



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



4th April 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter

MY LORD and MY GOD



Acts 4:32-35

Today's first reading presents an ideal of the early Christian community. The result of true Christian love put into practice is justice.

John 20:19-31

St John describes the first appearance of Jesus since the resurrection where Jesus gives the disciples peace and joy and breathes new life into them, bestowing on them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the second appearance, Jesus appears to Thomas and by showing his wounds he gives Thomas the evidence he needs to believe.

Divine Mercy Sunday



In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. She wrote in her diary that He said:

I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it...

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.

Divine Mercy Devotions

- 2.00 - 3.00pm** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with opportunity for Confession (*Church and Grotto*)
- 3.00pm** Divine Mercy Chaplet in the *Parish Church*
- 3.30pm** Holy Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday in the *Parish Church*

Fr Bernard, CSSp and Fr Bernadine (Newarthill) will assist me on Sunday afternoon

This week you are invited to celebrate

Monday	1.00pm	Holy Mass
Tuesday	1.00pm	Holy Mass
Wednesday	1.00pm	Holy Mass
Thursday	1.00pm	Holy Mass
Friday	1.00pm	Holy Mass



Saturday	4.00pm	Vigil Mass
	5.30pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Mass
	10.00am	Holy Mass
	11.00am	Holy Mass

Surrexit Christus, Alleluia

Inscription around the cross and above the tabernacle

ECCE JESUS = Behold Jesus
PANIS VITAE = The Bread of Life

Please note that at this time funerals are limited to **20** people and weddings limited to **5** people. This will increase to 50 and 50 respectively from **26th April**.

The ScotGov Webpage regarding the 'Timetable for easing of coronavirus restrictions' clearly shows 26th April as the date that we can increase numbers, subject to certain criteria being met. Please also note that **from 17th May numbers attending Mass can be increased subject to social distancing constraints within each building.**

PILGRIMAGE CENTRE

I was hopeful that work on the heating for the Pilgrimage Centre would have been started this week. However, I have been informed by the heating engineers that they have been held up with another job. However, he assured me that they would begin work in May.

SINCERE SYMPATHIES

To the family of the late Betty Brown from Hill Terrace. Betty will be buried from our church on Tuesday after Requiem Mass at 11.00am. *May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Loose & GiftAid	£ 3320
Easter collection	£ 2720
Standing Orders	£ 380
Total	£ 6420
Contactless (Grotto)	£ 35

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

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Recently Dead: Charlie Divers, Ronnie Breen, Ian Girvan, Joseph Feenan, Betty Brown, Gary Mooney, Margaret Berghaty, Rachal McCusker, Tam Kennedy, Mary Wynn, Andrew Bradshaw, John McKenna

Anniversary: Edward McGahan, John & Michael McGahan, Anne Watters & family, Michal Sadowski, Bernard Milton

Months Minds: Eric & Theresa Williamson, John McCormack (Snr), Teresa Sweet, Pat O'Hanlon, Jimmy Collins, James & Frances Collin, James & Amelia O'Donnell, Gerard Keenan

Birthday Remembrance: Helen Campbell, Catherine McAleese, Dianne Boyle

The Great Parish 'Reset'

I am thinking ahead of when things begin to return to a bit more normality. I have thought for a long time that in some ways we shall have to start from scratch all over again regarding some of the ministries in our parish. By this, I mean we shall have to recruit and in some ways re-recruit readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir members, altar servers, passkeepers etc. We have come through three lockdowns and over a year of 'liturgical constraints' which have meant that many of the above ministries have been 'fallowed'.

I have asked for **READERS** to volunteer their names. Thanks to those who have put their names down – **but still room for plenty more.**

In a short while I would like to recruit and re-recruit **ALTAR SERVERS**. However, I would only recruit children who have made their First Holy Communion – ostensibly, Primary 5 upwards. In my last parish the majority of servers were at all stages in **SECONDARY** school. My experience has been that if you recruit children whilst still very young, they will leave before moving on to secondary school. For that reason, I'd much prefer to recruit from P6 or P7. This is a real ministry and demands children who are competent with very specific liturgical instructions and the ability to fulfil what is being asked of them in the ritual of Holy Mass. A certain amount of training would have to be completed.

Another ministry that I would hope to develop is the **MINISTRY OF MUSIC**. I have introduced lots of new music through the live streaming of Mass and I would like to build on this when we are eventually allowed to sing again at Mass. Please, think about **joining the choir** when we finally return to the full celebration of Holy Mass without any constraints.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS AHEAD OF HOLYROOD ELECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This election presents us with an opportunity to play our part in putting human life and the inviolable dignity of the human person at the centre of Scotland's political discourse.

