

# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Ordinary Season - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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## FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICAS OF SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL IN ROME

Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of the Dedication of two great Roman Basilicas: Saint Peter's at the Vatican and Saint Paul-outside-the-Walls on the Ostian Way.



The Basilica of Saint Peter stands on the site of the Emperor Nero's *circus*, that is to say, the place where the Roman Games, chariot races and gladiator fights etc. took place. Saint Peter was executed here in 64AD, on, as tradition says, an upside down cross. The historians tell us that the last thing the Apostle would have seen was the great stone obelisk that today stands at the centre of Saint Peter's Square. The Emperor Caligula had the obelisk brought to Rome in 37AD. It was the largest non-inscribed obelisk to leave Egypt. Much of the original circus is under the Basilica and Square.

Saint Peter was buried by his fellow Christians on the Vatican Hill, and great veneration was given to his tomb. At the beginning of the fourth century the Emperor Constantine, had a Basilica built over it. When finished, the edifice was solemnly consecrated by Pope Saint Sylvester. The construction of a new Basilica was begun in 1506 - the present Saint Peter's - and it was consecrated by Pope Urban VIII on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1626, hence the date of the Feast on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

Excavations, carried out in secret at the request of Pope Pius XII, during the Second World War, showed that the present Basilica was built over the tomb of Saint Peter, just as the previous Basilica had been. These excavations, which lie two stories beneath the main floor of the Basilica (immediately underneath are the tombs of the Popes, called the 'Vatican Grottos'), and which are known as the '*Scavi*', can be visited by pilgrims, although in order to preserve this exceptional archaeological site, only around 250 visitors per day are permitted to enter. The '*Scavi*' are well worth seeing if you ever visit the Eternal City!

The Basilica of Saint Paul-outside-the-Walls, situated at the other end of the city on the *Via Ostiense*, is built near the place Saint Paul was martyred - Paul as a Roman citizen was not allowed to be put to death within the city walls - he was beheaded outside.

Over his tomb a Basilica was built during the reign of the Emperor Constantine; it survived for more than 1400 years. However, the Pauline Basilica was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1823. Rebuilt according to its original layout by Popes Gregory XVI and Pius IX, it was the latter who consecrated it in 1854, on the occasion of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In this Basilica there are portraits of every Pope from the time of Saint Peter - with room for many more! It is looked after today by Benedictine monks, and its Archpriest is the American Cardinal James Harvey. **Rev. F. McGachey**



## NO SUNDAY EVENING DEVOTIONS TONIGHT

because of the Cemetery Service at 2pm.  
They will resume next Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King.

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**TODAY** - Bishop Toal has asked us to take up a retiring collection for Saint Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie. Please use the donations box at the back of the Church. Each week the Hospice has to find in the region of £65,000 just to keep going. Please be generous as you always are. **There will be no SVDP collection today.**

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**TODAY** - Annual Cemetery Service at Saint Patrick's, New Stevenston, will be led by Father Gerry Chromy and Father Bill Bergin at 2pm. I am grateful to the SVDP for laying on a bus which will leave the Pilgrimage Centre at 1.15pm. (I am not able to be present because I will be at another Cemetery Service where some members of my family are interred).

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**CHILD PROTECTION** - A training session, designed for anyone who volunteers in the Parish, and who has a PVG certificate, will take place in the Xavier Centre on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November between 7.30pm and 9pm. It is a practical training session with the opportunity to work in groups with fellow volunteers to consider case studies, putting into practice the information and techniques learned. On successful completion a Safeguarding Certificate will be issued. For more information, please speak to Mrs Liz McMahon or Mrs Geraldine Battersby.

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**TUESDAY EVENING** - The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) have asked to have their first Memorial Mass for the Dead at Saint Francis Xavier's, beginning at 7pm. All welcome. I hope that all the members of the 11am Choir and our adult servers will be present to enhance the liturgy.

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## WEDNESDAY - NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIE OF KNOTS - WEEK VIII

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*

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**MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS** - Holy Mass is offered each day during November for those whose names are inscribed in the Parish Book of Remembrance. Please make a special effort to attend Mass, if you can, at least once a week.

**GROTTO FUNDRAISER** - My sincere thanks to all those (almost 190 people) who took part in last Saturday's Quiz Night to help support the Grotto. Almost £4,100 was raised by the event. I am especially grateful to Michael McCormick for all his hard work. Thank you too, to those who donated raffle prizes, and to the winning team for donating their prize money to the Grotto.

**CALENDAR** - On **Tuesday** we celebrate the **Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple**, a feast which dates back to 5th century Jerusalem. The 3rd century Roman martyr and patroness of musicians, **St. Cecilia**, is honoured on **Wednesday**. On **Thursday** we remember **St. Clement** (+100) the third Pope after St. Peter, whose Letter to the Corinthians is of great importance. On **Friday** we recall the two and a half centuries of persecution sustained by the Church in Vietnam. There were 130,000 victims, of whom 117 have been canonised. They include the Vietnamese priest **St. Andrew Dun Lac**, and **St. Theophane Venard**, whose writings inspired St. Therese of Lisieux to offer herself for the missions. On **Saturday** we recall in the liturgy **St. Catherine of Alexandria**. Her picturesque legend ends with her death by beheading and established a devotion which lasted many centuries and made her patroness of philosophers and artillerymen.

