

# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

The Eighth Sunday of the Ordinary Season  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 2017



## THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

Wednesday of this week is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The English word 'Lent' comes from the Anglo-Saxon *Lencten*, meaning 'spring'. The name in other languages, for example, Italian *Quaresima*, or Spanish *Quaresma*, or French *Carême*, comes from the Latin *Quadragesima*, meaning 'a period of forty days'. In the Christian tradition, forty days refers to a time of intense prayer and preparation; it is a reminder of the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and of Christ's forty-day fast in preparation for his public ministry.



*Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.*

The development of Lent as a period of preparation for Easter began in the Third century with a preparatory fast before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. The length of this fast varied from place to place, but by the end of the Fourth century it was a definite period of forty days to be undertaken especially for those who were to be baptised at Easter. However with the growing number of infant baptisms, and the separation of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) which no longer took place all at once, the baptismal character of Lent diminished, and was replaced with a more penitential emphasis.

From around the Sixth century the faithful began to sprinkle ashes on their foreheads at the beginning of the Lent, and the start of Lent was moved from a Sunday to the preceding Wednesday, so that there would be exactly forty days of fasting - reckoning Holy Saturday to be the last day of Lent. The Sundays of Lent did not count!

The Second Vatican Council in the 1960s reinstated the double focus of the Season: baptism and penance. It also clearly defined the duration of Lent: **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the morning of Holy Thursday. So Lent has six Sundays, 'Palm Sunday' being the sixth.**

### *Ash Wednesday - a day of Fasting and Abstinence*

Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence, that is to say: all persons who are between 14 and 60 are bound to abstain from eating meat. The law of fasting requires a Catholic between 18 and 60 to reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals (collations) which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

### *Ash Wednesday from the Eternal City*

For many centuries it was the custom to visit the most historical churches of Rome, known as the 'Stational Churches', one each day during the Season of Lent. Reintroduced in the early 1970s by the staff and students of the North American College in Rome, each day around 300 English speaking pilgrims gather for Mass at 7am in the designated Church. On Ash Wednesday there two stational churches, connected by a Penitential Procession: the Benedictine Church of Sant'Anselmo and the Dominican Church of Santa Sabina both on the Aventine Hill. At 3.30pm on EWTN (sky channel 589 or online <https://www.youtube.com/user/vatican>) you will be able to see the Penitential Procession and followed by the Papal Mass. If you want to see and read a little about each day's stational church, then visit the North American College website: <https://www.pnac.org/station-churches/the-roman-station-liturgy>. **Father McGachey**

**ROSARY AND THE LITANY OF LORETO  
AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tonight at 6pm. We honour Our Lady this week in our Sunday night devotions.  
Please join us if you can.

---

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK** - The Bishops have asked us to take up a special collection today to support to work of the Catholic Education Commission.

**ENROLMENT MASS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN** - of Primary 3, 4 and 6 and 7, for the sacraments of Confession, Communion and Confirmation, will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February (tomorrow) at 7pm. *I would like to have all our altar servers serve at this Mass, please.*

---

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY THIS WEEK**

**HOLY MASS** - 10am and 1pm in the Parish Church.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** - 10.45am until 3.30pm.

**CONFESSIONS** - 1.45pm-2.15pm.

---

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - each Sunday for Primary 1-7 during the 11am Mass.

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

---



**WE BEGIN OUR NEXT NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS  
on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
with Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
at 7pm in the Parish Church**

“In this unfailing novena Our Lady comes to untie the knots of our  
life.” *Pope Francis*

---

**SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT DANCE** - in the Xavier Centre on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, from 7.30pm till midnight. Tickets are priced £7 each, which includes a buffet. Music is by local band *Southside*, and there is a dancing display from a local Irish Dancing School. For tickets, please contact Mick McCormick on 07827975271.

**PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION** - You are invited to explore the richness of our Catholic prayer and spiritual tradition during 4 sessions in the Xavier Centre, Carfin on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March from 11.15am-12.45pm. The sessions will be led by Anne Moore and Fr Tom Magill. No need to book. No cost. Just come along.

