

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Ordinary Season

24th September 2017



OUR LADY, UNTIER OF KNOTS



In October 2015 we began a nine-week novena to Our Lady, Untier of Knots. Since then we have had four further Solemn Novenas - the attendances have been wonderful, Wednesday after Wednesday. We have been able to establish the new shrine behind the sanctuary wall - the only one in Scotland to my knowledge. We have sold almost 5000 of the novena books we had published. Most importantly of all, so many people have had their prayers answered by Our Lady.

On Wednesday 4th October we will begin a fifth Solemn Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots, to ask for her prayers for ourselves and those who are dear to us. Do you have an intention that seems impossible? A problem that seems insurmountable? Then come to this most powerful of novenas! Our Lady will not let you down.

Where did this devotion come from? While studying in Bavaria in the 1980s the Jesuit priest, Jorge Mario Bergoglio - now Pope Francis - saw the painting (above) in the Church of Saint Peter in Augsburg, Germany. So impressed was he with the painting and the story behind it, that when he got back to Argentina he started to speak more and more about "Our Lady, Untier of Knots". He had new copies of the painting made and displayed in different Churches under the title "Our Lady, Untier of Knots". Since then so many favours have been granted to those who have invoked Our Lady under this title.

To show the mission granted to Our Lady by her Son, the artist Johann Melchior Schmitt painted "Mary, Untier of Knots" in 1700. It was originally inspired by a meditation of St Irenaeus (Bishop of Lyon, who was martyred in 202AD) based on the parallel made by St Paul between Adam and Christ. St Irenaeus, in turn, made a comparison between Eve and Our Lady, saying: "Eve, by her disobedience, tied the knot of disgrace for the human race; whereas Mary, by her obedience, undid it".

What are these knots? They are the problems and struggles we face for which we see no solution. Knots of discord in our families: lack of understanding between parents and children; the knots of deep rooted hurt and the absence of peace and joy in our homes. There are also the knots of despair: of separated couples, those who no longer practise their faith, of children and grandchildren who are not baptised. There are the knots of addictions: to alcohol, pornography, drugs, gambling... The knots of loneliness, depression and fear. The knots of unemployment, of health worries, and a million other things besides. The knots of all our lives!

Through this Novena: families have reconciled! The lapsed have returned to the Church! Jobs have been found! Conversions have taken place! Problems have been solved! Our Lady comes to us as the One who unties these impossible knots, the One who knows all about us, who has compassion for us and hurries to help us.

Please join us on Wednesday 4th October, if you can. **Father McGachey**

DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY - TODAY AT 6pm with Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and Benediction



NEXT SUNDAY - is the feast of the Little Flower, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who, since the early 1920's, has had a special place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Carfin. At the conclusion of the Vigil Mass and the two Sunday Mass there will be an opportunity to receive an individual blessing with the Relic of the Saint.

At 7pm there will be a Torchlight Rosary Procession in the Grotto, followed by Veneration of the relic, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Parish Church. Light refreshments will be served in the Xavier Centre afterwards. Please join us if you can.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE LITTLE FLOWER - Concludes on WEDNESDAY this week at 7pm.

THE XAVIER CENTRE - To make bookings or enquires about the Xavier Centre either ring 07581239872 or use the new email address: xaviercentre@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY 4th OCTOBER - NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS begins with Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm.

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

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER - VINCENTIAN DAY - Rosary Procession at 1pm. Holy Mass at 2pm. Celebrant Bishop Toal. (Parents - we need four servers for this occasion - please speak to me if your child can help).

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER - Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood in Scotland. A special collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend.

MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER - FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS - The Annual Innocents Mass and Rosary Procession at 7.30pm. Celebrant Father Hugh Kelly.

FRIDAY 13th OCTOBER - CLOSING CELEBRATION FOR THE FATIMA CENTENARY - ROSARY PROCESSION AND FATIMA MASS - begins at 7.30pm.

