

St. Peter's Hamilton
27th Sunday (A)
27th September 2026

Our Parish Mission

All are welcome in this place
Behold Love's amazing grace
All are welcome
Bring your hopes, bring your dreams
Mercy flows and love redeems

5.35am

It is the September Weekend starting tomorrow where has the time gone to. They tell me the older you get the quicker the time goes. So I am told lol.

Tomorrow we are going to start remembering and also praying to St. Francis of Assisi. When I was a wee boy my Aunt Jean bought me statue of St. Francis, it was my pride and joy. I can't tell how many times his head was glued on. Since then St. Francis has a special place in my heart. And then Pope Francis chose him for his name. And as you Pope Francis was another hero of mine.

This is an autobiography of St. Francis:

The patron saint of Italy, Saint Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Saint Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: “Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy.”

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, “Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down.” Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to “build up my house.” But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor “nothing” man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis’ “gifts” to the poor—so that he would be totally free to say, “Our Father in heaven.”

Saint Francis was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking. But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: “Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff” (Luke 9:1-3).

Saint Francis of Assisi’s first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no intention of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at

a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

Saint Francis of Assisi was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert Sultan Malik al-Kamil during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side. On his deathbed, Saint Francis of Assisi said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

Reflection

Saint Francis of Assisi was poor only that he might be Christ-like. He recognized creation as another manifestation of the beauty of

God. In 1979, he was named patron of ecology. He did great penance—apologizing to “Brother Body” later in life—that he might be totally disciplined for the will of God. Francis’ poverty had a sister, Humility, by which he meant total dependence on the good God. But all this was, as it were, preliminary to the heart of his spirituality: living the gospel life, summed up in the charity of Jesus and perfectly expressed in the Eucharist.

He is the Patron Saint of:

Animals, Archaeologists, Ecology, Italy, Merchants, Messengers, Metal Workers

A New Holy Water Font:

has been donated to the parish by a parishioner, to be placed at the emergency exit going into the back car park.

The plaque underneath will read:

In Loving Memory
Of all babies,
Miscarried, stillborn
or taken too soon.

The font will be put up today the plaque will be put up at a later date.

I want to say thank you to the parishioners who donated it.

Wrap Up Lanarkshire Appeal

Donated your spare winter coats or anoraks to The Rotary Club of Hamilton, helping us to support many local charities and community organisations which care for people who are homeless, escaping domestic violence, living in poverty, refugees.

No money donations thanks, just drop off your coat(s) in the box whilst at Church

Donate a coat during the month of October & sincere thanks

This Weeks Readings

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

It is possible to turn from sin and preserve one's life.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-9

A prayer to God for mercy.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11 (shorter form Philippians 2:1-5)

Be like Christ who humbled himself and was exalted by God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions

“speak louder than words” and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father’s will.

Jesus’ conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John’s message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

Funeral Arrangements

Rosemarie Burns

Weds 30th September Reception 6pm

Thurs 1st October Funeral Mass 10am

David Cunningham

Tues 6th October Funeral Mass 10am

800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis:

From tomorrow 25th September to Sunday 4th October. St. Francis' Peace Prayer will be said at the end of every Mass.

Monday 28th September

A Parish Mass for St. Peter's in St. John Olgivie Church 7pm.

Veneration of Relic of St. Francis' at the End of the Mass.

I will celebrate the Mass.

Bus will be available to take you to St. John Olgivie's if you do not have transport.

List at back of the Church.

Sunday 4th October

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

After 11am Mass

Today 24th September Morning Mass will be at 9.30am. I have a medical appointment at 10.30am

Coffee Morning Every Tuesday starting from 29th September in the Side Chapel after the 10am Mass. Looking for volunteers to help with this. It is a great way of getting together.

Dates for your Diary

24th October Mass of the Sick 10am Mass
7th November Annual Mass for the Dead 10am Mass

Next Weeks Mass Programme

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday : 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass

Thursday: 10am Mass

Friday: 10am Mass

Saturday: 10am Mass

This Week's Rota

Readers

4pm Vigil: B. Cornes

9.30am: T. Kennedy

11am: P. Barton

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: M. Kilpatrick, E. Gold
& M. Halbert

9.30am: K. O'Neill, M. Devanney
& C. Bonnar

11am: K. Grant, S. Russell
& M. McGuire

Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota

Tuesday: P. Davies

Wednesday: B. Cornes

Thursday: P. McKeown

Friday: J. McCluskey

Saturday: A. Devlin

Please pray for the following:

Sick:

Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Neil Boyle, John Rielly, Molly Strang, James Clark, Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson, Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy Callaghan, Suzanne McMurray, Marie White, Lesley Watson (Spain) John McGuire, Jill Brown, Maureen McHugh, Margaret Burke, Paul Kearney, Kathleen Daly, Karen Pritchatt, Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Marie McGuire, James Morton, Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey, Margaret Loan, Premature Baby Vincent McDowell, Gudren Berk (Germany), Jaqueline McReynolds, Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth (Easterhouse), Avril McCluskey, Carol Corr, Margaret Park, Thomas Kennedy, Alana Hepburn, Michael Ritchie, Hugh O'Donnell, and all our sick.

Recently Dead:

Rosemarie Burns, David Cunningham, Vera McKale, Kathleen M. Cassidy, (Wishaw),

Charlotte Ahearn, Bridget Docherty
(Blantyre),

Month Minds & Anniversaries:

Tracey Archibald, Alice Lyall, Pamela Barton,
Peter Rooney, Niamh Niall & Derek James
Rooney

Please if you could make sure all month minds and anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night. If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

I am also looking for Volunteers to move the power-points on during the Sunday Masses, Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take a wee bit of pressure off me.

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish

to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

Baptism/Wedding Meetings: THURSDAY 6pm & 7pm. **JUST TURN UP**

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank You.

Fr. Frank