



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

4th October 2020

**What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?**



This week you are invited to celebrate

MON		No Mass
TUE		No Mass
WED	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary <i>Feast of the Holy rosary</i> Holy Mass
THU	9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass Pilgrims from London
FRI	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass
SAT	9.30am 10.00am 4.00pm 5.30pm	Holy Rosary Holy Mass Vigil Mass of Sunday Vigil Mass of Sunday
SUN	Twenty Eighth Sunday (A)	
	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass

PREPARING FOR MASS WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY?



There is one common theme which unites last week's Gospel, today's and next week's – and it is this. The theme of **REFUSAL**. All three parables contain a **NEGATIVE RESPONSE** to God's love.

First Reading Isaiah describes God's care of, and expectations for, His Chosen People. God's Chosen People failed to bear fruit, in spite of the blessings lavished upon them by a loving and forgiving God. Further, they were poor tenants in the Lord's vineyard. Hence, God laments: "I expected My vineyard to yield good grapes. Why did it yield sour ones instead?" The people of Israel had been treated in a privileged manner by God. But **privilege brings responsibility**.

Responsorial Psalm, the Psalmist pleads with God to look down from Heaven and to "take care of His vine."

Gospel, Jesus tells an allegorical parable in which the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel, as God's special people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel. The story emphasizes the failure of the tenants, the Chosen People of God and their leaders, to produce fruits of righteousness, justice and mercy.



SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS
is available before the Saturday evening Masses and upon request.

Fr McGachey - new post

Bishop Toal had appointed Fr McGachey to assist Fr Michael Kane temporarily at St Augustine's Coatbridge, We wish Fr Francis every blessing and good health as he returns to ministry in the diocese.

Welcome to Deacon George

We welcome back Deacon George to all Masses this weekend to assist and preach at all Masses.



PARISH INFORMATION



	Clergy:	Fr Jim Grant, PP. Deacon Jim Aitken
	Address	Taylor Avenue, Carfin Motherwell, ML1 5AJ
	Telephone	(01698) 263308 Hall Hire 07581239872
	Email	stfrancisxavier@rcdom.org.uk xaviercentre@gmail.com (Hall)
	Website	www.carfingrotto.org
	Facebook	www.facebook.com/carfingrotto
	YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC- coiodOEbTzTiOhlfKpfXw/
	Safeguarding	Elizabeth McMahon Geraldine Battersby

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Recently Dead Neil Toal, Stephen Murphy (Kilsyth), Anne Marie McAtear, Susan Corrigan, Dr. Barry Cullen, Peter Cox (Newcastle), Kathleen Welsh, William Lynn Jnr, Grace Brennan, Marion Forrest (St. Patrick's Shotts), Sadie Gallagher, Stephen Murphy (Kilmarnock)

Months Minds Cathie Gibson (Cathedral), Canon Niall Hayes, Elizabeth Carr, Gerard Keenan

Anniversaries William Lynn Snr & Catherine Lynn, John Chambers, Margaret Mullen Cant



*Eternal rest give unto them O Lord.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*



ALL INTIMATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE
BULLETIN MUST BE HANDED IN BY
THURSDAY EVENING, 8.00PM

St Clare's Church, Easterhouse

The Bishop regretfully has taken the decision to close St Clare's Church, Easterhouse, with immediate effect due to the high cost of necessary repairs and the low attendance at the church. It is hoped that parishioners from St Clare's will now participate in St Benedict's Church.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The Scottish Government's latest guidance on "Live Outdoor Events" has been brought to my attention. It does say that up to 200 people can attend an outdoor seated event if all the necessary precautions are observed.

Reading the advice, it would seem that weather permitting we would be able to gather for Holy Mass in larger numbers at the grotto as long as people observe the social distancing and remain in their allocated place throughout.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest parishioner Leo O'Neill who will be baptised this Sunday afternoon. *May their parents be not only the first but the best of teachers in the ways of faith.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

GiftAid :	£700
Loose :	£840
Standing Orders [24th Sept - 3rd October]	£636
Total :	£2176
Contactless Machine (Grotto)	£0

October – Month of Missions

The special collection in October will be for Missio Scotland, through which we make out contribution to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

This year contributions can be made throughout the Month of October - directly to Missio Scotland, through the Diocese of Motherwell web-site, or by putting contributions in an envelope and placing them in the collection baskets in the parishes.



MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Each evening, at 8.00pm, the Holy Rosary will be recited through the sound system in the grotto. The grotto will be illuminated every night to encourage people to come and pray in the peace and quiet much as what happens in Lourdes in the late evening. *Once the clocks change I may opt to move it forward to 7.00pm*

*Rosary Whirlwind
British Isles*

October 2020

At 8.00pm on Saturdays during October the rosary led from Carfin Grotto will be steamed throughout the British Isles. Scotland's contribution to this 'Rosary Whirlwind British Isles'.

**NOTHING CAN REPLACE
THE IMMEDIACY OF
BEING PRESENT
AT THE EUCHARIST.**

Within the last few weeks, Cardinal Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship in the Vatican has written to all bishops and priests urging them to impress on the faithful the “necessary and urgent” need to return to the church building and to the Church’s liturgy, “as soon as possible”

Once the proper safeguards are put in place for control of the pandemic **everyone should return to the liturgical assembly.**

The Prefect noted that this period of global pandemic has been like a “Eucharistic fast” in which we have come to appreciate even more the beauty and importance of the liturgy.

He goes on to say that we cannot live without certain aspects of the Christian life *viz* the celebration of the Lord’s day and the centrality of the Lord’s house.

He also made the very valid point that broadcasts of the Mass cannot replace personal participation in it.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2020

Bishop Toal has asked there be one special collection each month through the rest of this year.

Rather than putting out an extra basket in the churches you are encouraged to make a contribution on-line on the Motherwell Diocesan web-site to each month’s special collection. You may also put your contribution in an envelope marked for the special collection and put it in the basket at Mass with your weekly contribution. You can do this on any Sunday through the course of the month.

The special collections for the rest of 2020 are as follows:

- **September** for those preparing for priesthood / diaconate
- **October** for Missio Scotland
- **November** for Scottish Catholic Education Service
- **December** for St Andrew’s Hospice

THE CASHLESS SOCIETY

The card reader machine is set for £5.00 donations **which all go to the UPKEEP OF THE GROTTA**. Each transaction takes a few seconds. If you wish to donate further, simply tap it a second time. Each time you tap it and the transaction goes through, you are donating £5.00.

100th ANNIVERSARY

This coming Saturday, 19th of September will see one hundred years since Canon Taylor and his many willing volunteers cut the first sod of what has become Carfin Lourdes Grotto.

I had hoped in some way to commemorate this event but, sadly, the present Coronavirus restrictions would not permit it.

I am hoping that, Covid restrictions permitting, we shall now start preparing for the centenary of the opening of the grotto which will take place in 2022. *Watch this space.*



NEW STATUE OF ST CHARBEL

During Fr McGachey 's tenure as guardian of the grotto, the small but active Lebanese/Syrian community in Glasgow approached him about including a statue of their much revered St Charbel in the grotto.

This project was left in abeyance during Fr Francis' illness and then the subsequent lockdown.

A member of the community made contact with me recently to determine whether this would still be possible. I willingly acceded to her request on behalf of her community—many of whom are asylum seekers.

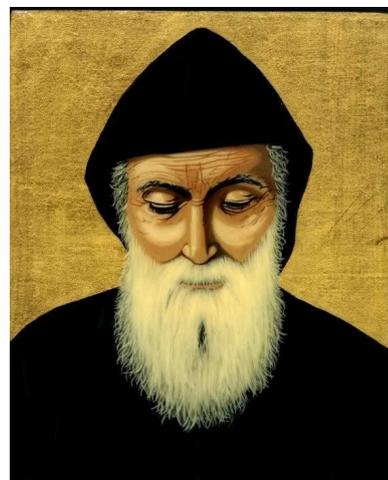
ST CHARBEL MAKHLOUF (1828 - 1898) was a Maronite monk and priest from Lebanon. During his life he obtained a wide reputation for holiness and he has been canonized by the Catholic Church. He is known among Lebanese Christians for his miraculous healings in answer to prayers said at his tomb, located at the Monastery of Saint Maron, and for his ability to unite Christians and Muslims.

Pope Paul VI presided at the beatification of Father Charbel at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. The Pope said:

"A hermit of Mount Lebanon is enrolled in the number of the blessed... a new eminent member of monastic sanctity has by his example and his intercession enriched the entire Christian people ... may he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God."

The statue of Saint Charbel was donated by the Leba-

nese community who have also covered the expense of erecting it. In the course of time, a Maronite priest (*based in London*) or perhaps even a Maronite bishop (*based in France*) will formally bless the statue.



***Saint Charbel,
Pray for Us***

and

Pray for Lebanon

