



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



21st March 2021



Palm Sunday

Hosanna to the Son of David



Palm Sunday is the door through which we enter Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's calendar.

Isaiah Here the prophet meditates on his sufferings and the price of fidelity to God. The church turns to these poems at this time because Jesus apparently did so at the time of his passion.

Paul Saint Paul here adapts an ancient church hymn. It sings of Jesus' pre-existence, his incarnation, suffering, and exaltation.

Mark We listen to the Passion according to St Mark



This coming Holy Week you are invited to celebrate

Mon	1.00pm	Holy Mass for Monday of Holy Week
	7.00pm	Holy Mass for Monday of Holy Week
Tue	9.30am	Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass
	1.00pm	Holy Mass for Tuesday of Holy Week
Wed	9.30am	Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Mass
	1.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of Holy Week

CONFESSIONS

Mon	12.30 - 1.30pm	Holy Ghost Father
Tue	12.30 - 1.30pm	Holy Ghost Father
Wed	12.30 - 1.30pm	Bishop Toal

At the Glass Chapel.

Monday evening 6.00pm, confessions in the church



+ The Sacred Triduum +

ONE FEAST YET THREE CELEBRATIONS SPREAD OVER THREE DAYS



Begins **Thu** 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching at the Altar of Repose.
10.30pm Night Prayers at the Altar of Repose



Continues **Fri** 12.00noon Stations of the Cross in the grotto
3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
7.00pm Stations of the Cross in the grotto



Concludes **Sat** 8.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter.
Sun 9.00am + 10.00am + 11.00am Holy Mass for Easter Sunday

Day of Fast and Abstinence
One full meal, no flesh meat.

Collection for Holy Places

Although, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays is still temporarily rescinded by the Bishops of Scotland. I am hoping that this Easter will see a massive return to Holy Mass by all parishioners.

Things have greatly moved on since the first lockdown. We have a vaccine and many will already have received at least the first dose. There is good reason to be less anxious about coming back to church. If you are one of those who chose not to come to the church after the first and second lockdowns, please give some serious thought to reversing that decision.

WE MISS YOU.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

I have asked the stewards to return to the practice of going around with the offertory basket during the Presentation of the Gifts.

EASTER COLLECTION

I know that there is a long tradition in this parish of making an Easter gift to the parish. I am told that the custom is to attach an envelope to the bulletin for such an Easter donation. I wasn't really prepared for this so did not order specially printed Easter Collection envelopes. Nevertheless, I found boxes of disused collection envelopes from last year, so they will 'do the job'. If you have a Giftaid with the parish, please write your Giftaid number *and/or* name on the outside so that I can claim the Giftaid. (N.B. the numbers on the envelopes bear no relation to your weekly Giftaid envelopes. Totally disregard any number on the envelopes. I am just using them up.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I have prepared leaflets with a text for praying the stations can be collected from the church porch.



READERS ETC

I would like to re-instate the readers rota. I have left a blank schedule in the porch and would ask all readers, including any who wish to offer their names for this ministry, to add their names as appropriate. Please remember, NEW READERS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME.

THE MASS OF CHRISM, will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday as in previous years though this year with much restricted numbers. Each Deanery will be represented by three priests who will concelebrate the Chrism Mass with Bishop Toal. The Mass will be live-streamed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 5

I am aware that there are a number of children, now in Primary 5, still to make their First Holy Communion. These are the children whose parents wanted to wait until the capacity allowed would be increased. I have absolutely no way of knowing if this will change anytime soon. Consequently, I ask you to consider what you want to do. Here are the options which are the same as were offered last October:

1. postpone your child's First Communion until the capacity is increased?
2. have a 'double celebration' in the church with two families having a combined capacity of 50?
3. an individual First Holy Communion in the Glass chapel with capacity of 20?

N.B. I would imagine options 2 and 3 would take place in the evening. I would intend celebrating these First Communion in April/early May

Arrangements for the above would only be made at the end of Sunday Mass and not via email, phone etc...

Please remember in your prayers



Sick Thomas Riley

Recently Dead Ellen McKay, Irene Glackin (Canada), Margaret Shaw, John Collins, Anne Porteus, Agnes Hillan, Cathie McAuley

Months Minds The McFarlane Family, The Devine Family, Charlie Devine, Jeannie White, Jimmy Shaw, Catherine Devine, Charles Devine, Tracy Devine, Anna-Tress Devine, Elizabeth Carr

Anniversaries Jackie Donnelly, Mary Marshall Brennan, Cathy McAulay, Peter Henderson (Ayrshire), Catherine & Bernard McCardie, Richard Mullen, Ellen Mullen, Helen McLaughlin, Julia McGhee Cullien, John Cullien

Birthday Remembrance Ellen McGahan

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Loose	£ 1009
Standing Orders	£
Total	£1009
Contactless (Grotto)	£30

Your continued contributions to the financial support of the parish are truly appreciated.

Thank you

SUNDAY MASS ON BBC SCOTLAND at 12 noon next Sunday, 4th April, from Saint Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley.

