

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

Parish Bulletin for the Eighteenth Sunday of the Ordinary
Season - 5th August 2018



OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Today the Church celebrates the feast day not of a saint, but of a building - the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, one of the four most illustrious churches of Rome (the other three being: St. John Lateran [the Pope's Cathedral in the Eternal City], St. Peter's at the Vatican [the spot where St. Peter was martyred], and St. Paul Outside the Walls [marking the place where St. Paul was killed for the faith]). Santa Maria Maggiore, as the Basilica is known in Italian, is the most important church in the world dedicated to Our Lady; it is the biggest church in Rome which honours Our Lady, hence the reason it is called 'Maggiore' meaning 'greatest' or 'biggest'.



Even today the Basilica is sometimes known as the *Liberian Basilica*, in honour of Pope Liberius (352-66AD). According to a pious legend, which probably dates from the Middle Ages, Our Lady appeared in a dream to two Roman Christians, the married couple John and Placida, who were wealthy members of Rome's Patrician or upper class. She is said to have asked them to build church in her honour on the Esquiline hill (one of the 'seven hills of Rome'). The location would be indicated, she had said, by a fall of snow on the night of 4th-5th of August. They told Pope Liberius about the

dream, and he is said to have traced the outline of the building in the snow, and the first basilica was built on that site. For this reason, the basilica is sometimes called *Our Lady of the Snows* (*Sancta Maria ad nives*, in Latin); something which is further underlined by the fall of white rose petals which takes place this evening at the end of Vespers.

Leaving the pious legend aside, history tells us that Pope Liberius was a firm crusader against the *Arian* heresy, which denied that Jesus was truly divine. We know that during Liberius' Pontificate the Esquiline Hill had been settled by barbarian troops who were largely Arian sympathisers. By building a church there in honour of Our Lady, Liberius perhaps wanted to underline divinity of Jesus, and that Mary was his mother.

Pope Liberius' basilica fell into ruin and almost disappeared. The present-day basilica replaced the original structure when Pope Sixtus III (432-40AD) decided to build a new and more magnificent one. In many ways Sixtus wanted to underline Mary's title as 'the Mother of God', which had been given her by the Council of Ephesus (in modern-day north western Turkey), which took place in 431AD. The title itself rejects Arianism by implying that Jesus was truly divine as the Son of God, and truly human as the Son of Mary. Sixtus decorated the walls of the basilica with mosaics from the lives of Christ and Mary - these survive to this day.

From earliest times the basilica claimed to have a precious wooden relic, believed to be part of the crib in which Our Lord was placed at Bethlehem. Sixtus reproduced the grotto of Bethlehem - this was adorned and enriched over the centuries. The wooden relic is encased in a reliquary under the main altar, and can be visited today. It is for these reasons that the basilica became known as the *Basilica of Saint Mary of the Crib* (*Sancta Maria ad praesepe*), a kind of Bethlehem in the Eternal City. For centuries the Popes celebrated the first Mass of Christmas there.

The basilica is visited by over a million people each year, including his Holiness Pope Francis, who visits to pray before the icon of Our Lady that hangs in one of the side chapels, the Borghese Chapel - *Maria, Salus Populi Romani* (Mary, health of the Roman People), before he begins one of his Apostolic journeys around the world; he also visits on the way back, and leaves a bouquet of flowers in thanksgiving. **Father McGachey**

WELCOME

To Deacon Mark O'Donnell, who is with us until the 9th September. He is a parishioner of Saint Thomas', Wishaw, and about to begin his last year as a student in the Pontifical Scots College in Rome. He trained as a teacher of Mathematics before entering the seminary. I am sure you will make him really welcome. Next Sunday, during Evening Prayer and Benediction, I have invited him to give a reflection which he gave at the Grotto in Lourdes during the Diocesan Pilgrimage in July - it was very well received by those who heard it. I hope you will come and listen to what he has to say about the mercy of God. Begins at 6pm.

To Archbishop Mario Delpini, Archbishop of Milan (Europe's largest Diocese), who will be joining Bishop John Keenan and the people and clergy of Paisley Diocese who are here today for their Annual Pilgrimage Mass and Rosary Procession.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO SAINT THERESE

The annual Novena to Saint Thérèse begins on Wednesday of this week at 7pm. This year we will follow a slightly revised programme: the service will include the Twenty-five Glory Be's, Litany of Saint Thérèse, Novena Prayers with veneration of the Relic and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

If you would like your petitions to be remembered at the Novena, then please use one of the petitions sheets, available at the back of the Church, and put it in the Novena box by the statue of the Little Flower. Please include no offerings with these. Let us be mindful of the promise of the Little Flower: "When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from heaven; I will spend my heaven by doing good upon earth."