**FROM THE LEGION OF MARY** - The Legion of Mary will be holding its annual reunion in Christ the King, Holytown, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The evening will begin at 7.00pm with Holy Mass and the Legion prayers. Afterwards there will be dinner and dancing in the parish hall. All active and auxiliary members are invited to attend. The cost will be £10.00. Those interested in attending should contact Bernadette on 07504 401551.

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER - Solemnity of Christ the King.** At the Vigil Mass tonight Father Marcel Fangoo CSsp will celebrate his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood. He was ordained in our Parish Church twenty-five years ago.

**MARY'S MEALS RAGS TO RICHES CLOTHING COLLECTION** - On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. They will also be selling tickets for their Annual Raffle. Mary's Meals works to provide a daily meal in school for some of the world's poorest children. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, they reach 1.2 million children in fourteen countries.

**HOGMANAY FAMILY PARTY** - in Xavier Centre, 8pm till 1am, with Disco and light buffet. Tickets priced £6, will go on sale in Xavier Centre on Monday 27th November, between 7.30pm and 8.30pm.

**SINCERE THANKS** - The family of Margaret Rose Davidson would like to thank all those who sent Mass and Sympathy Cards and floral tributes - family, friends and neighbours - during their recent sad bereavement. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHES IN THE XAVIER CENTRE - 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

### STARTERS

Lentil soup served with crusty bread  
Prawn cocktail  
Fan of melon served with raspberry coulis

### MAIN COURSES

Roast turkey with sage and onion stuffing  
Braised sirloin steak in red wine sauce  
Steak pie  
Poached salmon served with a hollandaise sauce  
All served with selection of vegetables roast and creamed potatoes  
Vegetarian option available with prior notice  
Children's option: smaller portion of menu or chicken nuggets and chips

### DESSERTS

Fresh cream gateau  
Christmas pudding served with brandy sauce  
Hot apple pie  
All served with cream or ice cream  
Tea and coffee, mints and mice pies

Adults £16.50 Children (up to age 12) £7.50. For bookings contact Michelle Bradley on 07581239872. Full payment required one week before the lunch

## PARISH WINTER SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

- ❖ 8am the Parish Church opens
- ❖ 9am Holy Mass, 11am Holy Mass
- ❖ Evening Service 6pm

### MONDAY-SATURDAY

- ❖ 9am the Parish Church opens
- ❖ 9.35am The Holy Rosary
- ❖ 10am Holy Mass

- ❖ 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed in the Parish Church until 2.30pm (Monday-Thursday)
- ❖ 1pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church (Monday-Thursday)
- ❖ 5pm Holy Mass (Saturdays)

### CONFESSIONS

- ❖ Monday-Thursday 1.45pm-2pm
- ❖ Saturdays 4.15pm-4.45pm

## CONTACT US

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, Parish Priest  
francismcgachey@gmail.com  
Rev. Mr Jim Aitken, Permanent Deacon  
vicechancellor@rcdom.org.uk

**ADDRESS** Saint Francis Xavier's Church, Taylor Ave, Carfin ML1 5AJ

**TELEPHONE** 01698 263308

**WEBSITE** www.carfingrotto.org

**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, Francey Connelly, Jennifer Cunningham, John Cook, Matt Lees, Margaret McMahon (Corby), Mary Doyle, John Reilly, Gill Dobbie, Karen Derbyshire, Johnny Cairney, Billy Milligan, Father Kamran.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Jeanette Moore, Marie Garvie, Thomas Connor, Molly McGeogh, Frank McDonald, Claire McAuley, Bill Brennan, Tony Kilcoyne, Monsignor James Glancy, Ella Conway, Magdalene Clark, May Rose, Mrs Clapperton, Joseph Kane, Rachel Gallacher, Mary Dowdells, Sharon Kennedy, Elaine Lynch, Etta Docherty, Helen Miller, Catherine McHale, Jeanette Moore, Omar Canelon, Ian Cameron, John Lavery, Gerry Doran, James McCrone, Gary Keenan, Father Thomas Welsh SX, Rab Watt, Thoams McGarry, Margaret McCafferty, Johnny Docherty.

**MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** — Frank McMahon, John and Mary McShane, Rosemary and Ronald MacIntyre, Frank, Agnes and Desmond McMahon, Deveney Family, Pauline McMullan, Hugh Bogan, Catherine Bogan, Camilla McDonald, Patricia McCarry, Ann Kelman, Patrick Cullen, Mary Ann Cullen, Martha Cullen, Norah Cullen, Patrick and Ellen Napier, Isabel Joss, Elizabeth Ann Torbett, John and Blanche McAlavey, Ellen Ward (Connelly), Ann Clare Darcey, William Ahearn, James and Alice O'Kane, Peter, Molly and Tom McGuigan, Morag McNamara (McGuigan), Benny, Mary and Kathy Buckley.

Intimations for inclusion should reach the Chapel House by 7pm on a Thursday evening

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - £1707**

Sincere thanks for your generosity.