

The Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Best wishes to all our parishioners who are currently on holiday and welcome back to those returning from foreign parts. As we are approaching the end of the month of July we will continue to focus on the visit of the **Relics of St Therese** (Teresa) to Scotland at the end of August. The main devotions to St Therese will be taking part at Carfin. All the details can be found on our noticeboard. In addition there is a lot of useful information as well as prayers and devotions to be found on websites dedicated to the visit. **Look at Sancta Familia who are based in Mossend.**

The **relics of St Therese** will be staying with us through the evening and the night of **August 29th**. We do not know exactly when they will arrive. It might be any time between **10.00 pm** and **11.00 pm**. As the month of August progresses both devotions and Masses will be celebrated in honour of the Saint. These will be in addition to the prayers and devotions we have been saying throughout July. There will be opportunities for Confessions at Carfin during the visit. Take a look at the timetable for suitable times.

This **weekend** there will be the opportunity to **venerate the relic of St Therese** which we have in the parish. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Veneration of the relic.

A **reminder** that our parish day at Carfin Grotto will take place on **Wednesday 21st August**. We will lead the 1.00 pm Mass in the Glass Chapel as well as the Office of Vespers in the evening.

On **August 16th** the Church windows will all be cleaned both outside and inside. On **August 22nd** the Church will be closed and all carpets will be cleaned as well as the area of the porch. We will celebrate Mass in the hall until the end of the week in order for the carpets to dry.

McCormick Gardens are hosting an Open Day on Friday 9th August between 12.00 and 2.00 pm. All are welcome There are details of the event on our notice boards including information where the funds are going to go. Take a look!

A **reminder** that **August 15th** is the feast of the **Assumption of Our Lady** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

This Sunday our parish will be enriched with the wedding of Mary and Brian after our Mass as well as the Baptism of their little girl Perrie Rose. Stick around to see the bride at 11.30 am!!

Third Catechesis. Do saintly families still produce saints? In the case of Saint Therese there is food for thought. **Louis** and **Zelie Martin** had hopes of becoming members of religious Orders. Both were turned away, Louis on the grounds that his Latin was weak, Zelie on the grounds of poor health. They met, fell in love, married and had nine children. Each became very proficient in their chosen occupations, Louis as a watchmaker, Zelie as a gifted lacemaker. Their family life was characterised by great warmth and affection. It was a family life rooted in the Catholic faith of France where devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes was making such an impact. The Martin family attended Mass together, prayed the Rosary, recited the Angelus and took Lent seriously. Catholic symbols were in their home. Louis made a private chapel which was frequently used. Faith was practised by both the parents and the children. It was a faith that seems to have sustained them following the deaths of four of their infants. The parents were even generous enough to allow five of their daughters to enter the Convent at Lisieux. Both the parents were **canonised by Pope Francis on October 15th 2015**. Their saints' day is on July 12th. However, the age we live in points to a great decline of both religious practice and religious affiliation. 52% of people in our country say they have 'no religion'. While we have many Catholics who may be Sacramentalised there is a feeling that many are not really touched deep in their DNA. Perhaps Sacraments are becoming more social rites of passage than sacred celebrations geared for ongoing commitment to the Lord and the Church. Statistics tell us that whenever both parents practise there is a 50% chance of their children practising in later life. Most Catholics who leave the practise of the Faith do not generally return. A sign of the times. Is it all **doom and gloom**? Is the age of the Martins over? Is it still possible to produce saints from our homes? Many parents feel guilty, downhearted, saddened. **But be of good heart** and while accepting that the cross has a variety of shapes and forms look for signs of the Kingdom which also comes in a variety of shapes and forms. Give the Lord thanks for the blessing of nine priests in two years the products of our Catholic families. **Rejoice** in the company of our children and frequently bless them and their young parents. Avoid anything that sows the seeds of hurt or gossip or unkindness in the parish for this is the Evil One at his best. **Let generous hearts** be ready to send out encouragement, good example and a love for the times we assemble to pray. Draw strength from your Sacramental graces. Remember our children watch and listen to us. For the graces of the past when perhaps it was easier to practise religion let us give thanks for we were there. For the small life giving acts of **sheer goodness** that come from **family** and **parish life**, take pride, take comfort for these are truly signs of God with us in the here and now. **Saints** maybe they are just ordinary people like us who try to make a difference that is simple and good.

A Prayer For The Week

Saint Therese of Lisieux
 little child of God
 gifted to us from heaven
 guiding us on your Little Way
 drawing us on our journey to Jesus.

The Light of Christ
 the only Way, the way of Truth and Life
 a soul consumed in love Divine
 sweetest love of Jesus our saviour.

Scatter your petals on us we pray
 gentle as dew on the earth
 distill the love, the Love of Christ
 'till our hearts are consumed in His passion.

Saint Therese of Lisieux
 Little Child of God
 gifted to us from heaven
 guiding us on your Little Way
 drawing us on our journey to Jesus.

*Response to the Psalm: On the day I called you answered me,
 O Lord.*

Lately Dead: Jack Meehan,

Month's Mind: John Cadden, Jane McMahan,

Anniversary of: Margaret McAnaw, Margaret Rose Waugh, Sarah Connor, Peter Brawhey, Rose Agnew, James O'Reilly, Thomas O'Reilly, Ann Mulvey, John and Molloy Collumb.

Attendances: 186, Collection: £607

Collection for the Salesian Sisters: £519

Thank you to the parish for their generosity.



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 A Scottish Registered Charity No. 11041

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Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Sunday 28th July <i>Veneration of our Relic of St Therese of Lisieux</i>	10:00am 11:30am 4:00pm	Margaret Rose Waugh Wedding of Brian and Mary and the Baptism of Perrie Rose Sunday Devotions
Monday 29th July <i>St Martha</i>	9:05am 9:30am 1:30pm	Prayers on Honour of St Therese Sarah Connor and Peter Brawhey Mass in the State Hospital: Jack Meehan
Tues 30th July <i>St Peter Chrysologus</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Prayers on Honour of St Therese John and Molly Collumb
Wed 31st July <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Prayers on Honour of St Therese Rose Agnew
Thurs 1st August <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Prayers on Honour of St Therese Ann Mulvey
Friday 2nd August <i>First Friday</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Prayers on Honour of St Therese Margaret McAvoy
Saturday 3rd August	4:00pm 4:30pm	Holy Rosary in preparation for the Assumption Margaret McAnaw

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 3rd August	M MacNeill	Holiday Time !
Sunday 4th August	F McQuade	Holiday Time !