



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's  
St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, **The Baptism of the Lord**



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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

St Anthony's Church

**Saturday Vigil, 5pm;** *Thomas Begin, RIP*

**Sunday, 10am;** *Carla Melville, RIP*

**12 noon;** *Lucy Turner, RIP*

**3pm (Polish)**

**7pm;** *People of the Parish (Anniversary)*

**Monday, 10am;** *Archie McCelroy (Anniversary)*

**Tuesday, 10am Requiem Mass;** *Jim Wilson, RIP*

**Wednesday, 10am;** *Colin Archer, RIP*

**Thursday, 10am;** *No Mass*

**Friday, 10am;** *No Mass*

**Saturday, 10am;** *Elizabeth Flynn (Anniversary)*

**11am;** *Jeanie Irwin (Anniversary)*

**9:30am;** *Tom Durning, RIP*

**9:30am;** *Nora Fleming (Anniversary)*

**9:30am;** *Mary Fallon (Anniversary)*

**9:30am;** *Mary McCelroy (Anniversary)*

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

**Infant Baptism.** The next preparation meeting is **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk)

**Thank you for your generosity.** Last week's offertory cash collection was **£2200.93**.

**Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.** We look forward to celebrating these sacrament with the children and families of our parish. The dates and details of the celebrations will be available very soon. Please keep an eye on the newsletter. We look forward to meeting with you all and thank you for your patience. With all good wishes *Fr Allan*

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord.

How many of us have made a New Year's resolution? How many of us have started out with the best intention, but failed to keep it up? Well, do not be disheartened, we can still pick ourselves up and try again. That is what we seek to do in our lives as baptised Catholics. The baptism we receive is that same baptism of Jesus that we read about in today's Gospel. If it was not incredible enough that we received this great inheritance, our baptism is the gateway to the sacramental life of the church. Through the gifts of the sacraments that Jesus left us here on earth, we receive grace which enables us to dust ourselves down and pick ourselves up to try again when we fail. It is persevering with trying to do right, and co-operating with this grace, that allows us to grow in holiness. In this way, we can re-connect with the eternal love of God. God's eternal love gives us the strength to overcome our fear, and it helps us to carry out our baptismal responsibility - to bring Christ to those we meet. Here, perhaps, is a good New

Year's resolution. If we do not manage it, we can access the grace of the sacraments which will inspire us to try again. Remember the Words that the Father speaks to Jesus at the end of the Gospel: "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". As baptised Catholics we are God's sons and daughters, and he loves us. We can reciprocate his love by gathering more people to Him, thus we participate in building and sustaining the Kingdom of heaven here on earth. May we always be drawn to the sacramental life of the church and be open to that grace which enables us to grow in holiness. *God Bless. Fr Peter.*

**This Week's Mass Schedule**

The Parish Mass this Thursday (16<sup>th</sup>) and Friday (17<sup>th</sup>) will take place in St Anthony's Church at 9:30am with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9am. Please note, there will be no 10am Mass in St Francis Xavier's Church due to essential electrical work being carried out. Thank you for your understanding. *Fr Allan.*

**Devotions** that normally take place on a Thursday and Friday in St Francis Xavier's Church have



been **cancelled** this week (16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) as there will be no electrical power in the church due to remedial work being carried out. All going well, everything should return to normal by Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you posted. *Fr Allan.*

**Morning Prayer** takes place in St Francis Xavier's Church (Polish Chapel) at 9:30am Mon, Tue, Wed & Sat this week. All are welcome.

**The choir and Kathleen** would like to say a big thank you to our parish 'Secret Santa', who kindly left a gift bag of Christmas goodies at the top of our choir stairs, 2 years in a row. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated by us all. God bless you.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January**

All are welcome to join Falkirk Churches United in Prayer

Daily from 6.30-7pm

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> - Bainsford Parish Church (Hendry St)

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - St Francis Xavier's Church (Hope St)

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> - Falkirk Baptist Church (Weir St)

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

Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> - Grahamston United Church (Bute St)

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> - Quakers at Trinity Church (Manse Pl)

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> - Rev Jim Campbell at Christ Church (Kerse Ln)

**Thank You from Ellen Cheape and Family**

We would like to thank the clergy and parishioners of St Francis Xavier's Parish for their love, support and Mass cards following the passing of Robert. A special thanks to Fr Allan, Deacon Kenneth, Nan Strain, Kathleen Pinas, the Choir and the Bereavement Group for the beautiful requiem Mass. Thank you also to the ladies who prepared the funeral tea, the Padre Pio Group for their prayers and to Miss Cheape and the children of Our Lady's RC Primary, Raploch, for offering their Rosary. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all. The retiral collection raised £640 for Strathcarron Hospice. Thank you all for your generosity. With love and prayers *Ellen, Lewis and Victoria.*

**SPRED** friends meet this Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, from 7pm – 9pm in St Francis hall.

**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.*

**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.

**Finding an Abundance of Good Wine in Your Marriage**

The Archdiocesan Valentines Retreat for married and engaged couples is based around the passage of the wedding feast at Cana and led by Fr Andrew Garden. It takes place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 2pm until 5pm at St Kentigern's, EH4 7QR. To register see details on our parish Facebook page or visit [bit.ly/valretreat25](http://bit.ly/valretreat25)

**Anniversaries:** Francis Kotrys, Margaret Winters, Mary Walker, John McDermott, Margaret Watson, Elizabeth Morris, Archibald McElroy, James McCarroll, Sadie Nolan, James Anthony Hendrie, Isabel Sibbald, Helen Covertry, Archie McElroy, Bridget McCue, Thomas Quinn, Alice Donaghue, Marian O'Connor, Stanley Garner, Jean Howden, Margaret Watson, Thomas Mailer, Hugh McLellan Snr, Agnes Ross, Peter Donoghue, Janet Quinn, Bridget Little, Anne O'Donnell, Margaret Rose Matheson, William Bell, John Keith, Christine McEvoy, Violet Moss, Mae Hunter, Patricia O'Neill, Sarah Gallagher, Helen McFadden, Jessie Bain, Stella Boyle, Caterina Brown, Janette Frew, Ramsay Young, John (Ian) Nixon, Bernie Boyle.

*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 Jim, William and Tom and remember their families in your prayers.

Name	Reception	Requiem Mass	Church
Jim Wilson	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> at 6pm	Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> at 10am	St Francis Xavier's
William John O'Donnell	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> at 6pm	Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> at 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Tom Durning	tbc	tbc	tbc