

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

30th/31st December 2017

The Feast of the Holy Family

Readings

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6.12-14 Colossians 3: 12-21

Luke 2: 22-40

Psalm Response

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

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

1st January - 7th January

Monday

Mass in St. Francis Xavier's at 10am

Mass in St. Margaret's AND St Paul's at 11am

Tuesday

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

Wednesday

Mass 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 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 Friday between 10am and 12 noon.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day): Please note the altered times for Masses on Monday's solemnity.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1068.87; St. Paul's - £509.36; St. Francis Xavier's - £166.35.

Christmas Collections were: St Margaret's - £1833.74; St. Paul's - £1232.60; St Francis Xavier's - £295.20.

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

Christmas and New Year's Messages from Bishop Nolan: There are videos of both Bishop Nolan's Christmas Message and New Year's Message on the parishes Facebook page and Website (www.rcayr.org.uk) If you 'like' the parish Facebook page you will automatically receive our new posts on your timeline and therefore save yourself time in searching for any new content.

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?

A Message from Fr. David

This time of the year is often a period of reflection upon what has gone before and what may yet be to come, a time for giving thanks for the past and a time of prayer for a more Christ-centred future. I find myself this year giving an awful lot of thanks, and it is mostly thanks for you - the marvellous people of St. Margaret's, St. Paul's and St. Francis Xavier's! Two things dominate this – your unquestioning love, support and prayers for me personally as I have dealt with my health issues, and your magnificent response to the needs of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

On the first, I am much better – Deo gratias! It was an absolute joy to be with you at Midnight Mass, and I hope that my doctor will let me back, even part-time, in a few weeks time. On the second, we will take most of your generous donations to Bethlehem this week, to where they are really needed. I say 'most' because such was your response that even three of us cannot carry all your donations in one trip! Everything will, however, be taken out in time.

As well as thanking you I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. I remember you all in my prayers and I will offer Mass for you all this week in Bethlehem. Please keep me in your prayers too. May the good Lord bless us and lead us forward in faith throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year!

Saint Margaret's

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.

Mile of Coins: 50% for SCIAF and local charities, 50% to parish improvements. Last week we added £52.20–1.45yards. 618.31 yards to go.

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: There will be no Service of the Word on Wednesday 3rd January. It will restart on Wednesday 10th January 2018.

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

Monday January 1st	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)
10 a.m.	St. Francis Xavier's, Waterside
11 a.m.	St. Margaret's Cathedral AND St. Paul's Church, Ayr

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

Monday – Philip O'Rourke;
Tuesday – Pat and Kay Lynch;
Wednesday – Isobel Trayner;
Thursday – Marian Higgins;
Friday – Helen Gibson;
Saturday –Maureen Robinson;
Sunday – for the parishes.

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

The Feast of the Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6.12-14 Colossians 3: 12-21

Luke 2: 22-40

One of the frustrations, but perhaps also the delights of the revelation that God has given to us is that it has many gaps in it. The frustration is that as human beings, we are naturally curious about what happened and where and when. We like to know about people and their families, lives and so on. Now we really know very little about the Holy Family, either individually or together. We know more about Jesus, little about Mary, even less of Joseph.

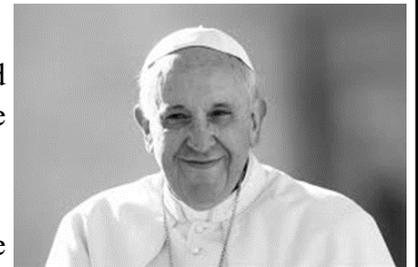
The delight, I think, is there for us in different ways. What happened to Mary and Joseph before Jesus was born is very important indeed and sets the whole tone and scene of the Gospel story. From Mary's 'Yes' to God's messenger, through Joseph's faithfulness and humility, in the story of the visit to Elizabeth, we are given an insight into the characters introduced to us.

The Church, surely, does not want us to build imaginative stories about various happenings in their lives. If we want to do so we could go into the background of Palestine at the time of Christ, the history of Roman occupation, likely living conditions and so on. But this is only partially helpful. What we are asked to do is meditate on what we are given and day by day to grow more deeply aware of the amazingly extraordinary fact of the Incarnation, of God becoming a human. In this God asked the co-operation of his creation in the people of Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth and John the Baptist. This fact on its own is something wonderful to consider. God, who is the beginning of everything, needs the help of these people for his plan for our salvation to be realised. In his life he did not ignore their free will and simply asked.

Of Jesus and his humanity we can ponder endlessly. Without any more facts, the implications and outcomes go deeper into us with meditation and contemplation. Please give good space and time to God in prayer.

Words of Pope Francis

At the General Audience on Wednesday of this week Pope Francis reflected upon the importance of Christmas. He said to those gathered with him in the Vatican:



Dear brothers and sisters: In this holy season of Christmas, we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who is God's gift to us, our Saviour and the Light of the world. Without Jesus, there is no Christmas! Our traditional celebrations express our joy that God's light shines in a world darkened by sin and injustice. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, we too are called to seek and find Jesus, who comes to us in hidden-ness and poverty. Sadly, despite the coming of the light many prefer to live in darkness. Yet those who receive the gift of Jesus come to know God's saving grace and the promise of a new life, based no longer on selfishness but on self-giving love. Our tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is ultimately a sign of our gratitude for the gift of Jesus and our desire to share him with others. Christmas reminds us that God's plan intersects with our history, and opens the way to a better future, a new world. This Christmas, may Jesus be born anew in each of us, so that by our lives, he may be a gift of salvation for all, especially the poor and those of our brothers and sisters who are most in need.