

St Kessog's Catholic Parish: One Parish, two churches
St Anthony's Balfron & St Kessog's Blanefield

Parish Sunday Bulletin 14 January 2024

Weekly Celebrations Schedule: 14 – 21 January 2024

DAY & DATE	TIME	CHURCH	ACTIVITY	FEAST
Sun. 14 Jan.	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Sunday Mass	2nd Sunday B
	11:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield		
Mon. 15 Jan.	10:00 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Weekday Mass	
Wed. 17 Jan.	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	St Anthony, the Abbot
Thu. 18 Jan.	9:20 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Eucharistic Adoration	
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
Fri. 19 Jan.		No Weekday Mass	No Weekday Mass	
Sat. 20 Jan.	9:30 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Holy Rosary	St Fabian
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
Sun. 21 Jan.	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Sunday Mass	3rd Sunday B
	11:00am	St Kessog's Blanefield		

Confessions: Every Saturday after 10 O'clock mass or any day by arrangement with the Priest.

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2024

Sacramental Preparation Classes will begin at the end of January. The normal age for receiving the sacraments is **First Reconciliation (P3 and upwards)**, **First Holy Communion (P4 and upwards)**, **Confirmation (P7 and upwards)**. If you would like your child to join the classes and prepare to receive these sacraments, please contact Fr. Jacob or one of our Parish Catechists - Anne, Sara and Louise (louiseolney@hotmail.co.uk).

2024 'Year of Prayer'

Pope Francis has announced that the **year 2024 will be dedicated to prayer**. The Holy Father wants a year in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee that will help "stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ's heart." In this process, dioceses are invited to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. In addition, Parishes are also allowed to take initiatives of prayer at their level. It is an opportunity to reflect on our understanding of prayer as well as our own way of praying. Some questions like following could help us in this reflection: what kind of prayer life do I have? How much time do I daily give to God? Do I know that prayer is part of my life of faith?

Diploma in Catechetics – Mass and Graduation

On **Saturday 20 Jan 2024 from 10am**, the Archbishop Leo Cushley will preside a Holy Mass in the Gillis Centre Edinburgh at St Margaret's Chapel. The mass will be followed by the presentation of Diploma Certificates. Free parking onsite: 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week from **21 – 28 Jan 2024** will be dedicated to Prayer for Christians' Unity and the theme chosen for this year is "*Do whatever he tells you*". The material was prepared by the Christians of West Africa, including Mali and Niger.

Explore: A Retreat for Young Women

Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, **the first one takes place on Sunday 28 January, 4-7pm at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh**. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues each month at the same time/venue: **25 Feb; 17 Mar; 21 Apr; 12 May; 22 June** [See Poster Attached].

Diploma in Catechistics 2024

The Diploma in Catechistics is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith in 2024!

- Register now and receive an early bird discount of 20%.
- The year-long course **begins on Thursday 25 January 2024**.
- **Sessions delivered on Zoom each week** by a range of expert speakers.
- Regular one-to-one sessions with course leader Sr Miriam Ruth.

To register, please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diploma-in-catechistics-2024-registration

Necrology: Yvonne Brogan passed away suddenly but peacefully at home in Blanefield on 14 December 2023, aged 51 years. Her **funeral mass** will take place on **Friday 19 January 2024 at St Joseph's church in Milngavie at 2pm**, and thereafter the service at Clydebank Crematorium is planned for 3.30pm. Our sincere condolences to her family.

Last Sunday Collection: Total: £509.00

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity at Christmas. We also thank those who donate by direct debit.

Parish Census: In order, for us, to function well as a Parish it is important that we have up to date contact details for all our parishioners. Please take a few minutes to complete the registration form on the website: <https://parishofstkessog.org/> (in the 'Connect' section, under the 'Welcome' heading). Thank You.

Gift Aid: please contact George Edwards on Tel: 07866 683172 or e-mail: geojoedwards@yahoo.com

Parish Bulletin: If you have any news you would like included in our Sunday Parish Bulletin, please email it to Frances at fmdouglas61@icloud.com or to Fr Jacob at stkessogs1@gmail.com .

You can find this Bulletin and previous ones on our Parish website: www.parishofstkessog.org