

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

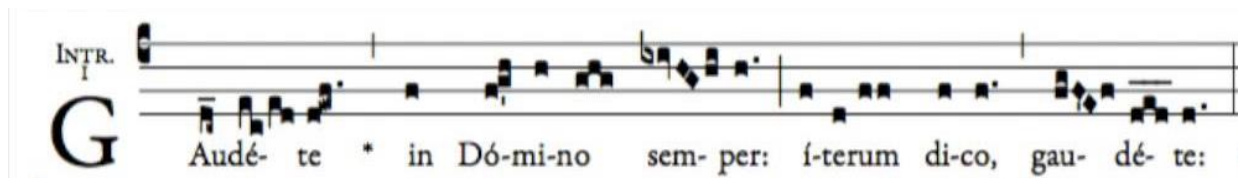
The Third Sunday of Advent - 17th December 2017



GAUDETE SUNDAY

In the days when Mass was celebrated in Latin, certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year took their names from the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon. In our own time this Antiphon, although still found in the Missal, has largely been replaced by a processional hymn, at least on Sundays and major feasts.

Two well-known examples of this would be: the Sunday after Easter (often referred to as 'Low Sunday' in Britain because of its contrast to the high solemnity of Easter Sunday) was known as '*Quasimodo* Sunday' from the First Letter of Saint Peter chapter 2 verse 2 "*Quasi modo geniti infantes...*" ("Like newborn babes...").



The Fourth Sunday of Lent was known as '*Laetare* Sunday' because the Introit began "*Laetare Ierusalem...*" ("Rejoice, Jerusalem..."). See text above is written in Plainsong or Gregorian Chant notation.

This Third Sunday of Advent is often still known as '*Guadete* Sunday' taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians chapter 4 verse 4: "*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete*" (Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice). '*Gaudete*' means therefore 'rejoice' - it is the imperative (or command) form of the Latin verb '*Gaudere*' that is, 'to rejoice'.

The reason for our rejoicing is that we have now passed the mid-point in Advent, and we are asked not so much to focus on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time, but rather to turn our minds to celebrate the feast of his First Coming at Bethlehem - Christmas.

You will notice that the mood lightens somewhat in the readings and prayers of today's Mass. This lightening of the mood of Advent is also reflected in the use of rose vestments today - normally royal purple or violet is used during Advent. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath on this *Gaudete* Sunday is traditionally rose-coloured. In the purple floral arrangements before the altar and pulpit some roses have been added as another sign of rejoicing and the proximity of Christmas. **Father McGachey**

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

INDIVIDUAL BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC OF SAINT LUCY - will be given after Masses this weekend. Saint Lucy is the patron saint of those with problems with the sense of sight.

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI - Deacon Jim will bless these in the sacristy after the 11am Mass today. Please make your way there for the collective blessing.

CANDLELIGHT SUNG EVENING PRAYER WITH *LUCERNARIUM* AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - TONIGHT 6pm

Many of us will have grown up going to devotions and Benediction on Sunday evenings. Unfortunately many parishes have lost this tradition. During Advent we will have Candlelight Evening Prayer (Vespers) which will begin with an Evening Thanksgiving for Light (*Lucernarium*) and conclude with Benediction. We invite you to join us for this beautiful service.

HOLY MASS

Monday-Saturday Holy Mass 10am. No 1pm Mass

DEVOTIONS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY

On the Wednesdays of Advent at 7pm with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

CONFESSIONS

Use Advent as a time to make a good Confession in preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Confession times here are:

Wednesday 20th December and Thursday 21st December 1.30pm-2.15pm

Thursday 21st December 7pm-8pm with three priests

Saturday 23rd December 10.30am-11am and 4.15pm-4.45pm

Sunday 24th December from the end of 10am Mass -11.30am

The children from Our Lady and Saint Francis Primary School will be coming to Confession, Monday-Wednesday, of this week.

