

We remember in our prayers:

Those who cannot join us because of illness or infirmity:

Bob Mays, Gerard Donnelly, Ann Ferguson, Jim & Judy Ellis, Ken Collier, Harry Hood, Danny McGeever, Sharon McBride, Simon Reid, John Medley, Charles McDermott, Mary Blair, May Shields, Patricia McGowan, Mary Roddie, Nora Sharkey, Thomas Main and all those for whom we have been asked to pray.

The families and friends of the recently deceased:

Elizabeth McBride, Helen Kilpatrick, Agnes Smith, Janice Gallagher, Ellen Kilpatrick, Betty Workman, Anne Gilmour, Elizabeth McBride, Robert Darroch, Nellie Rodgers, Cathy McFarlane, George McRoberts, John Friel, William John McDaid, James McGuinness, Elizabeth Forry, Mary McKenna, Joseph Kavanagh, Susan Nelis, John Robinson, Rose McGeady, Edward Devine, Norah Blair, Rose McGlynn, Sandra Hanratty, Michael Traynor, Mrs F. McMenamin, Patricia McCarty, Carlo Amadie, Annie Collins, Lorraine Heaney, Anthony Robertson, Robert Henderson.

Anniversaries of our loved ones about this time:

Tommy McGowan, Moira Murphy, Mary & Kathleen Brennan, Margaret McArdle, Peggy Moore, Martin Rossi, Mary Skivington, Maryann Molloy, Peter McPheely jr., Maureen McPheely, Neil Boyle, Mary Nelson, Sarah Coyle, Josephine Sharkey, Mary & Dan Sharkey, Mary Earlie, Michael Finn, Robert Rennie, Martha & Ina Medley.

Special Intentions: Alice Pakula (B/D)

150 Club: Congratulations to G. Greenan (No. 63) who won £100 in the September draw.

Padre Pio novena (12 noon) & Eucharist (12:30) next Saturday 14/10.

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. *John F. Kennedy*

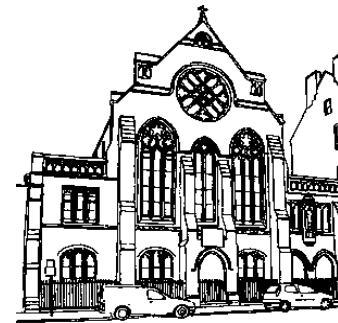
Collection Sunday October 01, 2017

1st Collection: £ 752.00

Mission Appeal: £ 1450.04

St Alphonsus R.C. Church

UNDER THE CARE OF THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES



Sunday Mass Times:

Vigil on Saturday: 4.30pm
Sunday: 10am, 12noon, 5pm

Weekday Mass:

Monday – Saturday: 12.30pm
Except Wednesday

Confession:

Monday – Saturday 11:45-12:25
Except Wednesday

**27th Sunday of the Year
08 October 2017**

1st Reading:

Isaiah 5: 1-7

Responsorial Psalm: 79

**The vineyard of the Lord
is the house of Israel**

2nd Reading:

Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel:

Matthew 21: 33-43



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Ian Bathgate sx, Eugenio Montesi sx,

Parish Council: Karen Wilson (chair), James D Sheehan (Secretary)

Deanery Mission Appeal – In spite of reduced numbers attending last weekend, a fantastic total of £1,450.04 was offered for the work of the Xaverian Missionaries. Many thanks to one and all. Xaverian pens are still available this weekend, Place your donation in the basket.

SVDP appeal: We continue to thank God for the generosity of the faithful of St. **Alphonsus'** who week in and week out give so much in our wee box collections following each celebration, which in turn allows us to continue to assist the most needy with food parcels on Mondays. The summer (what there was of it!) is now fading fast and we once again to prepare to enter autumn then winter. As in past years, we reach out to you again and ask for donations of HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES and SOCKS. We will in turn pass these on to the needy

Theft of microphone: Last Sunday at 2:25pm, a man entered the church and proceeded to steal the microphone at the presider's chair. We have temporarily replaced it and will purchase a new one... around £250.00!

£1 coins: Please note that as of next weekend (midnight on 15th of October) the older rounded pound coins cease to be legal tender. Please bank any/all rounded £1 THIS WEEK. **This is the last weekend that we can accept these £1 coins in our collections.**

St. Alphonsus' – the way ahead

Frs. Montesi and Bathgate have met with Fr. Tom White. We share a common concern and commitment: how to make the best use of the gifts, resources and talents of two Caltonian faith communities? Martin Luther King jr reminds us; *“We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or together perish as fools.”* Is this new reality (two parishes becoming one community) an obstacle or an opportunity?

For those who choose to see *“the glass as half empty”*, there is nothing positive to recognise. For those who believe that *“only God is able to write straight on crooked lines”*, this is the moment to

recognise that our faith is bigger than any one structure, mass time or particular clergy. Yes, we might see the line as crooked at the moment, but that has never stopped God in the past. We can commit to work for....or simply complain **about....**

For the last five years we have known that a different way forward is needed to make possible the sustainability of the Archdiocese – our larger faith community. No one parish is greater than the Archdiocese! In the context of clergy availability and decreasing numbers attending the masses, we have already seen some parishes close and others come together sharing clergy between them. This trend shows no sign of reversing. This is not an easy time for so many affected by this change: St. Alphonsus, St. **Mary's**, Fr. White, St. **Bartholomew's**, Our Lady of Lourdes, the Archdiocese or the Xaverians. But our faith has never been built on *“easy”*. It is based on commitment, sacrifice and hope.

The presence of the Xaverian Missionaries in St. Alphonsus has been a consistent reminder of our common Baptism to reach out and *“go/proclaim”* where God asks us. We are constantly in movement. Are we at St. Alphonsus willing to identify and embrace the essence of being a missionary faith community – or be limited by geography, particular structures or individual preferences?

Both St. **Mary's** and St. **Alphonsus'** need to be courageous and work together **with** Fr. White to identify the most sustainable, practical and achievable way forward. This is the chance to dream about our future not day-dream about the past. St. Alphonsus – as it has always been – is great in the measure it is available and committed to grow in faith through change and sacrifice.

Fr. White is open to listen and give 100% to the newly **forming** faith community in the Calton. What one priest can do is limited, but what two committed communities can do in faith... **will be the legacy we offer the Archdiocese!**

“May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me.”
(Jn 17, 21).