

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

Parish Bulletin for the Thirty-Second Sunday of the Ordinary Season -
11th November 2018 - Remembrance Sunday



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Over the past few days, I have been searching for the Memorial Book with the names of around one hundred of our parishioners who died in the First World War. Alas I have been unable to find it. However, on this Remembrance Sunday, we remember them, and all those, including millions of ordinary people, who died in the wars and conflicts of the Twentieth Century. I have been able to spend some free time this week reading about the heroic work of Roman Catholic chaplains during the Great War, and the comfort they brought to so many men. I would like to share three of their stories.

When conscription was introduced in 1916, the clergy remained exempt. They must have been aware, however, that across the Channel, many French priests had already been conscripted - some worked as chaplains, others as medical orderlies, but the majority were expected to go off to fight at the front, where they were forbidden from carrying out their priestly duties. It is estimated that around four and half thousand French priests and religious were killed in action between 1914 and 1918.



About one hundred and seventy British chaplains of all denominations were killed in action during the First World War, and a high proportion of these were Catholic. The first chaplain to be killed was in fact a priest of the Diocese of Middlesbrough, Father William Finn, attached to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He had been ordered to stay on the landing boat, but seeing the casualties he said: 'the priest's place is beside the dying soldier; I must go.' He was caught in the hail of fire and killed.

One of the most famous chaplains was the Irish Jesuit, Father William Doyle. He was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Like Father Finn he was attached to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Finn left many unforgettable descriptions of his experiences, including this very moving one of Mass in the trenches:

'By cutting a piece out of the side of the trench, I was just able to stand in front of my tiny altar, a biscuit tin supported by two German bayonets. God's angels, no doubt, were hovering overhead, but so were the shells, hundreds of them, and I was a little afraid that when the earth shook with the crash of the guns, the chalice might be overturned. Round about me on every side was the biggest congregation I ever had: behind the altar, on either side, and in front, row after row, sometimes crowding one upon the other, but all quiet and silent, as if they were straining their ears to catch every syllable of that tremendous act of Sacrifice - but every man was dead! Some had lain there for a week and were foul and horrible to look at, with faces black and green. Others had only just fallen. While I held in my unworthy hands their Creator and their Judge, and prayed to Him to give rest to their souls. Surely that Mass for the Dead was an experience not easily to be forgotten.'

Another was Father Francis Gleeson. He was an Irish priest who served as a British Army chaplain during Ireland's involvement in the First World War. Gleeson was ordained in 1910, and worked at a home for the blind, before volunteering for service at the outbreak of war: he was attached to the Royal Munster Fusiliers, and he served with them at the First Battle of Ypres. Whilst moving forward to the trenches on 8th May 1915, in preparation for the Battle of Aubers Ridge, the Commanding Officer ordered the battalion to halt at a roadside by a shrine of Our Lady. Father Gleeson, who had ridden at the front of the column, addressed the assembled eight hundred men and gave them general absolution from his horse. The men then sang the hymns *Hail, Queen of Heaven* and *Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick*. The battalion then moved off to the trenches from which they launched their attack the next morning at 5.30am. They were cut down by machine gun fire before they had advanced more than a few yards - there were around three hundred casualties. Gleeson made it his duty to attend to the wounded and dying, comforting them and giving them the Last Rites, despite German shells falling all around him. Father Gleeson's absolution was the subject of a painting (see above) by Fortunino Matania called 'The Absolution of the Munsters' that was done at the request of the widow of the Commanding Officer.

The war, it seems, did much to dispel the negative myths that were still in circulation about Catholics in those days. Many were deeply impressed by the piety of the chaplains: Catholic and non-Catholic alike, appreciated the consolation offered by them, and eagerly accepted gifts of medals, rosaries and crucifixes.



Eternal Rest
Remembrance of the Holy Souls
during the month of November

SUNG EVENING PRAYER FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE DEAD AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

During Evening Prayer tonight there will be a chance to light a candle for your dead loved ones and place it before the altar in memory of them. At the end of the Service you may wish to take the candle home with you, or to leave it to burn in the Church. Tonight at 6pm. Please join us if you can.

SPECIAL COLLECTION - for education of the future priests of our Diocese. At present we have six seminarians in Colleges in Rome and Birmingham, and three who will begin the preparatory period in Salamanca early in the New Year. It costs around £20,000 to educate one seminarian every year. Please be generous to today's second collection.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIE OF KNOTS

Continues on Wednesday evening - Week 6 - with the Rosary, Novena Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm.

