

*The Parish Communities of:*

**ST MARGARET'S CATHEDRAL**

John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

Peggieshill Place, Ayr, KA7 3RF

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH**

Dalmellington Road, Waterside, KA6 7JF



**RC AYR**

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## Parish Bulletin

**19th/20th August 2017**

### 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year 'A'

**Readings**

Isaiah 56: 1.6-7      Romans 11: 13-15.29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

**Psalm Response**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

**The Nicene Creed:**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:

*(all bow)*

and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Times of Mass and Services

**21st - 27th August**

**Monday**

Eucharistic Service in St. Paul's at 10am

**Tuesday**

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

**Wednesday**

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am (Funeral)

Eucharistic Service in St. Paul's at 10am

**Thursday**

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

**Friday**

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

**Saturday**

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

**SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday Vigil Mass in St. Francis Xavier's at 4pm  
and St. Margaret's Cathedral at 6.00pm

Mass in St. Margaret's Cathedral at 9.30am

Mass in St. Paul's at 11.30 am

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said before Mass on  
Monday and Friday at 9.40am and the Rosary will be  
recited on Wednesdays at 9.40am in St. Paul's.

The Rosary will be recited on Tuesday after Mass  
in St. Margaret's and on Friday at 10am in  
St. Francis Xavier's

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

This beautiful Sacrament is available from after Mass  
until 10.50 a.m. during Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament on Thursdays at St. Margaret's and Fridays at  
St. Paul's and at any other convenient time.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on  
Thursdays in St. Margaret's and Fridays in St. Paul's  
after Mass until 11am

**Discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate?** If you have been able to view the two films 'Why I choose to be a priest' and 'Ordinary men – extraordinary lives' which I drew your attention to last week then you will realise that God **is** calling people to serve the Church in Galloway as ordained ministers. The task we have, every one of us, is to encourage people to hear and respond to this call. If you think someone has a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate why not approach them gently and speak with them about it?

**Weekday thoughts on the Sunday Gospels:** This is the title of Bishop Taylor's new book which is ON SALE NOW! Running to 227 pages and costing £10, this book is something we would all benefit from reading. Copies are available to purchase at the back of the Churches.

**St. John's Tower:** A new book has been written to promote St. John's Tower. "The Tale of a Scottish Tower," is a fun, fictional story informed by historical facts, suitable for ages 8 to 108! Signed copies will be available for £5 in the Cathedral hall after mass on 13th and 20th August, or direct from the author, Yolanda McCall. Tel: 280420.

The Tower of St. John the Baptist is the surviving bell tower or Ayr's original parish church. Fr. John McLean and Yolanda McCall will lead a guided tour of the tower on **Sunday 20th August**. Meet at St. John's Tower in Citadel Place, Ayr, at **2pm**.

**RCIA Team members:** In order to be able to lead any enquirers through the RCIA process we need to have a team of supporters and catechists. If you have served on the teams for St. Margaret's and St. Paul's/St. Francis Xavier's in the past, or would simply like to be considered to be part of the team in the future, please come to a meeting in the Cathedral Hall on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**150th Anniversary of the opening of Our Lady and St. Patrick's Church, Birniknowe, (Auchinleck):** Bishop Nolan will celebrate Mass at the original church site on Sunday, 20th August, at 2:30pm to mark the 150th Anniversary. Refreshments afterwards in the present church hall. A welcome is extended to all.

**Foodbank:** The Food Bank collections for **BOTH** parishes are taken on the 1st Weekend each month.

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1306.81; St. Paul's - £800.41; St. Francis Xavier's - £126.80.

**Masses next weekend (26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> August):** We will welcome Fr. Johnny Kinsler to the Cathedral for Masses next weekend and Bishop Taylor to St. Paul's and St. Francis Xavier's.

**National Pilgrimage to Carfin:** This will take place on Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> and during the pilgrimage the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place. **A bus will be leaving from St. Margaret's at 12noon.** Please add your name to the list which is available at the back of all churches by NEXT WEEKEND. Cost £10. Bring a packed lunch and take suitable clothing

**National Youth Pilgrimage to Iona:** Young people aged 14-25 from Scotland are invited to travel on pilgrimage to Iona on Sunday 10th September to visit the Abbey where St Columba and his monks lived in the 6th century. The Galloway group will travel by coach to Oban on Saturday 9th September where they will stay overnight in a youth hostel, travelling on to Iona and returning home on the Sunday. Cost £30. To register and for more information please email Fr Stephen McGrattan at [info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk](mailto:info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk).

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul:** If you need the assistance of the St Vincent de Paul Society please phone 07722 707076. Please place your requests for visits to the home/hospital in the box at the back of the Church, please also include the name and contact details of a relative/friend.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** It is time to re-establish a PPC for the parishes – made up of members from each of our parish communities. Could I ask those who served on the last PPC's of St. Margaret's and St. Paul's/St. Francis Xavier's to come to a meeting in the Cathedral Hall on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. so that I am able to familiarise myself with who has served in the past.

**Fr. David – summer holiday:** Fr David is going to have a couple of weeks off. If you need to contact a member of the clergy in a hurry then please call Deacon Bill on 521208. Angela will be in the parish office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as normal between 10 a.m. and 12 noon for routine parish business. Contact her on 263488 or on the parish email address.