AUGUST - is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We would like to honour Our Lady especially during this month. Therefore at 12.35pm, Monday-Thursday, either Deacon Mark or myself will lead the Rosary before the 1pm Mass. Join us, please if you can.

I will be leading Evening Prayer and Benediction, with Deacon Mark in the Glass Chapel, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. It will be a sung service with the organ. It is a lovely way to conclude the day.

WEDNESDAY 15th AUGUST - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY INTO HEAVEN

Masses on Tuesday 14th August at 7pm, and at 10am and 1pm on the day. The 1pm Mass will be a concelebrated liturgy during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be given to anyone who wishes to receive it. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF SAINT PHILOMENA SATURDAY 18th AUGUST

St. Philomena's remains were discovered in 1802 in the Catacombs of Priscilla in Rome. The relics were taken to Mugnano del Cardinale in Southwestern Italy in 1805 and became the focus of widespread devotion, with many miracles credited to her intercession. Numerous Saints had a strong devotion to her including: St. John Vianney, Pope St. Pius X, the Leper Saint, Damien of Molokai, the bishop of Philadelphia, St. John Neumann. She is real wonder-worker for those who ask for her help.

Holy Mass at 11.30am with veneration of the Relic and Anointing with Holy Oil from her shrine in Italy. 1.30pm Rosary Procession and Novena Prayers in the Grotto, concluding with Benediction at 3pm.

EIGHTH ANNUAL GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE - SUNDAY 19th AUGUST

Will take place in the Parish Church on Sunday 19th August at 3pm. The afternoon begins with Holy Mass during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be given to anyone who would wish to receive it. Bishop Brian McGee is the main celebrant. A special invitation is extended to grandparents, their children and grandchildren to attend. There will be a Rosary Procession after Mass at 4pm, followed by light refreshment in the Xavier Centre.

Linda Lafferty, the Children's Liturgy co-ordinator, is looking for some help with the organising of this event. Anyone who is able to assist is invited to come to a short meeting on Monday night at 7pm in the Xavier Centre.

SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST PAISLEY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE	8.00am The Church opens 9.00am Holy Mass for the Eighteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am Holy Mass for the Eighteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am The Shrines and the Chapels in the Grotto open 12.30pm Baptism 3.00pm Holy Mass for Paisley Diocese - Celebrant Bishop John Keenan 5.15pm Rosary Procession in the Grotto
MONDAY 6TH AUGUST OUR LADY OF GOOD AID CATHEDRAL AND SAINT LUKE'S	9.00am The Parish Church opens and opens each day at the same time 9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass the Solemnity of the Transfiguration 12.35pm The Holy Rosary 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel for the Cathedral and St. Luke's 1.45pm Confessions 7.00pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel
TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST SAINT JAMES THE GREATER, COATBRIDGE	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 12.35pm The Holy Rosary 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel for St. James' 1.45pm Confessions until 2.15pm 7.00pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel
WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 12.35pm The Holy Rosary 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church with Novena to St. Thérèse 7.00pm The Little Flower Novena - Week 1
THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST OUR LADY OF LOURDES, EAST KILBRIDE	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 12.35pm The Holy Rosary 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel for Our Lady of Lourdes 1.45pm Confessions until 2.15pm 7.00pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel
FRIDAY 10TH AUGUST	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST	9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 4.15pm Confessions 5.00pm Holy Mass
SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST	9.00am Holy Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am Holy Mass for the Nineteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am The Shrines and the Chapels in the Grotto open 6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction

CONTACT US

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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

We are no longer able to publish the names of the sick in our weekly Bulletin because of the new Data Protection Laws that came into force on Friday 25th May 2018.

RECENTLY DEAD - William O'Brien, Breda Martin, Andrew Walker, Ann McVie, Edward Cunningham, James McGuinness, Peter Brawley, Sam Brownie, Catherine McAuley, Patrica Chance, Alice McCormick, Patricia McKinnon, May Kelly, Jean Moore, Teresa McCartney, Kit McAuley, Betty McVey, Catherine McAuley, Joseph Hughes, Stephen Campbell, Paula Elliot, Mrs McKeffery, John Fagan, Mr Mitchell, Jenny Dymock, Pat Leonard, May Higgins, Paul Docherty, David McAuley, Ross Craig, Mrs Hassan, Betty Brogan, Catherine McLean, Anne McPherson, John Lavery, Mary Reilly, Catherine McLean.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND REMEMBRANCES — Jean McGahan, Anne Muldoon, Elizabeth Carr, Rosemary Carr, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James Patrick Brown, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, Monica Byrne, William Wood, Margaret Rose Waugh, Maurice McMonagle, Dan Leslie, George O'Donnell (Shettleston).

Intimations for inclusion in the Bulletin should arrive before 7pm on a Thursday evening

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

FOR SUNDAY 29TH JULY - £1621. Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish.