

Introduction:

The story and significance of the Carfin Grotto is familiar enough to most Scottish Catholics. Its origins in a period of unemployment, with inspirational leadership from Father Thomas Taylor deserve to be remembered in our own time when there is perplexing uncertainty about future patterns of employment, our communal life together, and even the shape of the Church to come and how we will worship.

The allure of Carfin is that set within its rough-hewn stone walls it lies in the heart of Scotland and has been a place of devout, even heart-rending pilgrimage, during periods of depression, wartime and, happily of jubilation also.

Within the grounds we will find that there are opportunities for reflective prayer, devotion, and intercession, as there are so many nooks and crannies, areas dedicated to familiar saints, or representing elements in our Catholic story.



Our Lady of Lourdes

The Opening Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Mary Mother of God and Help of Christians at your Carfin Grotto we recall our prayers at Lourdes, 'Be blessed, O most pure Virgin, you vouchsafed to manifest your presence shining with, sweetness and beauty, in the Grotto of Lourdes, to the child, Bernadette and saying: "I am the Immaculate Conception." We praise you in the entirety of your being, from Immaculate Conception to Queen of Heaven, and Mother of God. And now, Mother of

mercy, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know our wants, our troubles, our sufferings we ask the favour of your merciful hear.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours. We recall these as we make our petitions at Carfin. Already many have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. We come, therefore, with humble confidence to seek your maternal intercession. Obtain for us, O loving Mother, the granting of our request. [Mention your person request for healing here]

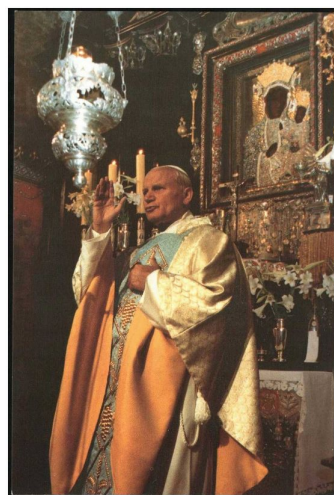
Here we might all pray for those suffering in the Coronavirus Pandemic, and for those in Governments and Health Services who are seeking to prevent its spread.

After a period of silence, we continue:

Through gratitude for your favours, we will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that we may one day share your glory.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon earth. You have the same influence now in Heaven. Pray for us that we obtain from your Divine Son our special requests if it be the Divine Will. Amen. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

Our Lady of Czestochowa and Pope John Paul



John Paul II knew the importance of prayer: he was known to pray for many hours each day, interceding for both the Church and world and growing ever closer in his relationship to God. He believed prayer was his first duty as the pope to "obtain help from God and to be able to make things better."

"Prayer joined to sacrifice constitutes the most powerful force in human history. In prayer, you become one with the source of our true light – Jesus Himself."

We pray the *Veni Creator Spiritus*, as Pope Saint John Paul II did every day.

*Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.*

*O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.*

*Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou
Who dost the tongue with power imbue.*

*Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.*

*Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy peace instead;
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.*

*Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.*

*Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,*

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX



At the age of fourteen, on Christmas Eve in 1886, Therese had a conversion that transformed her life. At fifteen, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux to give her whole life to God, taking the religious name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Living a hidden, simple life of prayer, she was gifted with great intimacy with God. Through sickness and dark nights of doubt and fear, she remained faithful to God, rooted in His merciful love she died on 30 September 1897.

She loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus," who gave glory to God by just being her beautiful little self among all the other flowers in God's garden. Because of this beautiful analogy, the title "little flower" remained with St. Therese.

Her inspiration and powerful presence from heaven touched many people very quickly. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 17, 1925.

"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Roses have been described and experienced as Saint Therese's signature. Countless millions have been touched by her intercession and imitate her "little way." She has been acclaimed "the greatest saint of modern times." In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared St. Therese a Doctor of the Church - the only Doctor of his pontificate - in tribute to the powerful way her spirituality has influenced people all over the world.

We recall Canon Taylor's devotion to St Therese; and more recently the Visit of the Relics of St Therese to Scotland and the graces that ensued.

WE pray for all in ministry within the Church, and for vocations to the Religious Orders and to the sacred ministries of the Church.

*O Glorious St. Therese,
whom Almighty God has raised up to aid
and inspire the human family,
I implore your Miraculous Intercession.*

*You are so powerful in obtaining every need
of body and spirit from the Heart of God.
Holy Mother Church proclaims you "Prodigy of Miracles...
the greatest saint of Modern Times."*

*Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition
(mention your particular petitions)
and to carry out your promises of
sending heaven doing good on earth...
of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.*

*Little Flower, give me your childlike faith,
to see the Face of God
in the people and experiences of my life,
and to love God with full confidence.*

*St. Therese, my Carmelite Sister,
I will fulfill your plea "to be made known everywhere"
and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you.*

Our Lady Maid of the Seas: Prayers for All Travellers



*Hail, Queen of Heav'n, the ocean Star,
Guide of the wand'rer here below;
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.*

*O gentle, chaste and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee;
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, star of the sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.*

*Sojourners in this vale of tears,
To thee, blest advocate, we cry;
Pity our sorrows, calm our fears,
And soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, star of the sea,
Pray for the mourner, pray for me.*

*And while to Him who reigns above,
In Godhead One, in Persons Three,
The Source of life, of grace, of love,
Homage we pay on bended knee.
Do thou, bright Queen, star of the sea,
Pray for thy children, pray for me.*

SCALAN : THE HIDDEN SEMINARY



PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS & FOR PRIESTS

Prayer for Vocations:

*Heavenly Father,
in Baptism you called us by name
and made us members of your family, the Church.*

*Help all your people to know their vocation in life,
and to respond by living a life of holiness.*

*For your greater glory and for the service of your people,
raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve*

as priests for the Church in Scotland, and especially in our Diocese of Aberdeen.

Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen our communities, our colleges and our Seminarians, especially Christopher, Malachy & Aidan; and also those who are discerning their vocation.

Lord Jesus, you called chosen men to be with you; to preach the good news of salvation and to have authority over the powers of darkness. Send your Holy Spirit upon the men you have chosen for the priestly ministry. May they answer your call and follow you with generous hearts.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving.

We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness.

In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising.

In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put your words on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted.

And may the gift of Mary your mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image may, by the intercession, help to form them in your Divine Image by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

St John Ogilvie



God our Father, fountain of all blessing, we thank you for the countless graces that come to us in answer to the prayers of your saints. With great confidence we ask you in the name of your Son and through the prayers of St John Ogilvie to help us in all our needs. Lord Jesus, you chose your servant St John Ogilvie to be your faithful witness to the spiritual authority of the chief shepherd of your flock. Keep your people always one in mind and heart, in communion with Francis our Pope, and all the bishops of your Church. Holy Spirit, you gave St John Ogilvie light to know your truth, wisdom to defend it, and courage to die for it. Through his prayers and example bring our country into the unity and peace of Christ's kingdom. Amen.

St John Ogilvie, pray for us

At the Parish Church of St Francis Xavier



O God, you have made us the Church of your dear Son. Make this parish, and every parish, a family of one heart and mind in love towards you.

Grant that our common life and work may be an example to all about us. Guide our priests, deacons, Religious and all pastoral assistants in their work.

We acknowledge the intercessions of St Francis Xavier, and all the saints who with Our Lady of Aberdeen keep us secure in your love. Amen



*Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
For He, whom thou wast worthy to bear. Alleluia.
Has risen as He said. Alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.
R. Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.*

Let us pray

O God, Who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Aberdeen, Pray for us.