"In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our life." *Pope Francis*

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE DEAD OF THE PARISH

To remember those who have died since the Parish was founded 150 years ago, priests and people alike, and most especially those who have died over the past twelve months, will take place on Saturday 17th November at 10am.



CALENDAR - Monday is the memorial of **St. Josaphat**. Born in 1579 in the then Polish region of Lithuania of Orthodox parents, he became a Catholic and a Ukrainian Basilian monk. Chosen bishop, he worked faithfully for the unity of the Church until he suffered martyrdom at the hands of an angry mob in Russia. On **Tuesday** we will be remembering **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini** (pictured). Born in Italy, one of thirteen children, she went to the United States as a missionary, founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. **Thursday** is the memorial of **St. Albert the Great**, son of a German nobleman, who was studying at Padua when the Master General of the Dominicans, succeeded in attracting him to that Order: he was to become one of its greatest glories. St. Thomas Aquinas was among his pupils. His knowledge was encyclopedic. **Friday** is the Feast of **St. Margaret of Scotland**. **Saturday** is the memorial of **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**. She is famous for her great kindness and inexhaustible charity towards the poor and the sick.

SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A special concelebrated Mass at 1pm during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be given to all those who would wish to receive it. At the end of Holy Mass the Grotto's newest Shrine will be blessed - a monument to mark the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Legion of Mary in Scotland. Light refreshments will be served in the Xavier Centre afterwards. Please note that there will be no 10am Mass today.



PARISH PROGRAMME

SUNDAYS

- ❑ 8am the Parish Church opens
- ❑ 9am Holy Mass
- ❑ 11am Holy Mass
- ❑ 6pm Evening Service in the Parish Church, unless otherwise announced

MONDAY-FRIDAY

- ❑ 9am the Parish Church opens
- ❑ 9.35am the Rosary (except Fridays)
- ❑ 9.35am the Stations of the Cross (Fridays only)
- ❑ 10am Holy Mass
- ❑ 10.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12.30pm
- ❑ 12.35pm The Rosary (except Fridays)
- ❑ 1pm Holy Mass (except Fridays)
- ❑ 1.45pm-2pm Confessions

SATURDAYS

- ❑ 9am the Parish Church opens
- ❑ 10am Holy Mass
- ❑ 4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions
- ❑ 5pm Holy Mass (Vigil of Sunday)

Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Tuesdays after 10am Mass

The Carfin Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes and
St. Thérèse, Thursdays after 10am Mass

Novena to St. Thérèse, Wednesdays after the
1pm Mass with veneration of the Relic

FESTIVE LUNCH AT THE XAVIER CENTRE - SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

Starters

Lentil Soup served with Warm Bread Roll
Honey Dew Melon served with Fresh Fruit and a Raspberry Coulis
Prawn Cocktail served with Marie Rose Dressing

Main Courses

Steak Pie
Braised Sirloin Steak in a Red Wine Sauce
Traditional Christmas Turkey with all the Trimmings
All served with creamed and roast potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Hot Caramel Shortcake with Ice Cream
Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce
Meringue Nest with Strawberries and Cream

***Children's Option: Chicken Nuggets and Chips or smaller portion of above. ***

****Vegetarian Option available but must be pre-ordered****

Adults £16.95. Children (up to 14 years old) £7.50. Payment required one week before event.

To book Call Mick McCormick on 07827975271

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - In the Xavier Centre - more details to follow next week.

THE XAVIER CENTRE - To make bookings please ring 07581239872.

ANNUAL CEMETERY SERVICES - At Saint Patrick's Cemetery, New Stevenston, will take place on Sunday 18th November at 2pm. Fr. Chromy from the Cathedral will be looking after the Liturgy. **The Parish SVDP have generously organised a bus to take anyone who needs transport to New Stevenston. The bus will leave from the car park at 1.15pm.**

At Bothwellhaugh Cemetery, Bellshill, on Sunday 18th November at 2pm. Fr. McGoldrick, from Sacred Heart and Saint Gerard's Parishes. will be looking after this Liturgy.

ANNE MARIE ROSS - would like to thank all those who have sent her Mass cards, good wishes and prayed for her during her recent illness. Holy Mass will be offered for their intentions.

ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY this week, there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

CONTACT US

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SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER SC 011041

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Baptisms are celebrated most Sundays of the year, except during Lent and on Easter Sunday, at 12.30pm.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - At least six months' notice must be given of intention to marry.

Please telephone or email Father McGachey to make an appointment, or speak to Father McGachey or Deacon Jim after Mass at the weekend.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING People IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

RECENTLY DEAD - James Kinsella, Sonny McAvoy, Carol O'Neill, Paul Gaffney, Jeanna Maher, Desmond Innes, Mary Preston, Claire Watson, Lynn Ford, Gisele Mayer, Tommy Mooney, Eileen Douglas, Fred Nimmo, Neales McPake, Thomas Coffey, George Calder, Janette Allan, Jim Hughes, Hugh McLaughlin, Sandra Ferris, Mr Kelly, Jenny Croft, Freda Ward, Frank Milne, Mr McGregor, Jean Hunter, Anne Whyte, Ann Pitcairn, Ronnie Ross, Brian Bonnar, Pat McCann, Francis McGovern, Mary Thomson.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Catherine Bogan, Margaret McGoldrick, James Shannon, Aeneas, Margaret and Stephen Maher, John and Alice Smith, Alex Clark, Martha Cullen, Helen White, Mildred Kelly, Gerry O'Donnell, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, James Patrick Brown, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, Jackie Fleming, Annie Fagan.

*Intimations for inclusion in the Bulletin should reach the Chapel House
by 7pm on Thursday evenings*

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 4TH NOVEMBER - £1839
SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE UPKEEP OF YOUR PARISH

SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

Friday of this week is the feast of Saint Margaret, Patroness of Scotland. Margaret was the daughter of the English Prince Edward, and granddaughter of Edmund Ironside, King of England. After the Danish conquest of England in 1016, King Canute had Margaret's father exiled to the Continent. He was taken to the court of the King of Sweden, and from there to Hungary. Here he married Agatha, and they had three children: Margaret, born around 1045, along with her brother Edgar and her sister Cristina. Margaret and her siblings grew up in devoutly religious surroundings in the Hungarian royal court.



In 1057 Margaret came to England with the rest of her family when her father, Edward, was recalled as a possible successor to her great-uncle, the childless King Edward the Confessor. Following his death in January 1066, and after the victory of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, the family fled to Northumbria. According to tradition, the widowed Agatha decided to leave Northumbria with her children and return to the Continent. However a storm drove their ship north to Scotland, where they sought the protection of King Malcolm III.

Malcolm was a widower with two sons, Donald and Duncan. The marriage of Malcolm and Margaret took place before the end of 1070, and together they had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Margaret's biographer Turgot, Bishop of St. Andrews, credits her with having a civilising influence on her husband Malcolm. At the same time she introduced a string of religious reforms, bringing the Scottish Church into line with Rome and the wider Continent. Margaret was conspicuous for her charity: she personally served a meal to a group of poor people each day before eating herself. She rose at midnight every night to attend the liturgy of Matins. In 1072 she invited the Benedictine order to establish a monastery at Dunfermline. She also began the work of restoring the monastery which Saint Columba had built on Iona. In her private life, Margaret was as devout as she was in her public duties.

Her husband, Malcolm, and their son Edward, were killed in the Battle of Alnwick early in November 1093. Not yet fifty, Margaret died three days later of a broken heart, and was buried in Dunfermline Abbey. In 1250 she was made a Saint by Pope Innocent IV in recognition of her personal holiness, fidelity to the Church and her work among the poor.

In 1560 as the Reformation took hold in Scotland, the Benedictine monks at Dunfermline removed the relics of the Saint in order to save them from being desecrated. It seems that Saint Margaret's skull was taken to the Scots' College, Douai, France, but it was lost during the French Revolution. King Philip II of Spain had the other relics of Margaret transferred to the El Escorial Palace outside Madrid. In the 1860s Bishop Gillis of Edinburgh brought some of the relics of Saint Margaret back to Scotland. These were looked after by the Ursuline nuns at Saint Margaret's Convent, the first post-Reformation Convent in the country; in 2008 the relics were given to Saint Margaret's Church in Dunfermline, where in recent years the annual pilgrimage in honour of Saint Margaret has been reintroduced.