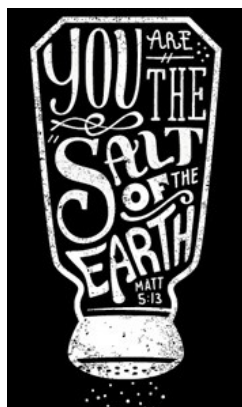




St Francis Xavier's Carfin

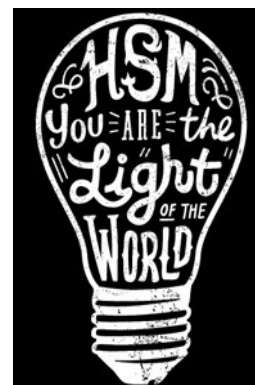
Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML1 5AJ



FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

9th February 2020

*You are the Salt of the Earth...
You are the Light of the World...
Let your light shine for all to see.*



PREPARING FOR HOLY MASS - WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US TODAY?

Isaiah

In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives examples of how we are to allow the light of God to shine through us; share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor ... in this way **your LIGHT will rise in the darkness.**

Paul

Your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Matthew

Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth: in other words to add flavour to the lives of others, especially those in need of our help. Jesus also calls us to be the light of the world: in other words, to radiate Christ's light to people all around us illuminating the way, removing the darkness caused by hatred. We radiate Christ, the Light of the world, by our kindness and respect for others.



This week you are invited to celebrate

MON	Feast of St. Scholastica	
	10.00am	Holy Mass
	7.00pm	Holy hour vigil
TUE	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes	
	10.00am	Holy Mass
	1.00pm	Holy Mass for the Sick
WED	10.00am	Holy Mass
THU	10.00am	Holy Mass
FRI	Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius	
	10.00am	Holy Mass
SAT	10.00am	Holy Mass
	5.00pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday
SUN	Sixth Sunday of the Year (A)	
	9.00am	Holy Mass
	11.00am	Holy Mass

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

I am thrilled to use the above salutation, '**My dear parishioners**', for the very first time. It goes without saying that I am delighted to have been appointed to this wonderful old parish of St Francis Xavier and guardian of Carfin Grotto. Having been brought up in Calderbank, only a few miles from here, I was no stranger to the grotto as a child and continued to make many visits to the grotto during the almost 37 years of my Priesthood. I am immensely proud to belong to a diocese which has this beautiful shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Therese at its very heart. Having been no stranger to St Francis Xavier parish, especially during the time of Mgr. Millar, I am well acquainted with your proud tradition and sense of community.

I pledge with the help of the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Therese and St John Vianney (*four of my closest 'friends'*), to serve you all to the very best of my ability. I beg your patience with me as I 'learn the ropes' with regard to the practices and customs of your parish. I ask your prayers for me and you can be most assured of my prayers for all of you.

With sincere hope and trust in God for what is to come,

Fr Jim

CONFESSIONS: Sat after 10.00am Mass
 Sat 4.15pm - 4.45pm
 Thu 7.00pm - 7.50pm
*Blessed Sacrament will be exposed.
 Night Prayer at 7.50pm*



P. S. Please call me 'Fr Jim' (or '**FATHER**' for short) for, although I appreciate the more informal and friendly form of address, it would be a great pity to drop the beautiful title 'Father' from Catholic vocabulary for I wish you to know that I promise to do my very best to fulfil the role of a spiritual father to you all.



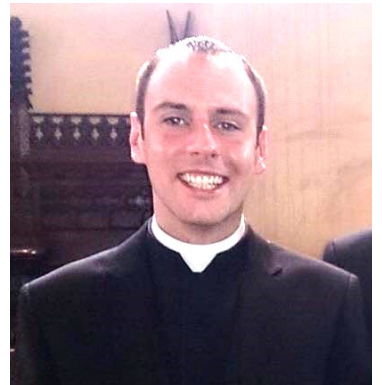
Thank you so much, Fr. Francis

As I begin my ministry here in Carfin, I feel it not just appropriate but 'right and just' to express my gratitude to Fr Francis McGachey for everything he has done here in St Francis Xavier's during his time as your Parish Priest. As you all know he has worked tirelessly for the parish and the grotto and such selfless activity seems to have taken its toll on his health. Fr Francis is a perfectionist and I know from first hand the effort he put into ensuring that the liturgies both in the parish and the grotto were prayerful and uplifting. One cannot walk around the grounds of the grotto and not marvel at the various improvements he has made in recent years. This parish and the Diocese of Motherwell are greatly in his debt. Let us

continue to hold him in prayer and ask Our Lord and His Blessed Mother to watch over him, comfort and console him and in God's good time, restore him to full health and return him to fulltime ministry within the Diocese. ***Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him. St Therese of Lisieux, Little Flower of Jesus intercede for him.***