**Fr. David's Mass intentions this coming week are:**

*Monday* - Bob Watson;

*Tuesday* – Conway family;

*Wednesday* – Kate O'Rourke;

*Thursday* – Riccardo Iannarelli Jnr;

*Friday* – Tommy McDermott;

*Saturday* – Annie & Thomas McCarthy;

*Sunday* – for the parishes;

Please note Fr. David will celebrate these Masses away from the parish.

## Saint Margaret's

**Joseph Mulligan RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph Mulligan who has died. Joseph's funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday morning. May he rest in peace.

**Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrimage Statue:** A full-sized replica of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is visiting the Cathedrals of Scotland during this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the apparitions at Fatima. The statue will be welcomed to St. Margaret's on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and will be with us, or other churches within the diocese, for two weeks.

**Children's Liturgy Leaders and Volunteers:** Once again we are desperately short of Leaders and Volunteer helpers for the Children's Liturgy on Sunday morning and the burden is now falling heavily on only a few people. This is an essential ministry on a Sunday morning and I ask you to consider if you could become part of this team – please speak to Teresa Drotar if you can help. Leaders need to complete the necessary Safeguarding checks and training. If you are not sure what is involved and what you would have to do, why not ask to sit in one Sunday morning and observe?

**The Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 27th August.**

**Tea/Coffee:** Tea & coffee is available in the hall every Sunday after Mass.

**St. Margaret's Hall:** Our Hall is available for use by parishioners as a venue for functions and parties. Please contact Tony Mulholland (07780 760338) for anything related to the Hall.

**Weekly Social Gathering:** This takes place in the Hall on Thursdays from 11.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. All are welcome to drop in.

**Mile of Coins:** 50% for SCIAF and local charities, 50% to parish improvements. Last week we added £56.60–1.57yards. 645.84 yards to go.

## Saint Paul's

**Weekday Mass:** PLEASE NOTE that due to funerals this coming week there will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion on BOTH Monday and Wednesday.

**Mother & Toddler Group:** The Mother & Toddler group meet in the hall on Tuesday at 10.30am.

**Tuesday Club:** The Tuesday Club will recommence on Tuesday August 29th at 2 p.m in the church hall. New members most welcome.

## Saint Francis Xavier's

**Service of the Word and Holy Communion:** This will be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

**Holy Rosary:** The Holy Rosary is recited in the Church on Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

### Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Whithorn:

Our diocesan pilgrimage will take place on Sunday August 27th with Mass being celebrated on the beach near St. Ninian's Cave at 4 p.m. and in the village Church at 4.45 p.m. The Bus will leave St. Margaret's at 11.15 and will pick up at St. Paul's at 11.30am. Please add your name to the lists by **today (Sunday 20th August)** to reserve your seat on the coach. This annual event is always a wonderful occasion so try to go along if you can.

**Mary's Meals – Rags to Riches Collection:** Mary's Meals will send their van to both St. Margaret's and St. Paul's on Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> to collect all your unwanted fabrics and clothing to turn into funds to continue their great work of providing meals for hungry children in the developing world. This is one of the main ways we can support Mary's Meals in this very necessary work.

**Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage 2017:** The National Pilgrimage for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place on Sunday 17 September at 2pm (Mass 4.30pm: Preacher Fr. Richard Reid CSSR), St Patrick's Church, 5 South Gray's Close, Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1TQ.

### Readers, Psalmists, Extraordinary Ministers

We have a small, but committed, group of volunteer Readers, Psalmists and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and we thank them all for their willingness to serve our parish communities in these ministries, but we could certainly do with more volunteers to fill these roles. The purpose of this piece is not to ask you to volunteer, or to give you time to think up an excuse as to why you can't do it, but simply to ask you to pray, to pray that more people from within our parish families will step forward into one of these ministries. If we all pray for this then I am sure that many people will come forward over the next few weeks and offer themselves in the service of our parishes. Thank you.

## The Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

Isaiah 56: 1.6-7

Romans 11: 13-15.29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

*The grace that is given by our Lord Jesus Christ is a wonderful thing. All that have wandered far from God have been reconciled to him by that grace. The message which was first offered to the lost sheep of Israel is now offered to the world. All are invited to share in the heavenly banquet at the table in the house of the Lord.*

There is a very widespread story which you may have heard and which goes like this. A man fell over the edge of a high cliff. As he fell he stretched out his arms and managed to grasp onto a branch of a small bush growing out of the cliff face and so stopped his fall. In desperation as he hung there he cried out a sort of prayer: 'If there is anyone up there, save me!' Then he heard a voice: 'I am here. Do not worry! Trust me – and let go'. After a pause, the man cried out again: 'Is there anyone else up there?'

Some of us find it very difficult to believe that there is 'anyone up there'. Some of us have a deep and strong childlike faith. Some of us say we believe and go through the motions of belief, like praying sometimes, going to Mass, trying to be kind.

Faith is all important, but to live by faith is in a way to live suspended on the unseen God, with proof that he is often seeming very difficult to cling to. So, to *live* by faith is to live by *trust*. In practice it is easier to say 'I believe' than it is to live in trust in the Lord. Think about this. Do I really trust that Jesus is with me always and loves me with an everlasting love? Do I have the faith that is shown by the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel? To push and push, to knock and knock until I get an answer? Her story is very much like what our own experience of prayer can be like. Through prayer we ask the Lord for his help but seem to get no reply, 'not a word'. It is as if the Lord has not heard us or is ignoring us. We pray and ask again but feel perhaps that what we want is not meant to be. Perhaps such a grace is not meant for us. Then in the Lord's own wonderful way our prayer is answered. So have that faith as that woman did.

