



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

13th September 2020

Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive seventy times seven, and recounts the parable of the servant whose debts were forgiven, but who then did not forgive the debts that were owed to him.

This week you are invited to celebrate

MON	7.00pm	Holy Mass
TUE	9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass English Pilgrims' Mass
WED	9.30am 10.00am 11.30am	Holy Mass Holy Mass Requiem Mass
THU	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass
FRI	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Mass 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 Fifth Sunday (A)	
	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass



During these days of restrictions brought about by the Covid 19 virus, the Sacrament of Forgiveness is available before the Saturday evening Masses and upon request.

PREPARING FOR MASS WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY?



FIRST READING The author of our first reading, reminds us that if we don't forgive and show mercy, we can't expect to receive much of that from God in return. It is unwise to nurse grudges and wise to forgive because our life span is very short and our eternal destiny is decided by how we forgive.

GOSPEL Through the parable of the two debtors, Jesus teaches us that there should be no limit to our forgiveness and no conditions attached to our reconciliation. We commit sins every day and, hence, we need God's forgiveness every day. **But we must forgive in order to be forgiven.**

GEORGE FRAME This weekend we bid a farewell to George Frame, who has been a familiar face over the last few years since placed at St Francis Xavier's for pastoral experience as part of his formation for the Permanent Diaconate. George will be ordained as a deacon in his home parish of St. Patrick's on Tuesday evening, Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. We wish him every blessing in his diaconal ministry wherever the bishop decides to assign him. We thank him also for his contribution to the life of our parish over the last few years.

I have invited George back the second weekend after his ordination to assist at all the Masses as deacon.

I want to thank all who have returned to Mass over the past six weeks and on your behalf to thank to all the stewards who are making sure the return to Mass is very safe. I want to thank you also for your financial support for your parish through the months of church closure and now in this period of restricted numbers. Your weekly contributions, whether in church or on-line, are vital to meet our everyday expenses. Each parish does depend entirely on what comes in and every donation matters, so again I thank you for your generosity in these difficult times.

 PARISH INFORMATION 		
	Clergy:	Fr Jim Grant, PP. Deacon Jim Aitken
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	Website	www.carfingrotto.org
	Facebook	www.facebook.com/carfingrotto
	Twitter	twitter.com/CarfinGrotto
	Instagram	www.instagram.com/carfingrotto
	YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC-coiodOEbTzTiOhlfKpfXw/
	Safeguarding	Elizabeth McMahon Geraldine Battersby

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Recently Dead Elspeth Mathieson, Joyce Murphy, Katie Thomson, John Keegan, Margaret Hamill, Anne Josephine Murphy, Agnes Hughes, Gerard Keenan, James Pedlar, Peter Mooty, Agnes Fallon, Helen (Devine) Rae

Months Minds Mahon, family, McDonagh family, Nail Family, Heffernan family, Gibbons family, Helen & William Balmer, Susan & George Ilgunas, McKendrick family, Ronnie McKenna, Jean Smith, Rita Mount

Anniversaries Gerry Mitchell, Agnes & Peter Byrne, Daniel Heffernan, Tommy Heffernan



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



A gentle reminder

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

INTERMENT OF ASHES

I have decided to **temporarily** postpone the interment of ashes in the grotto for the time being. The reason for my doing so is that this has now become an increasingly common request and resulted in ashes being interred in different places throughout the grotto but no formal record has been made of whose remains are buried and where.

In respect for the mortal remains of your loved ones, my intention would be to designate a specific area ('Garden of Rest') where such ashes may be interred in the future.

I have forwarded £8229.29 as requested by the Diocese for the entire Diocesan contribution to the cost of transporting the relics of St Therese to every diocese in Scotland.. After expenses incurred amounting to £22,627 we were left with a surplus of £8745 which covers this cost.

RETURN FOR LECTORS



Whilst the normal reader's rota is temporarily suspended, It would be good to return to the practice of having the readings proclaimed by a lay person. Since the return to

public Masses, this has been the practice at the 9.00am Mass.

It would be good to reintroduce this practice at all the other Masses - weekday and weekend Masses. Can you add your name and preferred Mass on a list I will leave out in the church porch.



Thank you.

IMPORTANT FEASTS THIS WEEK

- ♦ Monday **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
- ♦ Tuesday **Our Lady of Sorrows**
- ♦ Wednesday **Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**

FUNERALS SINCE LOCKDOWN

The following were buried from our church over the last six months

**Catherine Davies
George Hastie
Teresa Clark**



**Margaret Kane
Edward Dunne
Isabella Dillon**

Gerard Keenan will be buried from the church after Mass on Wednesday of this week at 11.30am.

**The person who counts the number of
times they will pardon another is not
forgiving but keeping score**

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS SINCE MARCH			
Date	GiftAid	Loose	Total
1st March	£580	£1002	£1582
8th March	£560	£1013	£1573
15th March	£655	£755	£1410
22nd March	£108	£215	£323
Beginning of lockdown			
29th March 5th April	£1510	£110	£1620
12th April	£595	£350	£945
19th April	£688		£688
26th April	£987		£987
3rd May	£868		£868
10th May	£623		£623
17th May	£403		£403
24th May	£629		£629
31st May	£601		£601
7th June	£833		£833
14th June	£465		£465
21st June	£1057		£1057
28th June	£390		£390
5th July	£1075		£1075
12th July	£575		£575
Resumption of Public Masses			
19th July	£1390		£1390
26th July	£460	£915	£1375
2nd August	£714	£1010	£1724
9th August	£634	£865	£1499
16th August	£530	£440	£970
23rd August	£559	£826	£1385
30th August	£595.00	£720.00	£1315
6th Sept	£450.00	£605.00	£1055

As you will see from the table opposite, our parish income took a severe dent during the 16 weeks where public Masses were suspended. In addition we have had absolutely no income from the hall whatsoever. All this means that our financial resources are severely depleted which makes my gratitude to those who have continued to support that parish during lockdown all the more heartfelt.

WHITE FATHERS' APPEAL

Many thanks for your generous response to the Appeal made on behalf of the White Fathers. You gave a very generous **£1625**
God reward you.

GIFTAID CHEQUE

During lockdown I received a cheque from the Inland revenue to the value of **£11,029.38** Which was donated to the parish on behalf of all those who Giftaid their weekly contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the parish.

THANK YOU TO ALL CONCERNED.

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.

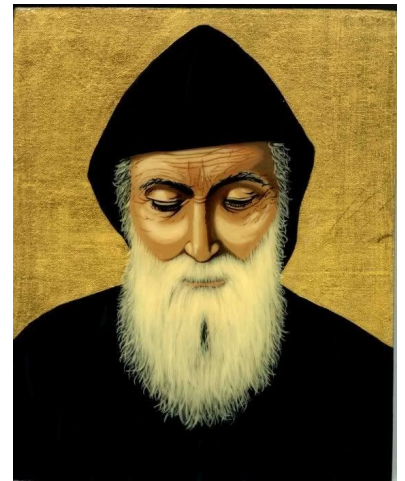
This project was left in abeyance during Fr Francis' illness and then the subsequent lockdown.

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 Lebanese 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



NOVENA TO ST THERESE

The Little Flower



Because of the restrictions it wasn't possible to prepare in the usual way for the Feast of St Therese through a nine week novena.

What I propose is that we should pray a nine day virtual novena in the nine days leading up to her feast day on 1st October. This nine day novena will begin on Tuesday 22nd September and end on the 30th September, the eve of the Little Flower's feast day. It will go out each evening at 7.00pm on the Carfin Grotto Facebook page.