

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

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**Parish Sunday Bulletin 04 February 2024**

**Weekly Celebrations Schedule: 4 – 11 February 2024**

<b>DAY &amp; DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>FEAST</b>
<b>Sun. 04 Feb.</b>	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday B</b>
	11:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield		
<b>Mon. 05 Feb.</b>	10:00 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Weekday Mass	<b>St Agatha</b>
<b>Wed. 07 Feb.</b>	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	<b>St Paul Miki</b>
<b>Thu. 08 Feb.</b>	<b>9:20 am</b>	St Kessog's Blanefield	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
<b>Fri. 09 Feb.</b>	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>			
<b>Sat. 10 Feb.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St Kessog's Blanefield	<b>Holy Rosary</b>	<b>St Scholastica</b>
	10:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Weekday Mass	
<b>Sun. 11 Feb.</b>	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>6<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.

**Ash Wednesday, Lent and Prayer**

Ash Wednesday falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February this Year. Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. 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. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Sacramental Preparation Classes 2024**

Sacramental Preparation Classes started last Thursday for **First Reconciliation (P3 and upwards)**. If you would like your child to join the classes and prepare to receive this sacrament, please contact Fr. Jacob or one of our Parish Catechists - Anne, Sara and Louise ([louiseolney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louiseolney@hotmail.co.uk)). The planned dates for the reception of the sacraments this year are, so far, as follows: First Reconciliation - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm. First Holy Communion - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 11am. Confirmation - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11am at St. Machan's Lennoxton.

### **Lourdes Mass**

The February Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place at **3pm on Sunday 4 February** at St John the Baptist Church, 37 St Ninian's Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh EH12 8AL. The Mass is organised by the Edinburgh Lourdes Pilgrimage team. Refreshments in hall afterwards. All welcome.

### **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](http://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24)

### **Valentine's Retreat**

This mini-retreat is an ideal way for married (and engaged) couples to spend time together in quiet reflection and prayer, in thanksgiving to God for each other and all the positive things that spring from your relationship. It takes place at St Kentigern's Church, 26-28 Parkgrove Ave, Edinburgh EH4 7QR on **Saturday 10 February**. Free event. Register at: [Valentine's Retreat Tickets, Sat 10 Feb 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

### **Last Sunday's Collection: Total: £306.00**

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](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)