

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

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Parish Bulletin

16th/17th December 2017
3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B

Readings

Isaiah 61: 1-2,10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8,19-28

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God.

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
18th December - 24th December

Monday

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

Tuesday

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

Wednesday

Mass at 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 and
Thursday and Saturday before Mass at 9.30am
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

Fr David: Fr David is absent from the parish but hopes to be back soon. Please keep him in your prayers. In the meantime please contact Deacon Bill on 521208 if you need to contact the clergy, or for parish business please call Angela in the parish office on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10am and 12 noon.

Advent Calendars: Every Christian family should have an Advent Calendar in their home as a means of reminding themselves of the importance of the season. The South Ayrshire Foodbank have once again produced an Advent Calendar which helps us to focus on the needs of others during this time. Copies of this Advent Calendar are freely available at the back of the Church if you would like to take one home with you.

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.

Discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate? 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?

Congratulations to Fr. Simon Beveridge. Fr. Beveridge, a former Anglican minister, was ordained as a Catholic priest on Thursday of this week in Whithorn by Bishop Nolan as part of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, set up in 2011 by Pope Benedict to bring former Episcopalian and Anglican clergy and their people into the Catholic Church.

The head of the Ordinariate in the UK is Monsignor Keith Newton. He was a former Church of England Bishop and is married and cannot therefore be a bishop in the Catholic Church. Although he has the authority of a bishop in many things, he is not able to ordain men to the priesthood and invites other bishops to do so on his behalf. Monsignor Newton said, "I am delighted by the welcome the Ordinariate has been shown by Bishop Nolan. His willingness to ordain this man on my behalf to serve the Catholic Church in the Ordinariate as well as their understanding of our unique situation and their words of encouragement have been much appreciated and I look forward to being with them for these ordinations."

Fr Beveridge will begin the task of forming an Ordinariate presence in Galloway while assisting, when available, in the parishes of Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie, Whithorn, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, with Gatehouse of Fleet and Castle Douglas.

Annual Diocesan Candlelight Carol Service: This wonderful event will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 20th. The choir have been practising hard for many weeks for this highlight of our diocesan year. Tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards. All are welcome.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1052.08; St. Paul's - £686.10; St. Francis Xavier's - £156.00.

'Nine Lessons and Carols': Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Ayr, are holding their annual service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols' on Friday 22nd December at 7:30am. All are welcome.

Foodbank: The Food Bank collections for St. Margaret's and St. Paul's parishes are taken on the 1st Weekend each month.

MASS AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: Young people aged 14-25 are invited to meet old friends and make new ones at a Mass and Christmas lunch at St Joseph's Church, Hill Street, Kilmarnock on Friday 29th December. Arrival in church at 12.15 pm for Mass followed by lunch and time together. To make sure we make enough food for everyone, please confirm you will be there at "Galloway Catholic Youth" on Facebook or by emailing info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk

Saint Margaret's

Tea/Coffee: Tea and coffee is available in the hall 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.

Friends of the Holy Land: Tombola in the hall after Mass today (Sunday) to raise money for Friends of the Holy Land. Please support this very worthwhile cause.

Mile of Coins: 50% for SCIAF and local charities, 50% to parish improvements. Last week we added £59.00–1.64yards. 619.76 yards to go.

200 Club Draw: £30 A Carnegie, £20 V Handley, £10 M Nisbett.

SVP: The SVP will meet in the hall on Monday 18th December at 6 p.m.

Leprosy Mission Scotland is glad to have your used stamps. Please "post" them in the box at the back of the church, leaving a half-inch border round them if possible. Thank you!

Saint Paul's

Children's Liturgy: We now have only two volunteers to do this ministry. Unfortunately, if nobody can help with this it will mean we can no longer provide a children's liturgy for the parish. Most families have found this to be a good experience for children and volunteers who have done it in the past have found it enjoyable and by no means onerous. It would be a great pity to lose such a meaningful part of our mass for children and I hope there may be some parents, carers or grandparents who may like to help.

Saint Francis Xavier's

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: In the Church on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Holy Rosary: There will be no rosary on Friday 22nd and 29th December. It will restart on Friday 5th January.

