



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



23rd May 2021

PENTECOST SUNDAY

VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS

Today is the anniversary of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the apostles. On this day, thanks to the coming of the Holy Spirit, the infant church took its first steps. In a sense we are celebrating the birthday of the church, the community of the followers of Jesus, unified and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Today's feast renews the gift of the spirit in the church as a whole and in each of us.



First reading St Luke has the descent of the Holy Spirit taking place on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, when Jews celebrated the giving of the Ten commandments on Mount Sinai. According to Jewish legend a mighty wind turned to fire and a voice proclaimed the Law. Luke has the mighty wind and tongues of fire coming upon the group of disciples but for Luke the proclamation was not that of the Jewish Law but of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: St John has the giving of the Holy Spirit taking place on Easter day . Although they differ in details, Luke and John are saying the same thing. The Risen Lord gives the gift of the Spirit and inaugurates the mission of the Church. This mission is the exact same mission he received from the Father.

This week you are invited to celebrate

MONDAY

NO 10.00am Mass

- 1.00pm Pilgrims Mass in the Glass chapel
- 6.00pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (*Glass chapel*)
- 7.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel
- 8.00pm Holy Rosary at the Lourdes shrine

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

- 9.30am Rosary in the church
- 10.00am Holy Mass in the church
- 1.00pm Pilgrims Mass in the Glass chapel
- 8.00pm Holy Rosary at the Lourdes shrine

BAPTISMS When Deacon Jim Aitken was here, he celebrated all the Baptisms which left Fr McGachey free to attend to any Sunday events in the grotto. Now that we have no deacon, it will fall to me to celebrate all the Baptisms. Since I am going to be involved in some of the grotto events (see below) I think it would be prudent to restrict Baptisms to **ONCE A MONTH.**

I propose to celebrate Baptisms on 20th of June at 12.45pm. (NB odd time, I have something in the grotto at 3.00pm that day).

If you have already spoken to me about Baptism, can you confirm with me, please, if you wish to avail yourselves of that date. Thank you.

WEEKEND MASSES

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|-----------------|---------|----------------------|
| SATURDAY | 5.00pm | Vigil Mass in church |
| SUNDAY | 9.00am | Holy Mass in church |
| | 10.00am | Holy Mass in church |
| | 11.00am | Holy Mass in church |
| | 11.00am | Holy Mass in Hall |





The Month of May Month of Mary

This coming Saturday sees the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Blessed Lady, the lovely month of May. **Pope Francis asks us to invoke Our Lady through the Rosary in her month of May, for an end to the pandemic.**

The Holy Rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before the 10.00am Mass – Tuesday - Friday.

Each evening during May at 8.00pm, the Holy Rosary will be recited at the Lourdes shrine in the grotto.

On Tuesdays of May the 8.00pm rosary will be broadcast via social media throughout the United Kingdom.

The First Holy Communion - P5 celebrations

Fri 28th May Sofia Johnston
7.00pm (Glass chapel)

Sat 19th June Ciaran Lettis / Erin Battersby
10.00am Isaac Managa / Ethan McCormick

Sat 29th May Poppy Somerville / Beau Sullivan
10.00am

Please keep these children and their parents in your prayers.

CONFESSION

This Monday evening (6.15pm) I will have the pleasure of celebrating the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness with Sofia Johnston, Poppy Somerville and Beau Sullivan.

THANK YOU FOR LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION	
Loose & GiftAid	£ 1840
Standing Orders	£ 162
Total	£ 2002
Contactless (Grotto)	£ 20

A polite and gentle reminder, please to switch off your mobile phones before coming into church.
THANK YOU.



SINCERE SYMPATHIES to the family of the late John Burns who passed away peacefully in the early hours of Thursday morning last week. John's Requiem Mass will take place in the church on Friday at 11:15. Although the capacity for our Sunday and weekday Masses is dependent on the amount of space we have in the church (2 metre distancing), Funerals are still only allowed 50 mourners so the Mass can only be attended at the invitation of the family. So sorry about this.

READERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND		
	CHURCH	HALL
Sat	5.00pm	Marie Marks
Sun	9.00am	Alan Wilson
Sun	10.00am	Kenny Muir
Sun	11.00am	Eddie Dollochian

I would like to increase the number of readers. When things return to 'normal', the Mass times will be as before, i.e. 5.00pm Vigil, 9.00am and 11.00am. Can I ask any **NEW** readers to assign themselves to one of these Masses. *Sheet in the church porch.*

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFIRMATIONS OF P7

Parents of children to be confirmed in P7, please note the following

1 As you come to Holy Mass this weekend you are asked to express a preference for either the **7th** or the **14th** of June. Unfortunately, because of the restricted numbers, each child is allowed to bring only five people, one of whom will be his/her sponsor. **In other words 5 people for each child INCLUDING THE SPONSOR.** I am truly sorry that I cannot increase this number at all. If it is any consolation, I know many other parishes who are only allowing child and sponsor without even the presence of parents, so I think we're doing not too bad to give four places to each child plus the sponsor.



2 You are asked to take home with you **TWO** small forms. The first asks for the Child's Confirmation details as well as a solemn promise which the child's sponsor is requested to sign in the child's presence. The second form is for the contact track and trace contact details required by the government. You are asked to take this home also, to complete it and then to come with that form on the night of the Confirmation and hand it in at the door as you enter the church.

