

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH



Parish Bulletin for the Seventh Sunday of Easter 13th May 2018

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The apparitions of Our Lady to the three children of Fatima took place in the summer of 1917. Portugal had been in state of turmoil: one government falling after another, with each successive regime more atheistic than the previous one. In many ways they wanted to do what the French revolutionaries hoped to do but failed to achieve in the late seventeen hundreds - to wipe out all trace of religion from the country.

The inhabitants of Fatima were mostly poor people, with little education, many of them small farmers who tended their fields and animals. The three children who received the apparitions had been brought up in an atmosphere of poverty but were rich in piety: Lucia



dos Santos (ten years old) [far left] and her two younger cousins, Francisco (nine) and Jacinta (seven). On Sunday 13th May 1917, towards noon, the children had taken a small flock of sheep to graze at the Cova da Iria, a spot outside of Fatima. They prayed the rosary, and after they had eaten their lunch, a flash of lightning caught their attention. They saw the figure of a woman, dressed in dazzling white, hovering above a small oak tree. She asked them to pray the rosary for peace, and to offer up penances and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. She also invited them to come back on the 13th day of each month for five more months.

At this time the Mayor of the district, Artur de Oliveira Santos, a Freemason, devised a scheme to discredit the apparitions by terrorising the children: he tried to bully them into admitting they had lied, threatening to boil them in oil unless they recanted what they had said. Thrown in jail they were unable to see the Lady on August 13th but she would appear to them on the 19th August after they were released.

In the final apparition on the 13th of October, the “Lady” identified herself as “Our Lady of the Rosary” and said: “I have come to exhort the faithful to change their lives, to avoid grieving Our Lord by sin; to pray the Rosary. I desire that a chapel be built here in my honour.” That same day an inexplicable phenomenon took place: the sun seemed to tumble from the sky and crash towards the earth; it then travelled across the sky, zigzagging as it went. A crowd of 70,000 saw this phenomenon, and it was reported by the world’s press.

The two younger children died during the so-called Spanish Flu epidemic which swept through Europe: Francisco in 1919, and Jacinta in 1920. Lucia would die in 2005, at her Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal, after a long illness. Official recognition of the apparitions came in 1930, and since then, Popes have shown exceptional favour toward Fatima: Pius XII, Paul VI, and John Paul II in particular making visits to the shrine. Last year on the 13th May, Pope Francis declared Francisco and Jacinta to be saints during a Mass that was attended by an estimated 750,000 people.

WELCOME

To the groups and families from the HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) who are here for their reunion Mass at 3pm. Also to the four hundred or so pilgrims, who come from near and far, in honour of Our Lady of Fatima - today marks the first of six pilgrimages they will make between May and October. The 13th May is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. We are blessed to have the National Fatima Statue with us that came last year for the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Torchlight Rosary Procession in the Grotto at 7.30pm, followed by Holy Mass, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the traditional Fatima 'Adeus' or 'Farewell'.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS - to the pupils of Primary 4 who made their First Holy Communion, yesterday. I pray that they will come to know and love Christ each day, more and more. I offer my good wishes too to their families too. My sincere thanks to the staff of Our Lady and St. Francis Primary School, especially Mr Maxwell and Mrs Donnelly, for all their hard work in preparing the children for these sacraments.

ANNUAL DEANERY MISSION APPEAL - realised £1,617.49. Thank you.

MAY DEVOTIONS - in honour of Our Lady will take place on Wednesday, with the Rosary, the Litany of Loreto and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm.

NEXT SUNDAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

The fiftieth day after Easter Sunday, and the Feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit. An individual anointing with the Oil of Gladness - a sign of the healing and soothing of God's Holy Spirit in the Old Testament - will be offered at the end of the weekend Masses.

The Legion of Mary Scotland will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary with a special Pilgrimage Mass at 3pm. Celebrant Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, with Bishops Toal, Keenan and McGhee. Rosary Procession and Benediction at 5.15pm.

PROSECCO AFTERNOON TEA

In the Xavier Centre on Sunday 27th May at 2pm. The cost is £15 per head. To book contact Mick McCormick on 0782797527.