2017 Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday December 23rd 4th Sunday of Advent

4 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass in St. Francis Xavier's, Waterside

6 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

Sunday December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

9.30 a.m. Sunday Mass in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

11.30 a.m. Sunday Mass in St. Paul's, Ayr

6 p.m. Vigil Mass of Christmas in St. Paul's, Ayr

8.30 p.m. Vigil Mass of Christmas in St. Francis Xavier's, Waterside

11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity, St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

Monday December 25th Christmas Day

9.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

11.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

Third Sunday of Advent – Year ‘B’

Isaiah 61: 1-2.10-11 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8,19-28

There is a general call ‘Seek the Lord’. Where do we look for the Lord here and now? Here are a few suggestions:

Seek the Lord in the world. Today many find it difficult to see what God is doing in the chaos, the violence, and even the problems of global warming. Where is He? The only answer I know is not to write God off because of the chaos, but to look more deeply – look below the surface of the chaos to the beauty that lies underneath.

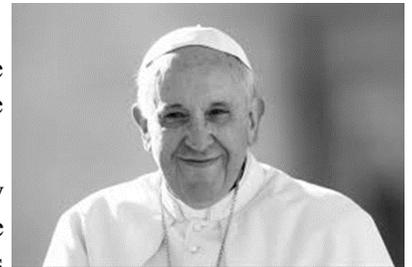
Seek the Lord in your family, friends, neighbours and neighbourhood. Here is a real challenge. To be close is beautiful, happy-making. But not easy! Sadly, the Christmas period which is supposed to be a time of peace and goodwill for all, often proves a time of irritation and even the surfacing of family problems and rows. In our own home let us make peace, joy and love – even when it is difficult. Pray for grace and strength if you know or feel that it will be a difficult time. To be close demands being open to the other person and we can be very private people. However, private or sharing - God is in each individual person and we must not just shut him in. It is of his nature to grow and to help others.

Seek the Lord in yourself. We are told firmly – ‘The kingdom of God is within you!’ I have put these other two seekings first because the effectiveness of your seeking the Lord in the world or in your family depends on whether you have realised first, that essentially the ‘kingdom of God is within you’. You and I must go inside ourselves to find the Lord – and that means prayer, deep prayer. Then care of your neighbours, relations and friends will come naturally. If you go inside yourself to pray – if you are prepared to be silent in supplication to the Lord – well done.

Seek the Lord. In the end, it is the Lord we seek who centres in our hearts. Meet him there as you can do, find a tiny space of stillness, silence, peace in your busy day. Open your hearts to him. Be still. Listen to the silence of his answer. His love is silent – reply to that love with patient and loving silence.

Words of Pope Francis

At the General Audience on Wednesday of this week Pope Francis returned to the Eucharist in his ongoing catechesis. He said to those gathered with him in the Vatican:



Dear Brothers and Sisters: Our continuing catechesis on the Eucharist today centres on the importance of Sunday Mass. As Christians, we celebrate the Eucharist in order to encounter the Lord, to hear his word, eat at his table and, by his grace to fulfil our mission in the world as members of his Mystical Body the Church. As the day of the resurrection and the pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Sunday is the Christian holy day *par excellence*. How could we pass this day without encountering the Lord? Sadly, in many secularized societies, we have lost the sense of Sunday. The Second Vatican Council asked us to celebrate the Lord’s Day as a day of joy and rest from servile work, precisely as a sign of our dignity as children of God. Each Sunday is meant to be a foretaste of the eternal bliss and repose to which we are called and which we share, even now, in Holy Communion. In the end, we go to Mass not to *give* something to God, but to *receive* from him the grace and strength to remain faithful to his word, to follow his commandments and, through his living presence within us, to be witnesses of his goodness and love before the world.

Fr. David’s Mass intentions this coming week are:

Monday – William Andrew; *Tuesday* – Mary Jane Gallagher;
Wednesday – Joe Miller; *Thursday* – Johnny McGhee; *Friday* – Alex Jopp;
Saturday – John & Mary Walls; *Sunday* – for the parishes.

Even though Fr David will not be in the parish this week he will celebrate Mass each day.