

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist - 24th June 2018



WHAT SAINT BERNADETTE SAW AT LOURDES...

Today, Sunday, we host the annual Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalité Mass for the Sick. At least some of those who are being taken to Lourdes this summer as sick pilgrims will be here, along with the young people who are going as their helpers. During Mass the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered to anyone who is able to receive it.

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to the fourteen-year-old Marie Bernarde (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11th and July 16th 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times. On March 25th she said to the little shepherdess, who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Here is an account of what happened in her own words...

I had gone down one day with two other girls to the bank of the river Gave when suddenly I heard a kind of rustling sound. I turned my head toward the field by the side of the river but the trees seemed quite still and the noise was evidently not from them. Then I looked up and caught sight of the cave where I saw a lady wearing a white dress with a bright belt. On top of each of her feet was a pale yellow rose, the same colour as her rosary beads.



At this I rubbed my eyes, thinking I was seeing things, and I put my hands into the fold of my dress where my rosary was. I wanted to make the sign of the cross but for the life of me I couldn't manage it and my hand just fell down. Then the lady made the sign of the cross herself and at the second attempt I managed to do the same, though my hands were trembling. Then I began to say the rosary while the lady let her beads slip through her fingers, without moving her lips. When I stopped saying the 'Hail Mary, she immediately vanished.

I asked my two companions if they had noticed anything, but they said no. Of course they wanted to know what I was doing and I told them that I had seen a lady wearing a nice white dress, though I didn't know who she was. I told them not to say anything about it, and they said I was silly to have anything to do with it. I said they were wrong and I came back next Sunday, feeling myself drawn to the place....

The third time I went the lady spoke to me and asked me to come every day for fifteen days. I said I would and then she said that she wanted me to tell the priests to build a chapel there. She also told me to drink from the stream. I went to the Gave, the only stream I could see. Then she made me realise she was not speaking of the Gave and she indicated a little trickle of water close by. When I got to it I could only find a few drops, mostly mud. I cupped my hands to catch some liquid without success and then I started to scrape the ground. I managed to find a few drops of water but only at the fourth attempt was there a sufficient amount for any kind of drink. The lady then vanished and I went back home.

I went back each day for two weeks and each time, except one Monday and one Friday, the lady appeared and told me to look for a stream and wash in it and to see that the priests build a chapel there. I must also pray, she said, for the conversion of sinners. I asked her many times what she meant by that, but she only smiled. Finally with outstretched arms and eyes looking up to heaven she told me she was the Immaculate Conception.

During the two weeks she told me three secrets but I was not to speak about them to anyone and so far I have not. *From a Letter of Saint Bernadette*

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Today we commemorate the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, the only person, apart from Jesus and his Mother Mary, whose earthly birthday is celebrated in the Church's calendar. Ordinarily the Church observes the day of a saint's death as their feast day, because that day marks their entrance into heaven, their heavenly birthday or *dies natalis*. It is no coincidence that we remember the Birth of the Baptist just a few days after the Summer Solstice on the 21st June, when the sun is at its highest in the sky. In the northern hemisphere at least, the 21st of June is the longest day, and now the days are now growing shorter! We remember the Nativity of Christ just a few days after the Winter Solstice, 21st December, the shortest day, when the days begin to lengthen. It was Saint Augustine who saw in this natural phenomenon an echo of the words of the Baptist when he said, "He must increase, I must decrease" John 3,30.



DIOCESAN LOURDES DAY MASS FOR THE SICK

Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at 3pm, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Celebrant Right Rev. Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell. Tea/Coffee and cakes will be served in the Xavier Centre afterwards. All welcome.

THIS FRIDAY - SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Masses: Vigil Thursday 7pm, 10am and 1pm. Parents, please try to ensure that your children get to Mass on Friday since the schools will be on holiday by then.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS - We are ready to start recruiting some new servers, from Primary Three upwards. If any boy or girl is interested in serving, then please speak to Father McGachey after Mass. Parents please encourage your children to get involved.

