

# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

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

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## 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 Advent violet. In the dimly lit setting, priest and faithful face liturgical East together to prepare to honour the Light of the world, who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.



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.

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## 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".

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.*

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### 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.



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### 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

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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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

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## CONTACT US

**CLERGY**      Rev. Fr. Seàn G. Wyllie, *Pro Tempore*  
                     frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk.  
                     Rev. Mr Jim Aitken, Permanent Deacon  
                     vicechancellor@rcdom.org.uk

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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 15<sup>th</sup> December - Gaudete Sunday

9.00am              Holy Mass  
 11.00am            Solemn Holy Mass

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am            Holy Mass

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am            Holy Mass

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am            Holy Mass

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am            Holy Mass  
 7.00pm              Confessions with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am            Holy Mass

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

