jesus, for St Paul reminds us that He is our hope. For in Him, 'we have an anchor for our soul, as sure as it is firm, and reaching right *through beyond the veil* where Jesus has entered for us and on our behalf' (He 6:19). For this Year of Jubilee, the Archdiocese has discounted the Diploma in Catechetics from £200 to £120 in the hope that more people can access this learning and deepen their knowledge of the person of Jesus. The modules include: *Vocation of the laity, Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments, Systematic Theology and Moral Theology*. There is no written examination, just one-to-one discussions at the end of each module which offer an opportunity to deepen your faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. To register for the diploma visit bit.ly/diploma2025

This weekend we welcome Sr Miriam Ruth, the Archdiocesan coordinator of catechetics, to our parish to tell us more about the Diploma.

New Missals If you would like to order a copy of the new missal (cost £17), please add your name to the sheet in both church porches.

Hot Rolls will be available in St Francis Xavier's hall after 10am Mass next Sunday (26th). All money raised will support the young people from St Mungo's who are traveling to Lourdes this year.

Religious Observance in schools A Scottish Government consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the current legislation on Religious Observance and Religious and Moral Education in all schools. The Scottish Catholic Education Service is calling for parishioners to respond and reflect the viewpoint of the Church. Please complete the consultation by the deadline of 26 January using the help guide with suggested responses at bit.ly/reguide25

Anniversaries: Agnes (Sweeney) Coffey, John Coffey, Siobhan Coffey, Cathie Harvey, Stella Walsh, Doris Fraser Bell, Guiditta Notarangelo, Ruth Helen Adams, Martin James Bell, Annie Szmlac, Elizabeth Campbell, Patricia McGeehan, Phyllis Reilly, Alex McGlynn, Stanislaw Jerwzal, Mary Reid, Michael Quinn, John Meighan, Edward Dowd, Peter Woods, Patrick McLaughlin, Rea Boyle, Martha Woodhouse, Michael & Esther Connell, Alice McFarlane, William Imrie, Ramsay Young, James Meade, Jan Krupa, Samuel Fitzpatrick, Winfred Paton, James McGuckin, Hendyk Wallace, Frances McCabe, John Clifford Boyle, John Adams, William Imrie, Margaret Sneddon, Ulyses Estenzo Snr., Mary Fallon, Liviano Vannucci, James McCue, Maria Renella, Rev. Francis Doherty, Angus McRorie, Sarah Quinn, Fred Thomson, Mary O'Donnell, June O'Connor, Mary Quinn (Mooney), James Boyle, Alexander Hendrie, John McCrystal, Bartley Heanue, Katarzyna Kozlowska, Thomas Cassidy, Eileen Higgins, Neil Mochan, Helen Sobiech, Christine McCarol and Patricia Crossley.

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

'May the angels lead them into paradise...'

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of William and Tom and remember their families in your prayers.

| Name | Reception | Requiem Mass | Church |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| William John O'Donnell | Mon 27 th at 6pm | Tue 28 th at 10am | St Francis Xavier's |
| Tom Durning | tbc | tbc | tbc |