Goodbye Fr. Sean and good luck in the future

In the same vein, on behalf of all of you, my new parishioners, I would like to acknowledge the contribution Fr Sean Wyllie has made to this community in the short time he was with you. I have heard nothing but excellent reports of his time with you. He was very happy here but the Lord has exciting new plans for this young priest as he takes up the reins of two parishes within the diocese. Bishop Toal has entrusted him with two lovely parish communities in a rural setting. I have every confidence that he will do great work in Larkhall and Blackwood and I am sure they will take to him very quickly. We wish him the very best of luck and we keep him in our prayers. ***Our Lady, Queen of Priests, pray for him. St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests, intercede for him.***



Tuesday 11th February is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

MONDAY

FEB 10TH 7.00PM

**AN HOUR WITH
MARY AND BERNADETTE**

Let us imagine that we are present at the grotto of Massabielle, in the dark of night. The prayers and liturgy for this evening will take place in the church by candle light, an attempt to replicate the beautiful prayerful

atmosphere we encounter in Lourdes itself. As preparation for the feast, we shall spend a 'holy hour' in the company of 'The lady' (of Lourdes) and the little Bernadette Soubirous. ***At the end of the holy hour there will be an opportunity to venerate a relic of St Bernadette.***

The Motherwell Diocesan Music Group will provide the music.

TUESDAY

Masses at 10.00am and 1.00pm

***The Sacrament of the Sick
will be offered
at the 1.00pm Mass***



Refreshments in the Parish Centre after 1.00pm Mass

THURSDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS



7.00 pm - 8.00 pm
**Quiet Hour of Prayer
Before the Most
Blessed Sacrament.**



**At 7.50 pm we conclude with a
simple Night Prayer**

Visit of the Relics of the Little Flower

SOUVENIR BOOKLETS



A most interesting booklet was compiled as a souvenir of the historic visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux to Scotland. It contains many interesting articles and photos—one of which was written by Fr McGachey.

These are on sale for £5.00 from the porch of the church. If you cannot afford the £5.00, then please leave a donation of what you can afford. ***Please leave the money in the box provided.***

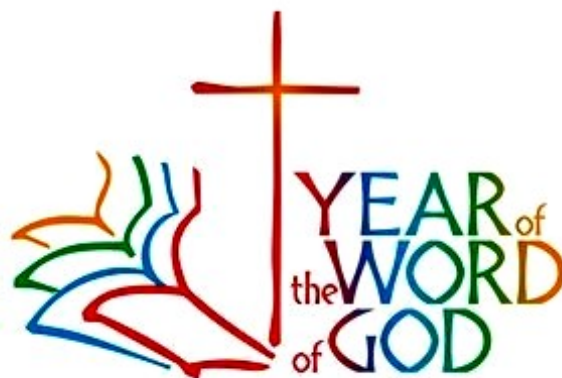
PRAY FOR MORE VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD PARTICULARLY FROM OUR OWN FAMILIES.



Every priest is some mother's son, and if we want more home grown clergy, we have to encourage, support, and foster our young men. This encouragement takes place principally in the family:

Let us take heart from St. Augustine. In one of his sermons, he preached as follows:

"Do not imagine that there will be no more good shepherds, or that we shall find them lacking, or that the Lord's mercy will not produce and establish them. Certainly, if there are good sheep, there are also good shepherds; good sheep give rise to good shepherds." Let us never cease from praying for good diocesan sheep and shepherds!



One of my suggestions for Lent (see below) is to take up Pope Francis' call to celebrate this year as a **YEAR OF THE WORD OF GOD** and to prayerfully explore the Sunday Gospels as a group. There is an ancient method of doing this called 'Lectio Divina' (Sacred Reading) but please don't be put off with the Latin title. It's actually a very simple and profitable way of coming to know the Lord better through the reading of Sacred Scripture. *More about this in the future.*



Look out - Lent is not so far away!

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 26th.

Each year, our Holy Mother, the Church offers us this time of grace as well as challenge when we are invited to take up the ancient Christian practices of **PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING**, *practices which we share with other religions*. Our Mother, the Church invites us, Her children, to make use of these tried and tested ways that we might come closer to God and to each other. Please start thinking about how you will keep this Lent, 2020. I would hope to offer a few suggestions in the coming weeks. And set each of you a challenge.

