

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

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Parish Bulletin

6th & 7th January 2018 The Solemnity of the Epiphany

Readings

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3.5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

Psalm Response

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

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 8th January - 14th January

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

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.

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 - £926.90; St. Paul's - £579.60; St. Francis Xavier's - £205.50.

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?

Justice & Peace Special Collection: Next weekend (January 13/14) we will take a second collection for the work of the Justice & Peace Commission.

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

Saint Margaret's

Mary Mulvaney R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Mulvaney who died recently. Mary's body will be brought to the church on Monday 15th January at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 16th January at 10 a.m., thereafter to Masonhill Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

SVP: Meeting on Monday 8th January at 6 p.m. in the hall.

Rosary Circle: The Rosary Circle Intentions are available at the back of the church. Please take your copy home.

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 £42.00–1.17yards. 617.14 yards to go.

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

The Solemnity of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 2-3.5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

The Epiphany is even more a mysterious piece of revelation than the coming of the shepherds to the manger. The origin, the coming, the star, the actual visit and the departure of the wise men are shrouded in a mist of questions on authenticity, mythology and meaning. In general the message is the message of the Saviour given to the shepherds of Israel and foretold in Israel's scriptures and at this point revealed to the Gentiles – to the rest of the world.

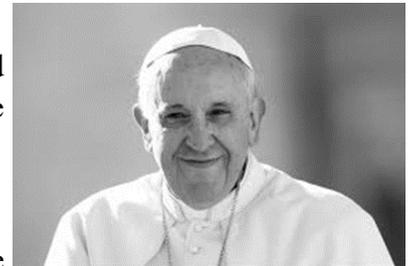
This is a very happy feast and in different places like Rome is especially a celebration for children, with an individual child chosen to represent Jesus for the day. In the past, it has been accepted as more important than Christmas itself, but in many ways Christmas is more widely celebrated.

As a general lesson, it is central to the teaching of Christ that, in the first instance he was sent, as he himself says, to those who are lost and coming from the tribes of Israel. However, the teaching gradually evolved in his own lifetime, until at the end before returning to his Father in heaven, he tells his followers to go out to all nations. This is the mission now entrusted to all of us in our Baptism and Confirmation. It is not just priests or missionaries, but it is each and every Christian whom Christ has commissioned to spread the Word of God.

We should look at this personal mission and allow it to sink into us for it may be that we do not yet feel our duty to the evangelization, the giving of the Good News of Jesus Christ, as applicable to us. Yet it is applicable and should also be actual.

Words of Pope Francis

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



Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on the Holy Eucharist, today we consider the penitential rite. To prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily the sacred mysteries, we acknowledge, before God and our brothers and sisters, that we have sinned. Significantly, we make this confession as a community, yet in the *Confiteor* each of us speaks personally: “I confess... that I have sinned.” Like the humble publican in Jesus’ parable, we strike our breast and recognize that we are unworthy of the gift of God’s mercy and forgiveness. We then beg the intercession of Our Lady and all the angels and saints to sustain us on the path of holiness and conversion. The priest then pronounces the absolution – “May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life”. Unlike the absolution granted in confession, this does not remit mortal sin, yet it expresses our trust in God’s promise of forgiveness and reconciliation. We thus join the great line of biblical figures – like David, the Prodigal Son and Saint Peter – who, conscious of their sin, acknowledged it before God with confidence in the transforming power of his grace.