WEEKDAY MASS NUMBERS

1.00pm Pilgrim's Mass

As promised, I continued monitoring the numbers coming to Holy Mass during the week. I am a bit disappointed that the 1:00pm pilgrims Mass has not really 'taken off'. The average number attending this Mass over the last three weeks is around 16.

Consequently, I have decided to discontinue this Mass until such times as all the whole pandemic is over and we have an opportunity perhaps to advertise it more widely - throughout the diocese and further afield.

Another reason for my decision is that the stewards who have very generously given of their time to 'stewarding' at this Mass, also need a break.

Please note then that the last 1.00pm Mass will be this coming Friday.

Monday evening 7.00pm Mass.

Admittedly, I only have the last three weeks to go but the numbers attending this Mass are not very high 28, 13, 15. However, I think that, at least during the summer months, that it would be good to offer an evening Mass during weekdays for the sake of those who are working but would like the opportunity to attend Mass during the week.

I will continue to offer an evening Mass during weekdays but offer it on a **TUESDAY** evening for reasons that I give below.

As I have said before, now that I have been here for over a year, I am beginning to get a feel for the considerable demands made on both my time and energy. I am trying to be cautious with regard to what I would like to do and what I can actually do. I anticipate that in order to be able to keep up and fulfil the demands I would need one day a week where there would be nothing on in the grotto or in the parish church - a so called 'desert day' or to use a Latin phrase 'dies non' (*in other words, a day when nothing happens and I am unavailable.*)

Given that Sundays can be busy in the grotto as well as the parish church, I think that Monday would be the most suitable day for 're-charging the batteries'. So, as from June this year there will be no morning Mass on Mondays. (*The only exceptions to this will be the 7th and the 14th of June which will be Confirmation Masses and strictly limited to the Confirmandi and their families*). **So no public mass on Mondays as from the beginning of the month of June.**

I will not be available at all on Mondays. I have decided to take this as my weekly day off I would appreciate it if you would allow me privacy on that day and postpone any matters you need to discuss with me either in person or by telephone until Tuesday thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

The 10.00am Mass will be celebrated Wed – Friday as usual. Once the First Holy Communions are completed, I will bring back the Saturday morning 10.00am Mass.

UNA VOCE SCOTLAND

The Society for the preservation of the traditional Latin Mass will host a Sung Mass in the Extraordinary Form at Carfin Grotto on the 4th of June 2021. The evening will begin with Holy Rosary and Confessions at 7.00pm followed by a Sung Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7.30 pm.

The Mass will be offered outdoors at the Glass Chapel (No cap on numbers) or in the parish church in the case of inclement weather (cap of 120)

<https://unavocesotland.org/.../ef-carfin-booking-now-open/>



GLOBAL ROSARY WITH POPE FRANCIS - May 31st 5.00pm



Plans are now well advanced with regard to the Holy Rosary with Pope Francis on Monday 31st of May. STV have been hired to film this event and, by means of their satellite dish, transmit this Rosary to Vatican Television which in turn will transmit the Rosary to all five continents of the world. At different points in the transmission, the Rosary at Carfin Grotto (and the assembled people) will be seen on Vatican Television throughout the world. A large screen has been hired so that we can view

the scenes from Rome and the Holy Father saying the Rosary in the Vatican gardens.

We are invited to be in place by 4:15pm so that we can start the rosary at 5:00pm our time, (6:00pm Rome time). Please pray for good weather which would go a long way to making this a success. However whether the weather is good or bad this event will place Carfin Lourdes Grotto on the international map of Marian shrines and will be exceptionally good publicity for the grotto and for Scotland. I am sure a proud and jubilant Canon Taylor will be looking down and smiling on his beloved grotto that evening.

I hope that as many as possible will turn up and support this event. It is Bank Holiday Monday so many people should be free from work around that time.

Let us remember in Prayer

Sick: Patrick Hughes, Grennio Franchitti

Recently Dead: John Burns, Eddie Walker, John Laird, Peter Stewart, Mathew McLaughlin, John Rogers, Karin Hynes, Davie O'Donnell, Betty Lavery, Sadie Gaffney, Patricia Galloway, Lawrence Verrechia, Mary Drummond

Months Mind: Elizabeth Carr

Anniversary: Gillian Monaghan, Mary & James Cassells, Sadie McCabe, Gerard O'Donnell Jnr, Mary & Charles McGhee, Alicia Gallacher, John Hughes, Frank McMahan, John & Mary McShane, Jim McShane, Rosemary & Ronald MacIntyre, Frank, Agnes & Desmond McMahan

*Give them eternal rest, O Lord,
And let your light shine on them forever.*

'Care of Creation Office'

Pentecost Sunday marks the 6th anniversary of 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical letter on care for our common home. It reminds all Catholics of their responsibilities towards one another and the world in which we live. Inspired by the Pope's letter and in preparation for the COP26 conference taking place in Glasgow in November, the Bishops' Conference has decided to set-up a **Care of Creation Office** this year.

The Office's aim will be to give practical advice and guidance: helping dioceses and parishes assess their carbon footprint and discern how to work towards carbon neutrality. God has honoured us by giving humanity the task of being a co-operator in the work of creation. We hope our lives enhance and build up that creation and pray that the meeting of world leaders in Glasgow later this year will bear fruit for our planet.