CALENDAR - **Tuesday** is the memorial of **St. Josemaria Escrivá de Balaguer**, the Spanish founder of Opus Dei, a movement which opened a new way for the faithful to sanctify themselves daily through their work in the world. **St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria**, is remembered on **Wednesday**. He was one of the great defenders of the faith against the heresy of Nestorius who denied that in the person of Christ the two natures of humanity and divinity co-exist equally. **St. Irenaeus**, bishop of Lyon is remembered on **Thursday** - a brave theologian, he defended the true faith and was martyred for it. On **Friday** we remember **Saints Peter and Paul**. **Saturday** is the feast of the **First Martyrs of Rome**: the nameless followers of Christ brutally killed by the mad Emperor Nero as scapegoats for the fire in Rome. The pagan historian Tacitus tells of a night of horror (August 15 in 64 AD) when in the imperial parks Christians were put into animal skins and hunted, brutally attacked, and were made into living torches to light the road for Nero's chariot.

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

<p>SUNDAY 24TH JUNE</p> <p>DIOCESAN LOURDES DAY</p>	<p>8.00am The Church opens 9.00am Holy Mass for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist 11.00am Holy Mass for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist 11.00am The Shrines and the Chapels in the Grotto open 3.00pm Diocesan Mass for the Sick - Celebrant Bishop Joseph Toal</p>
<p>MONDAY 25TH JUNE</p> <p>SAINT COLUMBKILLE'S, RUTHERGLEN</p>	<p>9.00am The Parish Church opens and opens each day at the same time 9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel for Saint Columkille's, Rutherglen 1.45pm Confessions until 1.45pm 7.00pm Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel</p>
<p>TUESDAY 26TH JUNE</p>	<p>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 7.00pm Evening Prayer and Benediction in the Glass Chapel</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE</p> <p>SAINT PATRICK'S, KILSYTH</p> <p>SAINT BRIDE'S, EAST KILBRIDE</p>	<p>9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass for the end of the School Term with OLSF Primary 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Holy Mass in the Parish Church with Novena to St. Thérèse 1.00pm Holy Mass for Saint Bride's, East Kilbride in the Glass Chapel 1.45pm Confessions until 2.15pm 4.00pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for Saint Patrick's 7.00pm Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with Benediction</p>
<p>THURSDAY 28TH JUNE</p> <p>VIGIL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL</p>	<p>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 7.00pm Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul</p>
<p>FRIDAY 29TH JUNE</p> <p>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL</p>	<p>9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 1.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 2.30pm Wedding</p>
<p>SATURDAY 30TH JUNE</p>	<p>9.35am The Holy Rosary 10.00am Holy Mass 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm 5.00pm Holy Mass</p>
<p>SUNDAY 1ST JULY</p>	<p>8.00am The Church opens 9.00am Holy Mass for the Thirteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am Holy Mass for the Thirteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Season 11.00am The Shrines and the Chapels in the Grotto open</p>

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 - Anne McGinley, Agnes McMullen, Robert Kane, Guido Gauci, Ethan Hughes, Susan Kiernan, Betty Neeson, James Meechan, Teresa Robinson, Terry Robinson, Mandy Robinson, Marie Wilson, John Cullen, Owen Bonner, Betty Russell, Margaret Sharkey, Joe Rafferty, Hannah Cullen, Frances Kane, Annie O'Hare, Alex McGurk, Mary Catherine Reilly, Bridget Coyle, Margaret Duffy, Theresa McNally, Kevin McFaulds, Bobby Watson, Annie Smith, William Moore, Delia Ferry, Elizabeth Murphy, Margaret Aitken, Rosaline Ferry, Gerard Bradley, Patsy Murphy.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND REMEMBRANCES – Josephine Wileman, Alicia Gallacher, Katie Giblin, Giblin Family, Hodgson Family, Elizabeth Carr, Frank and Phil Milne.

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

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

FOR SUNDAY 17TH JUNE - £1792

Sincere thanks for your generosity to our Parish