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER - ('ROSARY SUNDAY' INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUS SUNDAY) - Bishop Toal will lead a Diocesan Torchlight Procession to bring to a conclusion the Diocesan Centenary celebrations of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

CALENDAR - Tuesday is the memorial of the martyrs **Sts. Cosmas and Damian** who died in 303AD. Tradition holds they were twin brothers, and doctors who never charged a fee for their services. On Wednesday we remember **St. Vincent De Paul** (+1660). He founded the *Congregation of the Priests of the Mission* to preach especially to country people. With the help of Saint Louise de Marillac he established the *Sisters of Charity* to care for the needy and orphans. **Saint Lawrence Ruiz** (a Filipino husband and father) and **Companions** - known as the martyrs of Nagasaki - are remembered on Thursday. Friday is the Feast of the **Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael**. The Biblical scholar **Saint Jerome** is honoured on Saturday.

THANK YOU - The family of the late Ellen Harvey, wish to thank all family, friends and parishioners, of both St Francis Xavier and St Teresa's, for their kindness and support during Ellen's illness, and throughout this challenging period. In particular, we wish to thank Father McGachey, and seminarian Charles Coyle, for their spiritual support, kindness and administration of the Church's Sacraments. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

PARISH AND GROTTO SCHEDULE FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK OF THE ORDINARY SEASON

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER	9.00am Holy Mass 11.00am Holy Mass 12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel Opening of the Chapel of Angels and Little Flower Chapel 6.00pm Evening Devotions in honour of Our Lady with Benediction
MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Pilgrimage Mass in the Parish Church (Fr. McGachey) 1.45pm Confessions until 2pm
TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER SAINT ANDREW'S AND SAINT BRIDE'S HS	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Pilgrimage Mass in the Parish Church 2.00pm Marian Devotion in the Glass Chapel led by HS 1.45pm Confessions until 2pm
WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Pilgrimage Mass in the Parish Church 1.45pm Confessions until 2pm 7.00pm Conclusion of the Little Flower Novena
THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER SAINT ANDREW'S AND SAINT BRIDE'S HS	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Pilgrimage Mass in the Parish Church 1.45pm Confessions until 2pm
FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER TORRIDON CELTIC SUPPORTERS MEMORIAL MASS VINCENTIAN FAMILY PILGRIMAGE	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass in the Parish Church for the Deceased Members of Torridon Celtic Supporters Club 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Rosary Procession in the Grotto 2.00pm Holy Mass to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism Celebrant: Bishop Joseph Toal 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER LITTLE FLOWER SUNDAY	9.00am Holy Mass and the blessing with the Relic of St. Therese 11.00am Holy Mass and the blessing with the Relic of St. Therese 12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel Opening of the Chapel of Angels and Little Flower Chapel 7.00pm Torchlight Rosary Procession in the Grotto, followed by Veneration of the Relic and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Parish Church

CONTACT US

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CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATORS Elizabeth McMahon & Geraldine Battersby

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

SICK — Jacob Canning, Mary Hart, Aqueel Naseem, Susan Inayat, John Brady, Teresa Cochrane, Ellen Knowles, Michael Miller, Elenor Giuberelli, Margaret Curran, Michael Gaynor, John McKeown, Peter McKenna, Nancy Buggie (Cullen), Ella Kearney, Tom Ahearn, Francey Connelly, Jennifer Cunningham, John Cook, Ann Dunbar, Matt Lees, Margaret McMahon (Corby), Mary Doyle, John Reilly, Gill Dobbie, Karen Derbyshire.

RECENTLY DEAD - Ellen Harvey, Jacqueline McMahon, Rosella Smith, James Shallow, John Howley, Jean Smith, Jim Moir, Margaret McCue, Jean Rolfe, Louise Lundberg, Elizabeth Ford, Patrick Moore, Frank McCann, Annie Collins, William Miller, Brian McConville. Agnes Clements, Norman Lucas, Aila Callaghan, Willie Miller, Sadie McMaster.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES — Anna Connelly, Alicia Gallacher, Elizabeth Carr, Yvonne Lynn, Teresa and Joseph Presavage, Elizabeth Tevan Cowan, Mary and Peter Mallon, George and Nancy Cusick, Jean and Tom Fagan, James McGarry, Agnes Byrne, Alex Wilson, Jimmy McAteer.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER - £1698

Sincere thanks for your generosity.