

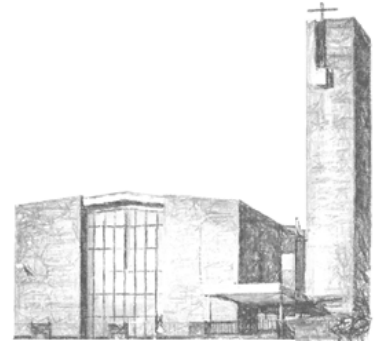
# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

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Father Frank Dougan, Deacon Bill McMillan & Sister Sophie McGinness



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

Mon	10:00	Mass
	18:00	Reception of Remains
Tue	10:00	Mass - funeral of Mary McManus
Wed	10:00	Mass - Funeral of Alice Meechan
Thu	10:00	Mass - St Ambrose
	19:00	Mass - St Ambrose
Fri	07:00	Mass
	10:00	Mass - Immaculate Conception
	19:00	Ordination to the Diaconate of Kevin Kirby
Sat	09:00 - 09:45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	09:15 - 09:45	Confessions
	10:00	Mass
	16:15 - 16:45	Confessions

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

	17:00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sun	09:00	Sunday Mass
	11:00	Sunday Mass
	14:00	Autism Friendly Mass

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

[ISA 63:16-17; 64:3-8](#)

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

[PS 79:2-3,15-16,18-19](#)

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

[1 COR 1:3-9](#)

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

[MARK 13:33-37](#)

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

We are the clay in the potter's hand, as writes Isaiah. However, there are often many problems the potter has to overcome while working with clay. If it is too hard or soft, if there are imperfections or irregularities, the potter has to work harder to get a good pot or plate out of it. As we begin this season of Advent, let us place ourselves willingly in the hands of God, and He will work us into the best we can be.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### THE SICK

Richard Carnichan, Catherine Sheed, Len Kelly.

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Mary McManus (funeral Tues 10am), Alice Meechan (funeral Wed 10am), James O'Neil, Gerald Carroll, Peter Hayes, Ann Brady, Moira Devine, Barney Coyle.

#### ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS, BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES

George Tait, Ciaran James Newlands, James McGarry, Bernadette Johnstone, Jane McNamara.

### COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS - THANK YOU

Cash	£1,387
Envelopes	£335
Standing Orders	£905
Estimated Gift Aid	£265
	<b>£2,892</b>

Stall received £ and votives £190.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Children's Mass at 17:00. Carol Service and Mass at 20:30.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day Mass at 10:00.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND

### FOODBANKS

The next collection for our local Foodbanks is **this** weekend. This will be our last one of 2023 and the one that will cover the Christmas period. As in previous years, we will not have a collection in January. Thank you so much for your incredible and relentless support and for enabling so much to be done for those most in need.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, CARFIN – GOLDEN JUBILEE

There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by Bishop Toal, on Monday 4th December at 7.00 pm, to mark the Golden Jubilee of St Francis Xavier Parish Church, which was opened in 1973.

### MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

The annual Mass for Deceased Clergy will take place in St James the Greater Church in Coatbridge on Wednesday 6th December at 7.00 pm. At this Mass we remember especially those who have died during 2023 – Canon Joe Clements, Fr Damian Gilhooley and Fr George Donaldson.

### KEVIN KIRBY- DIACONAL ORDINATION

As you know, Bishop Toal will be here on Friday to ordain Kevin to the Diaconate. You are all warmly invited to this. Kevin's ordination is principally a parish event, so there is a place for everybody to come along and celebrate. There will be a bun fight in the hall afterwards.

### AUTISM-FRIENDLY MASS

As usual, this will be next Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) at 14:00. It is principally directed towards those who might struggle with the noise, busyness, and length of a Sunday Mass. So, it will be shorter with minimal movement, no singing, no lights or microphone. Please pass this on to someone who might benefit from it.

Mon	18:30	Legion of Mary	Hall
	18:30	Faith sharing Group	Oratory
Tue	09:00	Knitting and Craft Group	Hall
	09:25	Novena, Rosary & prayer for Priests	Church
	19:30	Bingo	Hall
Wed	10:30	Café after morning Mass	Hall
	09:25	Novena, Rosary & prayer for Priests	Church
Thu	10:30	Mother and Toddler Group	Hall
	13:00	Friendship Group	Hall
Fri	09:25	Novena, Rosary & prayer for Priests	Church

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## FUTURE SERVICES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Pope John Paul II began the tradition of 'Bambinelli Sunday' to remind families about the joyous event of Jesus' birth.

We will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' at all our Masses on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 17<sup>th</sup>). Everyone is invited to bring their baby Jesus figure from their home cribs to be blessed by Father Frank.

Children will also receive a baby Jesus at the children's liturgy. After the blessing, the children are invited to take their baby Jesus home, wrap him in Christmas paper and place him under their Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, the Bambinelli is the first Christmas gift to be unwrapped and placed in the family crib.

### ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

This will be at St Leonard's Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Fr Quinn will lead a service including a communal act of contrition followed by an opportunity for individual confessions with a number of priests present.

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## OTHER NOTICES

### SEASON OF ADVENT

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. This is primarily a season of hope that looks in two directions: backwards as we remember the mystery of Christmas; and forwards as we look towards Christ's return.

The structure of the season reflects this: from the 1st Sunday of Advent until 16<sup>th</sup> December the prayers and readings urge us to prepare for the Lord's second coming.

From December 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> the focus turns on the Nativity and preparing to celebrate God's presence among us 2000 years ago.

The colour for the season is purple, the same as with Lent. We use the Advent wreath as a focus, lighting one new candle each week as we prepare to celebrate Christ who came as the light in the darkness.

For those unfamiliar with the book, it provides the daily scripture readings for mass. Talk to John Burns for more information.

### FRIDAY DROP-IN LUNCH INITIATIVE

This continues on Fridays in December (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) from 12:00 until 14:00. It is open to all and does not require any form of registration or notification. It is simply a case of turning up and being able to access the lunch items - soup and roll/bread, tea and coffee with biscuits.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Vast majority of people attend Mass on Christmas Eve, so one Mass on Christmas Day should ensure a more substantial congregation.

### ADVENT MASSES

For the three Fridays of Advent there will be a 07:00 Mass.