# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019



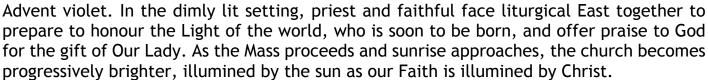
# THE RORATE MASS

The Rorate Caeli Mass is a traditional Advent devotion wherein the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered in the morning. The interplay of light and darkness speak to the meaning of Advent and the coming of the Light of the world. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December we will celebrate this Mass here in our parish. It is a very powerful, prayerful and beautiful Mass.

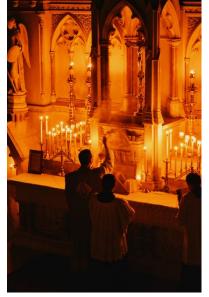
The Mass takes its title, Rorate Caeli, from the first words of the Introit, which are from Isaiah 45:8:

"Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum". "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain."

The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. Because it is a votive Mass in Mary's honour, white vestments are worn instead of



The readings and prayers of the Mass foretell the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel, and call on all to raise the gates of their hearts and their societies to let Christ the King enter; asking for the grace to receive eternal life by the merits of the Incarnation and saving Resurrection of Our Lord.



# CONFESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7.00pm to 8.00pm -

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place throughout the hour. Four priests will be available to hear confessions that evening - Fr Paul Denney from the Cathedral Parish, Fr Bernard Mournian from Saint Columbkille's Rutherglen, Fr Kieran Hamilton from Saint Patrick's Shieldmuir and Saint Thomas' Wishaw, alongwith Fr Seàn Wyllie.



**SATURDAY 21**<sup>ST</sup> **DECEMBER** from 9.15am until 9.45am, after the 10.00am Mass and from 3.45pm until 4.45pm and immediately after the Vigil Mass.

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER** from 8.20am until 8.50am, immediately after the 9.00am Mass, immediately after the 11.00am Mass and from 5.00pm until 5.45pm.

Please make an extra special effort to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for Christmas.



#### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Today is the Third Sunday of the Season of Advent. Rose vestments are worn, a combination of the penitential purple mixed with the joyful white, to mark our half-way point of our Advent journey. As Saint James tells us in our second reading today, "Do not lose heart; the Lord's coming will be soon".

#### VESPERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

At 6.00pm next Sunday evening we will celebrate Vespers (Evening Prayer) by candlelight for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. During this time there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Solemn Benediction. Please come along to celebrate the final Sunday of Advent in the presence of the Lord.

## SISTERS OF SAINT PETER CLAVER

The Sisters of Saint Peter Claver would like to thank all parishioners who bought their calendars last week to help support their missionary work throughout the world. The total raised from the sale of the calendars last weekend was £782.29. God bless you all.

## CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

Christmas is a time when we feel the death of our loved ones in a very particular way. If you would like to have your dead loved ones remembered at Mass over the Christmas period, please hand in the names to the sacristy or the house by this coming Thursday evening for inclusion in our bulletin for next weekend. To avoid confusion please mark them:

Christmas Remembrance for Bulletin.

# MASS CARDS, CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GOLDEN BOOK CARDS

Signed Mass cards, Golden Book cards, Christmas Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets are available behind the altar wall this weekend. Please have a look and support the parish.



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please find below our Mass Schedule for Christmas here in Saint Francis Xavier:

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December
Vigil Mass of Christmas at 7.00pm
Organ Recital with Christmas Organ Music at 11.30pm
Mass during the Night at Midnight

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day Mass at 10.30am

**FROM THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - The winning numbers for the Catholic Grandparents' Association Raffle are: 15, 24, 110, 189, 267, 281, 360 and 389.

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** - At the end of all Masses today we invite all the children of the parish to bring the baby Jesus figure from their Crib scenes at home to the altar to be blessed in anticipation of Christmas morning.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ENVELOPES - A traditional way of offering a gift to the parish is through the Christmas Collection which will be taken up at all Masses of Christmas. The envelopes will be attached to the bulletins next week. For the Christmas Masses there will only be one collection at the Offertory so please place your Christmas Collection envelopes in the same collection as your normal offering to the Offertory collection.

BLESSING WITH THE RELIC OF SAINT LUCY - Saint Lucy is the patroness of those who suffer problems with the sense of sight. Individual blessings with the relic will be given at the conclusion of all Masses this weekend.

**READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Copies of the new rota for parish **Readers** are available to collect from the sacristy this weekend. Could all **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** contact Paul Brownlie regarding availability for Christmas Masses.

**MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR** - Presents 'A Christmas Blessing - The Christmas Story in word and carol' in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell this coming Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

RECENTLY DEAD - Fr. John Doherty (Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral - Reception today (Sunday) at 4.00pm, Requiem Mass Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm), Jim Mays, Mrs Elizabeth Bath, John Kenny.

**MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** — John McKeown, The McKeown Family, The Curran Family, William Hollinsworth, Hugh & Lily McCulloch, James & Mary McCulloch, McCulloch Family, Brown Family, Timoney Family, Joseph Taylor, Joseph Wilson, Joe Ferrie.

Intimations for inclusion should reach the Chapel House by 7pm on a Thursday evening

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - £1605.00 Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish

# FESTIVE LUNCH AT THE XAVIER CENTRE SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER

#### Starters

Lentil Soup served with Warm Bread Roll Honey Dew Melon served with Fresh Fruit and a Raspberry Coulis Prawn Cocktail served with Marie Rose Dressing

#### **Main Courses**

Steak Pie

Braised Sirloin Steak in a Red Wine Sauce Traditional Christmas Turkey with all the Trimmings All served with creamed and roast potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables

#### Desserts

Hot Caramel Shortcake with Ice Cream Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce Meringue Nest with Strawberries and Cream

\*Children's Option: Chicken Nuggets and Chips or smaller portion of above. \*

\*\*Vegetarian Option available but must be pre-ordered\*\*

Adults £16.50. Children (up to 14 years old) £8.50. Payment required one week before event.

To book Call Mick McCormick on 07827975271

#### **CONTACT US**

CLERGY Rev. Fr. Seàn G. Wyllie, Pro Tempore

frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk.

Rev. Mr Jim Aitken, Permanent Deacon

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CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATORS Elizabeth McMahon & Geraldine Battersby

**SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER** SC 011041

## THIRD WEEK & FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday 15th December - Gaudete Sunday

9.00am Holy Mass

11.00am Solemn Holy Mass

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am Holy Mass

Tuesday 17th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Wednesday 18th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Thursday 19th December

10.00am Holy Mass

7.00pm Confessions with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 20th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Saturday 21st December

9.15am Confessions until 9.45am

10.00am Holy Mass (Rorate Mass by candlelight in honour of Our Lady)

10.30am Confessions

3.45pm Confessions until 4.45pm

5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

5.45pm Confessions

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent

8.20am Confessions until 8.50am

9.00am Holy Mass 9.45am Confessions

11.00am Solemn Holy Mass

11.50am Confessions

5.00pm Confessions until 5.45pm

6.00pm Solemn Vespers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent by candlelight