

St Francis Xavier Church

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A - 23rd July 2017

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Parish Clergy:

Fr Francis McGachey

Deacon Jim Aitken

Mass Times



Monday—Friday	10.00 am	
Monday—Thursday	1.00 pm	
Saturday	10.00 am	5.00 pm
Sunday	9.00 am	11.00 am

Confessions

Tuesday	1.45—2.15 pm
Thursday	1.45—2.15 pm
Saturday	4.15 - 4.45 pm



BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE

To arrange a Baptism or Marriage please speak to Fr McGachey or Deacon Jim after Mass at the weekend. At least six months' notice must be given of intention to marry. Please remember that if you live outside of the boundary of Saint Francis Xavier's then you must ask for these Sacraments in your own parish.



THE XAVIER CENTRE

For enquires contact
07581 239872 or email:
xaviercentre@gmail.com

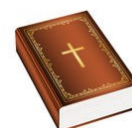


PARISH COLLECTION

Thank you for your contributions to last week's collection. The Parish collection totalled £1685.

EVENING PRAYER

Monday	8.00 pm
Tuesday	8.00 pm
Wednesday	8.00 pm



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MARIAN DEVOTIONS

Sunday	6.00 pm
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THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those who are 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, Daniel Hughes, Jennifer Cunningham, John Cook, Ann Dunbar, Matt Lees, Margaret McMahon (Corby).

Those who have recently died — James Hughes, Mrs Ellen Delaney, Margaret Feenan, Margaret Phillips, Mary Dunion, Mrs Hodgson, Philip Haverstock, Emma Murphy, Joe McNicholas, Patrick Smith, Charles Conlon, Gerard Fergus, Hugh Maguiness, Maurizio Puricelli, Sadie Drage, John Robinson, Mary Boyle, Thomas Law, Paul Barrett, John O'Neil, Irene McEwan.

The months' minds and anniversaries of those we wish to especially remember — Andrew Lees, Gordon Stewart, Fr Duncan Kane, Matthew Phee, Bridget Reilly, Jim Burns, Alicia Gallacher, Gerry Delaney, Mary Kelly, John McFarlane, the McFarlane family, Anna and Tress Devine, the Devine family, Annie Higgins, Bobby Tiffney, Liam Canavan, David McKendrick.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday - St James St James was an apostle, the son of Zebedee and brother of John, called James the Greater. He was put to death by Herod Agrippa about 44AD, being the first of the apostle to be martyred. His shrine is at Compostela in Spain to which many thousands of pilgrims complete the Way of St James or *Camino* each year.

Wednesday - St Joachim and St Anne The named parents of Our Lady and grandparents of Jesus. They are first mentioned in the second-century apocryphal *Gospel* or *Protoevangelium of James*, written about 150AD.

Saturday - St Martha was the sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany. She was a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the son of God when he visited Martha and Mary at the death of Lazarus, whom he would later raise from the dead.

In the twentieth century the Church had a succession of memorable Popes, some of whom we are fairly well acquainted of. However, some of the Popes we will be less familiar with and, over the next few weeks, we will examine the lives of contributions of these lesser known Popes of the twentieth century. This week, we look at the life and papacy of -

Pope Pius XII (1876—1958)

Pius XII, whose original name was Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli was born on March 2, 1876, in Rome. During his reign as pope, the papacy confronted the ravages of World War II (1939–45), the abuses of the Nazi, fascist, and Soviet regimes, the horror of the Holocaust, the challenge of postwar reconstruction, and the threat of communism and the Cold War. Deemed an ascetic and “saint of God” by his admirers, Pius was criticised by others for his alleged “public silence” and inaction in the face of genocide, which claims have since been disproved, and his apparently contradictory policies of impartiality during World War II but fervent anticommunism after the war.

One of four children, Eugenio Pacelli was born in Rome to a family that was part of the papal, or “black,” nobility, which was devoted to service to the Vatican. His great-grandfather had served as minister of finance under Pope Gregory XVI (reigned 1831–46), his grandfather had served as undersecretary of the interior under Pius IX (1846–78), and his father was dean of the Vatican lawyers. After attending state primary schools and completing his secondary education at the Visconti Institute, he studied at the Lateran University and the Gregorian University, earning degrees in canon law and theology. In 1899 he was ordained a priest and in 1901 was appointed to the papal secretariat of state.

He became a cardinal at the end of 1929, and early in 1930 he replaced Cardinal Gasparri as secretary of state. After Pius XI's death on February 10, 1939, Cardinal Pacelli was elected his successor as Pope Pius XII. Trained as a diplomat, Pius XII followed the cautious course paved by Leo XIII and Benedict XV rather than the more confrontational one taken by Pius IX, Pius X, and Pius XI. Hoping to serve as a “Pope of Peace,” Pius XII tried unsuccessfully to dissuade European governments from embarking on war. As part of his policy of preserving the impartiality of the Holy See and serving as mediator between nations, Pius did not want to antagonise fascist Italy and Nazi Germany by issuing an encyclical that would have provoked them, a decision now cited by historians antipathetic to the pope as a sign of his indifference in the face of evil. His defenders, in turn, argue that Pius XII sought to avoid reprisals and greater harm.



In 1950, after discussion with the bishops of the Church throughout the world, he proclaimed as infallible the doctrine of the Assumption of Mary, the only occasion this had been done by a Pope since the dogma of papal infallibility was declared at the First Vatican Council in 1870. The only other infallible statement, that of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, was declared by Pius IX in 1854, sixteen years before the Council would formally declare the dogma.

Many older parishioners will recall that Pius XII was particularly remembered for the onset of liturgical reform in the Church which would be taken further by the Second Vatican Council. Among the early changes he made were -

- He introduced revised Holy Week liturgies, which we celebrate today, in 1955
- In 1953, he reduced the eucharistic fast before receiving Holy Communion from the previous midnight, to a period of three hours and then, in 1957, reduced again to a period of one hour.
- As a result of the new fasting rules, it was now possible to have evening Masses, which were then introduced on a provisional basis.

In failing health, Pius XII died in his summer palace at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on October 9, 1958. Pius's death marked not so much the end of an era for the church as an important transition before it embarked on major reforms under John XXIII (1958–63), who convoked the Second Vatican Council (1959–65). There were those who wondered what changes Pius XII would have fostered if he had convoked the council himself, which it is said he had contemplated.