

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

PRIEST - Fr David Borland

DEACON - Bill Corbett

RELIGIOUS - Sister Marie (01292 270 408)

PHONE - 01292 263 488

ADDRESS - 27 John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS

MAIL - rcchurchesayr@gmail.com

WEB - www.RCAyr.org.uk

FACEBOOK - @RCAYR

TWITTER - @RC_AYR

Parish Bulletin

26th/27th August 2017

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year 'A'

Readings

Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36
Matthew 16: 13-20

Psalm Response

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

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
28th August –3rd September

Monday

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

Tuesday

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

Wednesday

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

Thursday

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

Friday

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

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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Whithorn: This annual pilgrimage takes place today, Sunday August 27th. We pray that the faith of all who take part is truly enriched and that they are blessed with safe travel and good weather. St. Ninian, pray for them.

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.

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 7th at 7 p.m.

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.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1357.01; St. Paul's - £563.98; St. Francis Xavier's - £218.40.

Masses this weekend (26th/27th August): We welcome Bishop Taylor and Fr Johnny Kinsler to the Masses this weekend. Bishop Taylor will celebrate the Vigil Mass in St Francis Xavier's and Sunday morning in the Cathedral. Fr. Kinsler will celebrate the Vigil Mass in the Cathedral and Sunday morning in St. Paul's

National Pilgrimage to Carfin: This will take place on Sunday September 3rd and during the pilgrimage the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place. **The bus will be leaving from St. Margaret's at 12noon for all pilgrims.** Please add your name to the list which is available at the back of all churches by TODAY (Sunday 27th). 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.

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 20th 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 on holiday. 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.

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 3rd 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.

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

Saint Margaret's

Alexander Jopp R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alex Jopp of Content Street who died recently. Alex's body will be brought to the Church on Wednesday evening at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be on Thursday morning at 10 a.m., and thereafter to Masonhill Crematorium. 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 100th anniversary year of the apparitions at Fatima. The statue will be welcomed to St. Margaret's on Saturday 23rd September and will be with us, or other churches within the diocese, for two weeks.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: The new rota is available in the Sacristy.

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?

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 £62.90–1.75yards. 644.09yards to go.

Saint Paul's

Hugh McIloney R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Hugh McIloney of Cunningham Crescent who died recently. Hugh's funeral Mass will be on Friday at 10 a.m., and thereafter to Ayr Cemetery.

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.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: The new rota is available at the back of the church.

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.



SPRED Catechists Commissioning Mass: This will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Thursday 7th September at 7 p.m. Bishop Nolan will commission SPRED volunteers for this ministry within the diocese at this Mass. If you would like to know more about SPRED or are interested in volunteering please come along to the Mass. All Welcome.

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 Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

Isaiah 22: 19-23

Romans 11: 33-36

Matthew 16: 13-20

Jesus asks, "Who do you say I am?" and receives the affirmation of his being the Son of God from Simon Peter. This is such a deep mystery that Simon Peter must have said this through divine revelation and not just some human thinking. In return he receives the symbols of power that affirm the truth of what he has said. In his words we can have a sure and certain rock to which we can cling.

I always say that Jesus came to fulfil his Father's will. That was expressed in love by his living among us, and his dying for us *He was and is for the people*. But this was not always understood by his listeners. Some left him, some tried to throw him over a cliff, eventually some put him to death. Yet we know that his was the just cause. This certainty only comes with intimate knowledge of the will of the Father. We can only come to know the will of the Father for us through an effective prayer life. The will and the desire to be immersed in prayer stems from our understanding and answer to the question of who Jesus was. If we can really say that we believe Jesus to be the Son of the living God then it follows that his way is the path of the Lord. If we understand what this means, our life is changed for ever. If we begin to unravel the mystery of God man human then we are moving to realise that Jesus' words speak to the very depth of our being. To that which makes us who we are. Our soul, our conscience and mind.

All over the world, and especially broadcast through the media, there is a flood of disbelief on one hand and personal interpretation on the other. Cardinal John Henry Newman emphasised the traditional teaching of the Church that conscience is the touchstone of our decisions. But conscience is not just I or anyone else saying, 'This is what I think – so this is right'. Conscience involves everyone trying to enlighten themselves and be enlightened by God through reading, listening to God's word, prayer and deep thinking, and looking around. How do you answer the question asked of Peter: 'Who do you say I am?' If you answer like Peter – my questions to you are: how well do you know Jesus? How well do you know what his teaching is, what his will is? Or more earthly questions: How well do you know yourself, your mother, father, wife, husband, partner, son, daughter, friend, neighbour – or your priest? How well do they know you?

Weekly Words from Pope Francis

At the General Audience on Wednesday August 23rd Pope Francis continued with his catechesis on Christian hope after the proclamation of the Scriptures.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! As we continue to explore the virtue of Christian hope, we discover in the final pages of the Bible that the ultimate destination of our Christian pilgrimage will be the heavenly Jerusalem. And on this pilgrimage we encounter the God of surprises who treats us with infinite tenderness, like a father welcoming his children home after a long and difficult journey. Even if many experience life as a prolonged period of suffering – think of the fearful faces of those haunted by violence and war – still there is a Father who weeps with infinite compassion for his children, and who waits to console them with a very different future. We believe that neither death nor hatred have the last word, for we Christians see, with great hope, a larger horizon: the Kingdom of God, where all evil is banished forever. It is Jesus himself who is the light of this new future, and who even now accompanies us on our way. Creation did not stop on the sixth day of Genesis, because God is continually looking after us, always ready to pronounce his blessing: "Behold, I make all things new! (Rev 21:5)"