FIRST CONFESSION and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

I have been talking with the Miss Lewis, Head Teacher and Mrs Taggart of OLSF Primary school regarding the celebration of the Sacraments, particularly, First Confession and First Holy Communion. At the time of our discussion we were unaware of what the First Minister announced on Tuesday of last week. Even so, this is the result of our discussions:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION OF THOSE CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 5 *This would be my first priority.*

I am aware that there are a number of children, now in Primary 5, still to make their First Holy Communion. These are the children whose parents wanted to wait until the capacity allowed would be increased. At this moment, it looks as if we are back to where we were – capacity of 50. I have absolutely no way of knowing if this will change anytime soon. Consequently, I ask you to consider what you want to do. Here are the options which are the same as were offered last October:

1. postpone your child's First Communion until the capacity is increased?
2. have a 'double celebration' in the church with two families having a combined capacity of 50?
3. an individual First Holy Communion in the Glass chapel with capacity of 20.

N.B. I would imagine options 2 and 3 would take place in the evening.

I would intend celebrating these First Communions in April/early May

Arrangements for the above would only be made at the end of Sunday Mass and not via email, phone etc...

FIRST CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 4 *This would be my second priority.*

I would like to celebrate First Confession with the children during April.

Re. First Confession. The format would be this:

1. Parents are to practise the formula for Confession with their children at home. *To be distributed*
2. They should also go through a nightly examination of conscience with their child to get their child into the habit of examining their conscience before celebrating the Sacrament. *To be distributed*
3. Once the child's parent(s) are confident that their child is ready to celebrate the Sacrament without undue anxiety or nervousness, then they should personally speak to me, Fr Jim, **at the end of Sunday Mass.**

I politely request that you DO NOT DO THIS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL OR TELEPHONE. I want to see with my own eyes, parents and child before giving them a day and time for their child's First Confession. After speaking with me, if I am also confident that the child is ready and suitably prepared, I will give them a day and time mutually agreed between both of us. I am well aware that this is a significant change from previous years but this was my practice over many years in my previous parish and it worked well.

Re. First Holy Communion

At this moment in time when the capacity is as it is, I can think of no other way than to offer these children the same choice as above, viz

1. postpone your child's First Communion until the capacity is increased?
2. have a 'double celebration' in the church with two families having a combined capacity of 50?
3. an individual First Holy Communion in the Glass chapel with capacity of 20.

N.B. I would imagine options 2 and 3 would take place in the evening.

I would intend celebrating these First Communions in mid to late May

FIRST CONFESSION OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 3 *This would be my third priority*

I would hope to hear the confessions of children in Primary 3 during the month of June. At this moment in time, I ask the parents of these children **NOT** to approach me just now.

I fully appreciate that this is not what one would have wanted, but I am trying to do my very best within the parameters afforded me to make your child's First Confession and First Holy Communion both meaningful and memorable. *Fr Jim Grant, P.P.*

THE PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

No work has been done on the Pilgrimage Centre this year. However, the new boiler is due to be installed during Easter Week. Once this has been completed, we shall look at the essential repairs needed for the floor to meet 'Health and Safety' requirements. This time last year, I would have been very hopeful that the Pilgrimage Centre would be re-opened after Easter, Of course, I did not count on the pandemic and lockdown restrictions placed upon us. Apart from hindering the structural work on the Pilgrimage Centre, the lack of funds will pose a problem of its own. All financial support for the grotto comes from the large events held during the

year. Last year there were no events and so our income has dropped dramatically.

Although the Diocese of Motherwell 'gifted' the Pilgrimage centre to the parish, I would feel uncomfortable using a substantial amount of parish money to fund these works. Anyway, thanks to the pandemic and the closure of our church for a good part of the last year, the money is not really there in the parish account anyway.

That having been said, I shall do my very best to open the Centre, Café and shop, as soon as I possibly can.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. I was waiting to see if the bishop sanctioned a General absolution for everyone as part of the preparation for Easter and for the churches re-opening. It doesn't look likely that this will be the case. What I propose, therefore, is that I will celebrate the Sacrament from 5.00pm till 6.00pm, Monday – Friday inclusive **in a tent beside the Glass chapel**, beginning Monday of this week. A Holy Ghost Father will assist me. Unless I can 'rig up' a confessional screen before Monday, these confessions will have to be 'face to face' for the time being. In addition to the above, Fr. Bernadine and myself I will hear confessions in the same place, Monday – Friday 12.30-1.30pm

So to summarise:

Monday – Friday from 12.30pm - 1.30pm. Fr Bernadine (St Teresa's) and/or myself, Fr Grant (Glass chapel)

Monday – Friday from 5.00pm - 6.00pm Holy Ghost Father and/or myself, Fr Grant (Glass chapel)

THE MASS OF CHRISM, will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday as in previous years though this year with much restricted numbers – 50 in total. Each Deanery will be represented by three priests who will concelebrate the Chrism Mass with Bishop Toal and the Vicar General. Three Deacons will be invited and 30 from the Lay Faithful and Religious. Numbers are limited, but the Mass will be live-streamed.

MASS WILL BE BROADCAST on BBC Scotland today at 12 noon from Our Holy Redeemer, Stornoway