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

CALENDAR - **Monday** is the feast of **Saint Matthias** - the *Acts of the Apostles* tells us that he was the one chosen by the Holy Spirit and the Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot. **Saint Isidore** (+1130) is remembered on **Tuesday**. He was a Spanish labourer who worked most of his life as a ploughman for a nobleman who lived near Madrid. Although working many hours a day, he never failed to attend daily Mass, and spend time praying before the Blessed Sacrament. He married a maid-servant, Maria de la Cabeza, who was also a saint. They were always willing to help their neighbours and worked with the poor in the city slums. **St. John I**, Pope and Martyr (+526) is honoured on **Thursday**. A native of Tuscany, he served for many years as the Archdeacon of Rome before being elected Pope at an advanced age. After his election his life and ministry were thrown into turmoil thanks to the interference of the Emperor Theodoric. When Saint John refused to comply with the Emperor's wishes, he was thrown in jail where he starved to death.

THE SEVENTH WEEK OF THE EASTER SEASON

SUNDAY 13TH MAY HCPT PILGRIMAGE FATIMA PILGRIMAGE	8.00am The Church opens 9.00am Holy Mass 11.00am Holy Mass 11.00am The Shrines and the Chapels in the Grotto open 3.00pm HCPT Pilgrimage Thanksgiving Mass - Celebrant Fr. S. Reilly 7.30pm Torchlight Rosary Procession in the Grotto followed by Holy Mass, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the Fatima 'Adeus' or 'Farewell' - Celebrant Fr. F. McGachey
MONDAY 14TH MAY CHILDREN'S FATIMA GROUP	8.30am The Parish Church opens 9.00am The Holy Rosary 9.30am Holy Mass PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME 10.30am Rosary Procession in the Grotto 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church with Bishop Toal NO CONFESSIONS TODAY 7.00pm Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel
TUESDAY 15TH MAY ST. BRIGID'S PS NEWMAINS ST. PATRICK'S KILSYTH	9.00am The Church opens, and will open each day at the same time 9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.45pm Confessions until 2.15pm 4.00pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for St. Patrick's 7.00pm Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel
WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY ST. ANTHONY'S PS JOHNSTONE ST. NINIAN'S HS EASTWOOD	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 12noon Mass for St. Ninian's, Eastwood Glass Chapel - Rev. Spiritan 1.00pm Mass for St. Anthony's, Johstone - Celebrant Mgr. J. Tormey 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church with Novena to St. Thérèse 7.00pm Traditional May Devotions in honour of Our Lady
THURSDAY 17TH MAY ST. NINIAN'S HS EASTWOOD ST. MARY'S LANARK	10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel for St. Mary's - Celebrant Fr. J. Thomson 1.45pm Confessions
FRIDAY 18TH MAY	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
SATURDAY 19TH MAY FIRST COMMUNIONS	NO 10AM MASS TODAY 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 11.00am First Communion Mass 4.15pm Confessions 5.00pm Holy Mass

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 SACRAMENTS

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

SICK - Jacob Canning, Mary Hart, Aqueel Naseem, Susan Inayat, John Brady, Teresa Cochrane, Eileen Knowles, Michael Miller, Elenor Giuberelli, Margaret Curran, Michael Gaynor, John McKeown, Peter McKenna, Nancy Buggie (Cullen), Ella Kearney, Francey Connelly, John Cook, Matt Lees, Mary Doyle, John Reilly, Gill Dobbie, Father Kamran, Yousaf Inayat, Margaret Feeney, Catherine Strain (Watson), James McCluskey, Eva McCluskey, Lorraine Williamson, Mamie Entrican, Jimmy Mays, Robert Higgins, Elizabeth Sawyer, Bernard Donnelly, Paul McAllister.

RECENTLY DEAD - Rose Devlin (O'Donnell), Betty McGuire, Tom Rooney, Michael McLaughlin, Thomas Doonan, Andrew Campbell, Theresa McShane, Michael McDevitt, Gilmour Carson, Peter Wilson, Joseph Kirley, Angela D'Ambrosia, Ronnie Pelosi, Margaret McCulloch, John Devlin, John Maxwell, Margaret Higgins, Rose Abercrombie, Joan Coghill.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND REMEMBRANCES — James Campbell, Fernando Jaconelli, Edward and Elizabeth Burns, Andrew Soares, Mary Burke, Robert Hillis, Hugh Bradley, James Moore, Jamie Moore, Jackie Moore, Moore Family, Lizzie McVey, Gerard Deveney, William Hollinsworth, McCulloch Family, Brown Family, Timoney Family.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 6TH MAY - £1745
Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish