

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Third Sunday of Lent - 4th March 2018



WE ADORE THEE, O CHRIST AND WE PRAISE THEE...

The fourteen Stations of the Cross are amongst the most popular of all Catholic devotions, and are to be found displayed in almost every Church. What is their origin?



With the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity in 312AD, Christians, who until then had been persecuted, enjoyed many new freedoms: not only could they celebrate the liturgy in public, but they were also able to move from place to place without fear of arrest. As the number of converts grew, so too did the desire to see the places associated with Our Lord's life, death and resurrection. By the end of the IV century, despite primitive means of transportation, and often dangerous conditions, considerable numbers of people were going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Amongst the first to travel there was the Spanish woman Egeria. Her *Intinerarium*, an ancient travelogue which survives to this day, recounts her visits to the various holy sites, especially those associated with Our Lord's Passion.

When Jerusalem was captured by the Turks in the XII century, pilgrimage to the Holy Land became impossible. Never to be outdone, the Franciscans during the XIII century promoted a new devotion known as the *Via Crucis* (the Way of the Cross) which would bring Jerusalem to the people, and so allow them to make a spiritual pilgrimage, through prayers and imagery, to the scene of Christ's death. The devotion has remained popular to this day. Every Friday afternoon, the Franciscans, who are known as the Custodians of the Holy Land, lead a solemn Stations of the Cross along the *Via Dolorosa* (the Sorrowful Way) in the narrow, cobbled streets of the Old City of Jerusalem.

It is interesting to note that while most of the Stations are based on Gospels, one is based simply on popular piety. The Scriptures make no mention of Veronica from the sixth station, but tradition says she was one of the holy women referred to by the Gospels, who accompanied Christ. It is said that she wiped his face with her veil, on which an imprint of his face was left. Her name, translated from Latin, is made up of two words: "vera", meaning "clear or true", and "icona", (or "eikon" in Greek), meaning "image" - together they form the name "Veronica", meaning "True Image." She is depicted most famously at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, in the ten-metre-high statue that faces the Papal altar. Three similarly-sized statues stand in Saint Peter's, two of which are associated with the Passion of Jesus: one of St. Longinus, the soldier who pierced Our Lord's side, from which "blood and water" flowed; the other of St. Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine. After she converted to Christianity, she built churches in Rome and in the Holy Land, and is said to have discovered the some of the wood of the True Cross in excavations which she had ordered to be carried out in Jerusalem. The fourth statue is of Saint Andrew, Patron of Scotland.

That other popular figure, Simon, is mentioned by the evangelists: he was visiting from Cyrene (in modern day Libya). He and his sons, Alexander and Rufus, became well-known members of the Christian community of Jerusalem. **Fr. McGachey**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tonight at 6pm

READINGS AT SUNDAY MASS - This Sunday, and for the next two Sundays, we will move from the Readings for cycle B to the cycle A Readings - readers please note this change. The readings for Year A, especially the Gospels, are the classical texts which have been read during Lent for centuries. They show an awakening of faith in the woman at the well, the man born blind, and in the sisters of Lazarus at his resurrection.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Monday at 7pm

NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS with Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday at 7pm

*“In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our life...” Pope Francis
Because of the bad weather last Wednesday the attendance was much reduced, with
people unable to travel. For this reason we will make this Wednesday’s novena
Week 2 rather than Week 3*

THE SEASON OF LENT 2018

HOLY MASS IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 8.25am parents please encourage your children to come
Monday-Saturday - 10am
Monday-Thursday - 1pm
Sundays - Vigil 5pm, 9am and 11am

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.45am-3.00pm
Thursday 12.15pm-3.30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sunday with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - 6pm
Monday with Holy Communion - 7pm
Monday to Friday - 9.30am, Monday to Thursday - 12.30pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Thursday 1.45pm-2.15pm, Saturday 4.15pm-4.45pm

NEW PUBLICATIONS - There are two new prayer cards: one Honouring Our Lady of Lourdes, with special prayers for the 160th Anniversary, and a new ‘I lit a candle for you’ card - both priced 50 pence each. Available both at Our Lady’s altar and the back of the Church.

NEXT SUNDAY IS SCIAF SUNDAY - A special collection will be taken-up to support the work of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund at all Masses. Please return your small SCIAF Lenten Alms boxes to the sacristy by the end of Holy Week.

COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN NEEDS - On Palm Sunday, the 6th Sunday of Lent.

CALENDAR - SATURDAY IS THE FEAST OF SAINT JOHN OGILVIE - John was born in 1579 - at Drum-na-Keith in Aberdeenshire, the son of Walter Ogilvie, a Scottish nobleman, whose father had been treasurer to Mary Queen of Scots. He raised his son John in the religion of Scotland in those days, Calvinism. Walter was ambitious for his son, and sent him abroad to study at the university at Louvain in Belgium. Here John would meet Catholics for the first time, and their example impressed him so deeply, that he was received into the Catholic Church at the age of seventeen. John joined the Jesuits soon after in 1597, and was ordained to the Priesthood in Paris in 1610. He repeatedly requested permission to return to Scotland where massacres of Catholics had taken place. His request granted, he returned in November 1613, working as an underground missionary in Edinburgh and Glasgow. In order to avoid the Queen's priest-hunters, he disguised himself as a soldier named Watson. After eleven months John was betrayed, and eventually imprisoned, interrogated, then tortured for the names of active Catholics. He suffered in silence, and was hanged on 10th March 1615 at Glasgow Cross. Ogilvie was canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1976.

THANKS - Mrs McAlinden would like to thank all relatives and friends for all their kindness and expressions of sympathy on the recent death of her son Brian. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHES IN THE XAVIER CENTRE - SUNDAY 11th MARCH AT 3pm

Starters

Lentil soup served with crusty bread
Fan of melon served with a raspberry coulis
Prawn cocktail

Main Courses

Breast of chicken served in a white wine sauce
Braised steak served in a red wine sauce
Poached salmon
Steak Pie

All served with a selection of vegetables, creamed potatoes and roast potatoes

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER

Desserts

Hot Apple Pie
Strawberry cheesecake
Served with cream or ice cream
Hot Carmel cake served with custard

Tea and Coffee mints

Children up to 14 years can have half portion of above or chicken nuggets and chips
Price £16.50 adults £7.00 children

To book call Michael McCormick on 07827975271

CONTACT US

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CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATORS Elizabeth McMahon & Geraldine Battersby

SCOTTISH CHARITIES NUMBER SC 011041

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 THIS WEEK

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.

RECENTLY DEAD - Peter Dean (Funeral details to be confirmed), Anthony McCue, Stephen Gamble, John Hailstones, Elisa Treanor, Michael Reid, Ellen Barclay, Mrs McGuire, James Sweeney, Grace McBride, Margaret Adelstein, Beata Kollataj, Charlotte Jordan, Betty Wilson, Grace Chalmers, May Kelly, Jackie Fleming, Leigh Tinto, Tom Lennon, Betty O'Byrne.

MONTHS MINDS, ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Jim Paterson, Gerry McKinley, Peter Daly, Cathie Hughes, Elizabeth Carr, Frank McMahon, John and Mary McShane, Rosemary and Ronald MacIntyre, Frank, Agnes and Desmond McMahon, Hughie, Mary and Charles McShane.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 25^H FEBRUARY - £1781

SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE UPKEEP OF YOUR PARISH