**SAINT GERARD'S AND SACRED HEART PARISHES** - invite you to join them for a Lenten All-Night Vigil on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm to 8.00am, in St Gerard's Church, Fleming Road, Bellshill, ML4 1NF. The Vigil will include a full schedule of both communal and private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. More details on the notice board.

# THE SEASON OF LENT 2017

---

Wednesday of this week is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at 10am (with the children from Our Lady and Saint Francis PS), 1pm and 7pm Masses. It is not a holyday of obligation.

Make Lent a truly holy time for yourself and your family. Please find time to come to the Church for the different liturgies or simply to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

## **CHURCH OPENING (from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March)**

Opening at 7.45am. It closes at 7pm unless there is an evening service.

## **HOLY MASS IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 8.25am (from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March)

Monday-Saturday - 10am

Monday-Thursday - 1pm

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.30am-3.00pm

Thursday 12.15pm-3.30pm

**Eucharistic Adoration will conclude at 3.00pm with the Divine Mercy Chaplet**

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Sunday with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - 6pm

Monday with Holy Communion - 7pm

Monday to Friday - 9.35am

Monday to Thursday - 12.35pm

## **CONFESSIONS**

Monday-Thursday 1.45pm-2.15pm

Saturday 10.30am-10.45am; 4.15pm-4.45pm

## **NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS WITH ROSARY AND BENEDICTION**

Wednesdays 7pm (Begins on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March)

## **OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

Tuesday after 10am Mass

## **SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX**

Wednesday after the 1pm Mass with the veneration of the Relic

## **CARFIN NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT THERESE**

Thursday after 10am Mass

**MONTHLY SAINT PEREGRINE MASS** - This Thursday at 7pm.

**FIRST SATURDAY** - This coming Saturday. Confessions 9.15am, Devotions 9.30am and Mass 10am.

## CONTACT US

**CLERGY** Rev. Dr. Francis G. McGachey, Parish Priest  
francismcgachey@gmail.com  
Rev. Mr Jim Aitken, Permanent Deacon  
vicechancellor@rcdom.org.uk

**ADDRESS** Saint Francis Xavier's Church, Taylor Ave, Carfin ML1 5AJ

**TELEPHONE** 01698 263308

**WEBSITE** [www.carfingrotto.org](http://www.carfingrotto.org)

**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** — Mary Hart, Aqueel Naseem, Susan Inayat, Julie Fleming, Nan Rooney, Patricia Griffiths, John Brady, Teresa Cochrane, Ellen Knowles, Michael Miller, Elenor Giuberelli, Margaret Curran, Michael Gaynor, John McKeown, Peter McKenna, Nancy Buggie (Cullen), Ella Kearney, Leodhais MacDonald, James Hughes, Tom Ahearn, Francey Connelly.

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Ruth Canavan Lister, Danny Fearon, Margaret Paterson, Theresa Gallacher, Willie Rogers, Martin McHugh, Robert Braiden, Philip Scanlon, Veronica Tobin, May Lambert, Margaret Murphy, John Milloy, Anna McAdam, Mary Gallagher, Danny Fearon, Sophie Docherty, Victoria McArdle, Charles Webster, Kenneth Colton, Mick Gilhooley, Charlie Robertson, Joseph Connolly, Peter McShane, Theresa Grant, Kathleen Graham, Philip McClory, Michael Tighe, Pauline Schoneville.

**MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES** - Michael McGuigan, Alice O'Rourke, Kevin O'Rourke, Bartholomew and Ellen O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family, James and Alice Doherty, Doherty Family, Joseph, Annie and Kathleen Hughes, Michael and Gwyneth Clark, George and Susan Ilgunas, Cathie Denholm, Tommy Denholm, Alicia Gallacher, Elizabeth Carr, Ercole DiVito, Neil McCulloch, Antonio Marini, Guiseppe Marini, Guido Marini, Antoinetta Marini, Antonio DeVito, Marietta DiVito, Giovanni Marini, Iolanda Marini, Kealy Family, Sheridan Family.

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - £1711**  
**SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE UPKEEP OF YOUR PARISH**