BULLETIN FOR CHRISTMAS DAY - There will be no bulletin next Sunday, but one on Christmas Day. If you would like your dead family and friends to be included in the Christmas Remembrances, then please ensure that their names reach the chapel house by 11am on Saturday 23rd December.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION - You should find with your bulletin today a 'Christmas Collection' envelope. This income goes to the parish to help support its daily liturgical life and wider ministry. Unlike many other parishes, it is the only time when we ask for anything extra for the parish - please be generous if can.

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

THE WESTERN CALENDAR - Is on sale in the porch, price £3.20 each. In it you will find all the details and Mass times of every parish in Motherwell, Glasgow and Paisley dioceses, amongst many other things.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Please collect your new rota, including for the duties for the Christmas liturgies, from the sacristy today.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - unclaimed Baby Jesus figurine, ticket number 5. Please collect it from the sacristy today.

AN INVITATION TO PENSIONERS - To enjoy an afternoon of festive music with the Pope Francis Award pupils of Saint Teresa's Primary School. This will take place at the Hibs Club on Friday 22nd December, between 12.45pm and 2.15pm. All welcome.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vigil Mass 5pm (Saturday) and 10am (Sunday) Confessions from 11am-11.30am

No 9am or 11am Mass to allow preparation of the Church for Christmas

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and being a Sunday, the Lord's Day, we are obliged to be at Mass, either the Vigil Mass on SATURDAY EVENING, or at Mass on the SUNDAY MORNING.

Mass on Sunday evening at 7pm, is the First Mass of Christmas, and therefore does not cover the obligation of being at Mass on Sunday. It is rather to meet the obligation of attending Mass on Christmas Day - which is a holyday of obligation.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sunday 24th December - A Service of Carols and Readings 6.30pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas with choir 7pm

Candlelight Midnight Mass with choir 12am

Monday 25th December - Day Mass of Christmas with choir 10.30am

NEW YEAR'S EVE - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 31st December Vigil Mass 5pm (Saturday), 9am and 11am with choir

11.30pm a Candlelight Service of Thanksgiving for the old year, and to ask for God's blessing on the new year, with Night Prayer (Compline) and Benediction

NEW YEAR'S DAY - FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday 1st January Festal Holy Mass with choir 10.30am

After Mass today, bottles of Holy Water, blessed during Mass, will be distributed for you to take to bless your homes

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 7th January Vigil Mass 5pm (Saturday), 9am and 11am with choir

6pm *A Festival of Light* with Readings and Carols for Epiphany Sunday Night

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

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, Margaret McMahon (Corby), Mary Doyle, John Reilly, Gill Dobbie, Karen Derbyshire, Johnny Cairney, Father Kamran, Yousaf Inayat, Margaret Feeney,

RECENTLY DEAD - Ellen Cook, Nancy Feeney, Nan McGhie, Thomas McCusker, Rae Anderson, Robert Todd, Rose Peters, Mrs Kennedy, Neil McHugh, Thomas Conlon, Michael Dunnachie, Mary Moore, Margaret Quinn, Billy Duncan, Robert Ayton, Ellen Kelly, Anna McCool, Ronnie Pelosi, Rae Anderson, Albino Tomei, James Gordon, Mary Moore, Elizabeth Totten, Rose Peters, James Simpson.

MONTHS MIND, ANNIVERSARIES, AND BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES — Margaret Johnston (Connelly), Joe Ferrie, Eddie McMahon, Bernard, Catherine and Michael Hughes, Johnny McMahon, Gerry Carson, Hugh Reynolds, Margaret and Pat Cox, Mary Cox, Stephen Fleming, Foss Family, Marie Coyle, Eleanor Mallon, Sadie Teague, Trevor Horton, Patrick Naughton, James Naughton, Winifred Naughton, Alex Graham, Therese Cairns, Joseph Wilson, Ann Clare Darcey (Keenan), Rose Leonard, Eliza Sinnett, Peter Connelly.

Intimations for inclusion in the CHRISTMAS DAY Bulletin should reach the Chapel House
by 11am on Saturday 24th December

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER - £1730

Sincere thanks for your generosity.

