

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

**Parish Sunday Bulletin 21 January 2024**

**Weekly Celebrations Schedule: 21 - 28 January 2024**

<b>DAY &amp; DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>FEAST</b>
<b>Sun. 21 Jan.</b>	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfroon	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday B</b>
	11:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield		
<b>Mon. 22 Jan.</b>	10:00 am	St Anthony's Balfroon	Weekday Mass	
<b>Wed. 24 Jan.</b>	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	<b>St Francis of Sales</b>
<b>Thu. 25 Jan.</b>	<b>9:20 am</b>	St Kessog's Blanefield	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	<b>Conversion of St Paul</b>
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
<b>Fri. 26 Jan.</b>		<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	<b>St Timothy and St Titus</b>
<b>Sat. 27 Jan.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St Kessog's Blanefield	<b>Holy Rosary</b>	
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
<b>Sun. 28 Jan.</b>	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfroon	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday B</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](mailto:louiseolney@hotmail.co.uk)).

**2024 'Year of Prayer'**

Pope Francis has announced that the **year 2024 should be dedicated to prayer**. The Holy Father wants to use this year as preparation for the 2025 Jubilee that will help "stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ's heart." To this end, dioceses are invited to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. In addition, Parishes are also encouraged to use their own initiatives to stimulate prayer.

**Ash Wednesday, Lent and Prayer**

**Ash Wednesday** falls on the **14<sup>th</sup> of February** this Year. As Catholics this is a very important time of Year and I urge you to note this date, to make every effort to attend mass on Ash Wednesday and to think seriously about how to approach the Lenten season in general.

Given the importance of prayer at this time, and in keeping with Pope Francis's recommendation that 2024 be a Year of prayer, it has been decided to instigate a **Parish Prayer Group** within the church itself, beginning **Tuesday 23 February at 7pm**. Please make every effort to attend.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The week from **18 – 25 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.

### **Diploma in Catechetics 2024**

The Diploma in Catechetics 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-catechetics-2024-registration](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diploma-in-catechetics-2024-registration)

### **Last Sunday Collection: Total: £258.50**

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](mailto: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](mailto:fmdouglas61@icloud.com) or to Fr Jacob at [stkessogs1@gmail.com](mailto:stkessogs1@gmail.com) .

**You can find this Bulletin and previous ones on our Parish website:** [www.parishofstkessog.org](http://www.parishofstkessog.org)