We often see politics through a party prism, which can create a divisive, and occasionally fractious, political environment. Whilst party politics can be an important consideration, particularly in the Scottish Parliament list system, it is individuals who will make up the parliament and form a government; and some of the most important issues, including abortion and assisted suicide, are commonly decided by a conscience, or free, vote. Therefore, it is critical to ascertain candidates' personal values and opinions and not concentrate solely on party policies.

As Catholics we have a duty: to share the Gospel and to help form the public conscience on key moral issues. It is a duty of both faith and citizenship. This election is an opportunity to be the effective witness our Baptism calls us to be.

The new parliament and government will be tasked with leading the recovery from the damage wrought by the current health crisis and to tackle the significant impact it has had on many aspects of life including health care, mental health and wellbeing, religious freedom, and care for the poor. It must also build on the positives arising from the Pandemic, including caring for the most vulnerable, and a renewed sense of respect for human life, human dignity, and the value of community.

These are some of the issues you may want to consider in the forthcoming election:

BEGINNING AND END OF LIFE

It is the duty of parliamentarians to uphold the most basic and fundamental human right to life. Elected representatives ought to recognise the existence of human life from the moment of conception and be committed to the protection of human life at every stage. Caring for the unborn and their mothers is a fundamental measure of a caring and compassionate society; a society which puts human dignity at the centre.

We ought to be mindful of a further attempt to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland, likely to happen in this parliament. Legalising assisted suicide or euthanasia suggests that some lives are not worth living, contrary to the Christian belief that every life has equal dignity and value. It is incumbent upon our parliamentarians to show compassion for the sick and dying. This is not achieved by assisted suicide or euthanasia but by ensuring support is provided through caring and attentive politics, including investment in palliative care.

FAMILY AND WORK

Society relies on the building block of the family to exist and flourish. The love of man and woman in marriage and openness to new life is the basic, fundamental cell upon which every society is built. The wellbeing of Scotland and its future depends on the flourishing of family life and government should respond to this reality with policies creating economic and fiscal advantages for families with children.

The pandemic has placed immeasurable pressure on businesses and many people have lost their livelihood. The state has a duty to sustain business activities by creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities, especially in times of crisis. This must be accompanied by a just wage to provide a dignified livelihood for the worker and their family.

POVERTY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Sadly, poverty remains a scourge for too many people. The marginalised, the homeless, and the lonely and isolated have been cast further adrift because of the pandemic. And poverty now affects 24% of children in Scotland. We need elected representatives who respect a preferential option for the poor, who are willing to prioritise their need and respect their human dignity.

Our government must also work with the international community to adopt an even more effective strategy against human trafficking and modern slavery, so that in every part of the world, men and women may no longer be used as a means to an end, and that their inviolable dignity will always be respected.

ENVIRONMENT

The next group of MSPs will be tasked with protecting our neighbours at home and abroad

from the poverty and climate crises which continue to rage on. In November Glasgow will play host to the COP26 international climate change summit. We should listen to Pope Francis' call to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' by lifting up the voices of the global south and coming together to rebuild our Common Home in a way that leaves no-one behind. Scotland can also demonstrate global leadership by strengthening its commitment to becoming a carbon neutral country.

FREE SPEECH, FREE EXPRESSION, AND FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

If Scotland is to be a tolerant, open, diverse country then we must be free to discuss and debate ideas, even those which are deemed by some to be controversial. Whilst being mindful of the need to protect citizens from hate, government must not overstep into the realm of unjust restrictions on free speech, free expression and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This must include, among others, the freedom to express belief in the biological reality of sex and gender.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The right of parents to choose a school for their children which corresponds to their own convictions is fundamental. Public authorities have a duty to guarantee this parental right and to ensure the concrete conditions for its exercise. Thus, parliamentarians ought to continue to support an open and diverse state education system which includes Catholic schools.

We pray that this election will put human life and the dignity of the human person at the centre, and that candidates will ensure debate is respectful and courteous. We urge you to visit the website rcpolitics.org and to use the resources there to help you in your consideration of election issues and to use the tools available to question candidates.

+ Hugh Gilbert, President, Bishop of Aberdeen
+ John Keenan, Vice President, Bishop of Paisley
+ Brian McGee, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles
+ Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
+ Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell
+ Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld
+ William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway
Monsignor Hugh Bradley, Archdiocesan Administrator, Archdiocese of Glasgow