Here are a few things I am thinking about:

- ♦ A form of Morning Prayer of the Church before weekday Masses
- ♦ A Monday evening Mass preceded by Evening Prayer of the Church.
- ♦ An opportunity to reflect as a group on the following week's Sunday Gospel (a form of 'Lectio Divina')
- ♦ A daily 'Pilgrim's Mass' at 1.00pm (preceded by the Holy Rosary or Stations of the Cross)
- ♦ An hour of prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament on an evening during the week (with an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confession)).

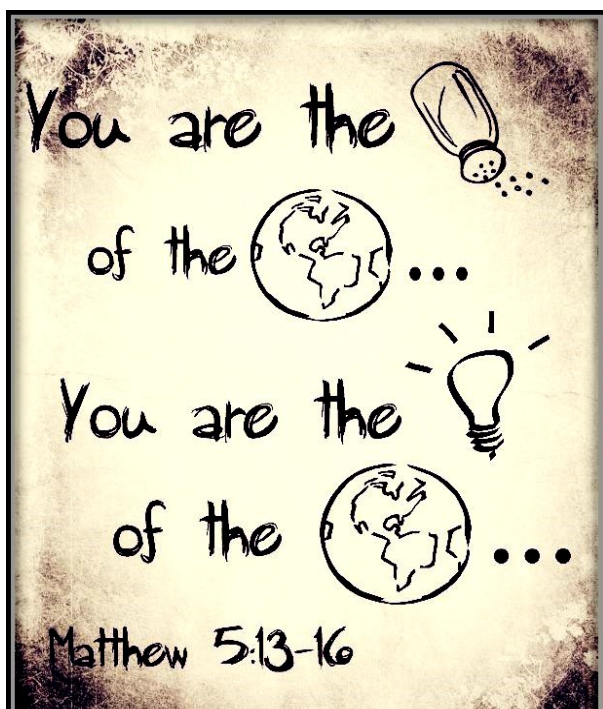
It goes without saying that each person can choose their own challenge which they can carry out individually but sometimes it helps us persevere in whatever challenge when accompanied by others.

Fr Jim

 PARISH INFORMATION 		
	Clergy:	Fr Jim Grant, PP. Deacon Jim Aitken
	Address	Taylor Avenue, Carfin Motherwell, ML1 5AJ
	Telephone	(01698) 263308 Hall Hire 07581239872
	Email	stfrancisxavier@rcdom.org.uk xaviercentre@gmail.com (Hall)
	Website	www.carfingrotto.org
	Facebook	www.facebook.com/carfingrotto
	Twitter	twitter.com/CarfinGrotto
	Instagram	www.instagram.com/carfingrotto
	YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UC-coiodOEbTzTiOhlfKpfXw/
	Safeguarding	Elizabeth McMahon Geraldine Battersby

FAITH SHARING GROUP

I have been asked by Janet Kelly from Newarthill to extend an invitation to any who may be interested in joining a 'Lenten Faith Sharing Group. They meet on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm - 3.30pm with tea and socialising to close. Janet's Tel. No. is 01698 734171 or 07700300831 for any who would like further details. An evening meeting could be arranged for any who might be interested.



LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE FOLLOWING:

Recently Dead	Sharon Mair, Sheila Murphy, Betty McFadden, Rose McAleese, Isabella Collins, Peter Dougan, Betty Bradshaw, Jessie Gallagher
Months Mind	Eric and Teresa Williamson, John McCormack Snr., Teresa Sweet, Agnes and Gerald Riordan, James Cullen
Anniversaries	Fr Richard Lillis, Canon Kieran O'Farrell, Fr Sean O'Shea, Mary Rodgers, Rachel McGahan, John Riordan, Hugh and Mary Cullen
Birthday Remembrances	Martin Kane, Emma Murphy, Kathleen Burns, James Burns, Elaine Doail



*Eternal rest give unto them O Lord.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

GiftAid : £750

Loose : £950

Total : £1,700

FINANCE: *Many thanks, for your continued support: If you pay tax and have not already taken out gift aid on your donation and wish to do so, please consider doing so. IT WOULD INCREASE YOUR DONATION BY 25% AT NO EXPENSE TO YOU, as we claim that amount from the Inland Revenue.*

GEORGE FRAME George Frame, who is with us on placement as part of his preparation for ordination to the Permanent Diaconate, will be admitted as a Candidate for Ordination on Sunday 23rd February at the 11.00am Mass. Bishop Toal will be the main celebrant at Mass.

SCIAF BOXES These are available from the church porch for those who wish to use them for their Lenten almsgiving. Please feel free to take them away and return them during Holy Week.

HELP Can you spare an hour or so preparing/serving refreshments in the Xavier Centre after the 1.00pm Mass on Tuesday?

Any help before or after the Mass would be greatly appreciated.

