



The Parish of St Francis Xavier's
St Francis Xavier's & St Anthony's Churches
Sunday 9th February 2025, **5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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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

Saturday Vigil, 5pm; *People of the Parish*
Sunday, 10am; Mrs Mary Connolly (Anniversary)
12 noon; Andrew Smith (Anniversary)
3pm (Polish);
7pm; Roy Blake, RIP
Monday, 10am; Special Intention (retirement)
Tuesday, 10am; Helen Somerville, RIP

Wednesday, 10am Requiem Mass; Jean Doherty, RIP

Thursday, 10am; Tam Anderson (SI)
7pm; Novena

Friday, 10am; Rosemary Piacentini, RIP

Saturday, 10am Requiem Mass; Patrick Harkins, RIP

St Anthony's Church

11am; Ann McKiernan, RIP

9am; Rosary; **9:30am,** Giovanna Kelly (Vena), RIP

9:30am; John Bain (birthday remembrance), RIP

9:30am; Special Intention

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 **£2221.46.**

Infant Baptism. The next preparation meeting is **Monday, 24th February, at 7pm** in St Francis Xavier's Church hall. For further information, please email Deacon Kenneth: baptism.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk

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

Children's Sacraments Thank you to the parents and teachers who attended the meeting on Monday night. I was pleased with the turn out and level of engagement. We look forward to celebrating these sacraments with the children, parents and teachers. Best wishes. Fr Allan.

From Fr Joshua Holy Orders is one of the seven sacraments of the church. It is a Vocation and not a profession, because one is called by God for service in His church. Unlike a professional job that one picks of his own will, the priest is one who has answered God's call.

Friends in Christ, we can call this Sunday "Vocation Sunday". The Liturgy of the Word speaks to us about the call of Isaiah, the call of St Paul, and the call of Peter, James and John to become God's Messengers. Each of them responded in their own unique way, but the thread of unity among them was the awareness of their unworthiness before God.

In our first reading, the Prophet Isaiah saw the vision of the glory of God. He immediately acknowledged his unworthiness before God and exclaimed, "war to me, for I am a man of unclean lips, living among the people of

unclean lips..." When the Lord purified him, and he heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?', Isaiah responded with total submission to God, 'Here I am, Lord, send me!'

Speaking of his call, St Paul refers to himself as the 'least of the apostles' and 'unfit to be called an apostle', because he persecuted the Church of God. He concluded by saying, "By the Grace of God, I am what I am". The Gospel speaks of the call of Peter, James and John. Peter's calling is more prominent, while the other two are in the background. When Peter saw the catch of fish, he immediately acknowledged his unworthiness. He fell at the feet of Jesus saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man". However, Jesus told him, "Do not be afraid; from now on, you will be catching men".

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

God calls us to holiness and to become Messengers of the Gospel truth. Our response should be one of surrender, one of humility, one of unworthiness and one of responsibility. A deep sense of unworthiness allows God Himself to work in and through us. The Catechism says, in truth all Christians, those "who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good news everywhere in the world. This treasure received from the Apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing and by celebrating it in Liturgy and prayer" (CCC. 3).

May we all respond to this call to holiness and become Messengers of the Gospel truth, with total submission and surrender to the Will of God and allow Him to use us for the glory of His Name. Happy Vocation Sunday! Fr Joshua Kauras.

Bible Alive The February edition of this publication is available in both church porches.

RCIA

Do please continue to keep in your prayers our RCIA candidates. This is a very important time for them. On the first Sunday of Lent we will travel to St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh for the Mass where they will be formally enrolled. Since last September, they have been preparing diligently for this moment on the 1st Sunday of Lent. They are in the process of securing a sponsor for the Easter Vigil Mass here in the parish, where they will be received into full Communion with the church.

Our SPRED group meet fortnightly on a Wednesday evening. *Would you like to join us?* We are welcoming new friends to our SPRED group. If you have special needs, we look forward to seeing you. Please contact Jennifer on 07946 538958 to arrange meeting up with our current SPRED friends.

New Faith Group Fr Peter will be starting a Faith Group for senior high school pupils (S4-S6). The plan is for the group to meet every week in St Francis Xavier's church hall. There will be organised talks on faith topics of interest and a chance to plan and take part in various social activities. If you are in S4, S5 or S6 you are invited to come along and join the fun. To register email: office.stfrancisfalkirk@staned.org.uk or speak to Fr Peter after Mass.

'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' Archbishop Cushley invites all high school pupils to 'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' at St Francis Xavier's Church, Falkirk, 11am-3pm on Saturday 15 March. The event will provide young people with inspiration and encouragement to live out their faith. Includes Mass celebrated by the Archbishop and activities in the hall. Register at bit.growly/archyouth

Anniversaries: Veronica Moir, Thomas McCanley, Hugh O'Neill, May Short, Daniel Gray, Tom Scott, Alison Jane Fletcher, Helen Schofield, Johanna Cleply, Aidan McEvoy, Margaret Wood, Joseph Crossley, Daniel Byrne, David Dickson, Marion Maguire, Joseph Patrick McQuade, Tom Turnbull, Hugh John MacLennan, Anne McLaochlin, Brigid Sweeney, Hugh Welsh, John Walton, Jozef Koncz, Johnny Kildare, Thomas McElroy, Douglas Crawford Horn, John Brown, James McGuirk, James Johnston Dundee, Christina Travers, Ian Alexander, John McColl, Wallace Anderson, Pat Wood, Nellie Devine, John McGuckin Snr, Mary Cameron, John Welsh and Joan Flucker.

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 soul of Jean, Patrick, Giovanna and Tommy and remember their families in your prayers

Name	Reception	Requiem Mass	Church
Jean Doherty	Tue 11th at 6pm	Wed 12th at 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Patrick Harkins	Fri 14th at 6pm	Sat 15th at 10am	St Francis Xavier's
Giovanna Kelly (Vena)	Sun 16th at 6pm	Mon 17th at 9:30am	St Anthony's
Tommy McGeever	tbc	tbc	St Francis Xavier's