

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

Parish Sunday Bulletin 11 February 2024

Weekly Celebrations Schedule: 11 – 18 February 2024

DAY & DATE	TIME	CHURCH	ACTIVITY	FEAST
Sun. 11 Feb.	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Sunday Mass	6th Sunday B
	11:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield		
Mon. 12 Feb.	10:00 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Weekday Mass	
Wed. 14 Feb.	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Mass + Ash imposition	ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fasting and Abstinence
	7:00 pm	St Anthony's Balfron		
Thu. 15 Feb.	9:20 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Eucharistic Adoration	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
Fri. 16 Feb.	11:00 am	St Anthony's Balfron	John Southerland's Funeral Mass	
	7:00 pm	St Kessog's Blanefield	Stations of the Cross	
Sat. 17 Feb.	9:30 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Holy Rosary	Friday after Ash Wednesday
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
Sun. 18 Feb.	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Sunday Mass	1st Sunday of Lent B
	11:00am	St Kessog's Blanefield		

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

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Prayer

This coming Wednesday (**14th of February**) is the **Ash Wednesday** and a **day of Fasting and Abstinence**. As Catholics, this is a very important time of Year and I urge you to make every effort to attend mass on Ash Wednesday wherever you can and to think seriously about how to approach the Lenten season in general. There will two masses with imposition of ash in Parish: at **10am in St Kessog's Blanefield** and **7pm in St Anthony's Balfron**. **Stations of the Cross** will take place every **Friday of Lent** at 7pm in **St Kessog's Blanefield** and every **Thursday of Lent** at 7pm in **St Anthony's Balfron**.

Parish Prayer Group

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 our Parish. The first Prayer Group meeting will take place in St Kessog's Blanefield on **Tuesday 20th February at 7pm**. Please make every effort to attend. It is important that, as one parish, we have only one prayer group, not two. **It is most likely that the location of the prayer group will alternate, on a weekly basis, between the two churches, so as to geographically accommodate all parishioners.** Since still being negotiated, **this will be determined by, among other things, the numbers attending.** Ideally a number of parishioners from each church, willing to lead the prayers at the meetings, will make themselves known in the fullness of time. No absolute or ongoing commitment would be required, just a desire to make this work in our Parish.

World Day of the Sick

This **Sunday 11 February** is **World Day of the Sick**. It was introduced by Pope St John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes being a place of pilgrimage renowned for healing. Please pray for the sick of our parish and the family members, friends and professionals who help them.

Message for Lent from Archbishop Leo

My dear friends, Ash Wednesday is this week and marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of fasting and abstinence as we head into six weeks of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday. I want to offer three things we can do in Lent. **1. Receive your Ashes.** Make every effort to get your ashes on Ash Wednesday and embrace this day of prayer and fasting. The ashes signify repentance and death. When the priest places the ashes on your forehead, he says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Or he will say: "Repent and believe the Gospel". So, it is a chance to come before God in humility and to say sorry for our sins.

2. Take time out for private prayer. Pope Francis has suspended his busy schedule for the first week of Lent to dedicate himself to private, prayerful spiritual exercises. He is putting prayer first, and we can follow that example. Whether that means getting up a little earlier to spend time with God, or switching off the TV or radio, let us prioritise prayer each day in Lent.

3. Make sacrifices. Often, we resolve to 'give up' something in Lent, such as chocolate, alcohol, caffeine. Done in the right spirit, with an intention to get closer to God, this is a good thing. Let us also make small sacrifices for others, to help them, especially when it may be inconvenient to ourselves. That way we can imitate Jesus who sacrificed his life for us all. Please also read the Holy Father's message for Lent 2024 at <https://bit.ly/popelent24>. God bless you!

Day for Catechists

If you are involved with RCIA, children's liturgy, sacramental preparation or any other catechist role, please register for the Archdiocesan *Day for Catechists* at The **Gillis Centre**, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on **Saturday 9 March from 10:30am-3:00pm**. While the day is aimed at Catechists, all are welcome. Visit <https://bit.ly/dayforcatechists>

Lent video reflections

Join Canon Hugh White each week in Lent as he reflects on the 'Challenge of the Gospel', in weekly videos posted each Monday morning on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel: bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024

The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from **Friday 5 - Friday 12 July**, with Archbishop Cushley and Priests of the Archdiocese. More details at www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24

Last Sunday's Collection: Total: £224.20

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