

*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

**24th & 25th February 2018**

**Second Sunday of Lent Year B**

**Readings**

Genesis 22: 1-2.9-13.15-18 Romans 8: 31-34

Mark 9: 2-10

**Psalm Response**

I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
*(all bow)*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day  
he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

**Times of Mass and Services**

**26th February - 4th March**

**Monday**

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

Eucharistic Service 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

**The Creed:** During the Season of Lent we will recite the ancient Apostle's Creed during Mass. For those of you who are unsure of the words they are printed on the front of the Newsletter.

**Clergy:** If you need to contact the parish clergy urgently please call contact Deacon Bill on 521208, or for parish business please call Angela in the parish office on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10am and 12 noon.

**SCIAF Lenten Boxes:** Every year we support the SCIAF 'Wee Box' Lenten Campaign by taking a 'Wee Box' home and using it for our Lenten alms-giving – the boxes for this year are available NOW at the back of the Church. Please take one home with you and be as generous as you are able to be – once again this year the UK government will match whatever is donated with equal funding.

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1208.53; St. Paul's - £603.32; St. Francis Xavier's - £202.50.

**Lenten Penitential Service:** This will take place on Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's Cathedral. At this Service the children who are primary three age will also make their First Reconciliation. Please remember that this is the Lenten Penitential Service for everyone, there will not be a separate service for "grown-ups"!

**Movies most definitely worth watching:** There are two movies on the parish Facebook page (RC Ayr) and the parish website ([www.rcayr.org.uk](http://www.rcayr.org.uk)) which are most definitely worth watching: The Wall, a film about the process of passing through the Separation Wall between Bethlehem and East Jerusalem, and Bishop Nolan speaking about schooling in Jerusalem during his visit to the Holy Land with the Coordination Group last week. If you get the chance please watch them.

**Lenten Course:** As a part of our preparation for Easter we are presenting a Cafe Course on Mary titled: " Let it Be done unto me according to your Word". It will take place on Tuesdays in St. Margaret's Hall after Mass and the Rosary and again at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening starting on the 20th, February. Mary once gave us the Saviour of the World, today she helps us to be filled with the Spirit of God. Everyone is welcome.

**World Day of Prayer:** This will take place on Friday 2nd March at 2 p.m. in Ayr Baptist Church. All welcome.

**Diocesan Priesthood:** Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2018? For more information please contact your Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Willie Boyd, St Mary's, Irvine on 01294 279130 or email [wh.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:wh.boyd@btinternet.com)  
Or e-mail the Priests for Scotland Office at [office@pfs.org.uk](mailto:office@pfs.org.uk)

**Rosary on the Coast for Life:** On Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> there will be groups of Christians gathering on the coast all around the UK to pray together the Rosary for Life. We will hold such a gathering on Doonfoot beach that afternoon. I encourage as many of you as possible to take part. We can meet at the Cathedral at 2 p.m. and then make our way down to the beach to pray at 3 p.m. If you have space in your car to transport others down and back that would be a great help. There will be a cuppa in the Cathedral Hall on our return.

**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.

**SPRED Galloway:** The SPRED Centre are looking to recruit an Administrative Assistant and an Assistant (Trainee). Please see posters in the porch for more information or contact Helena Kerr, Assistant Director on 01292 263196 or email [spredgalloway@talktalk.net](mailto:spredgalloway@talktalk.net)

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

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

*Monday – Zina Flint;*  
*Tuesday – Special intention;*  
*Wednesday – Sandra Miller;*  
*Thursday – Special Intention;*  
*Friday – Special intention;*  
*Saturday – Special intention;*  
*Sunday – for the parishes.*

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

## Saint Margaret's

**John Riozzi R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Riozzi who died recently. John's funeral Mass will be on Monday at 10 a.m., thereafter to Masonhill Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. If you would like to lead any of these services then please call the parish office on 263488.

**Short-cut:** Could we ask those who use the short-cut via the back garden of the house to come and go from the Cathedral to please make sure the gates are securely closed behind you – Fr David now has a dog who may decide to go exploring if you don't do so!!! If the double metal gates are closed you can still access the garden through them – they are not locked.

**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 £60.20– 1.67 yards. 606.44 yards to go.

**Tea/Coffee:** In the hall after Sunday morning Mass.

**Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:** The availability sheet for Holy Week and Easter is available in the Sacristy.

## Saint Paul's

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. If you would like to lead any of these services then please call the parish office on 263488.

**Service of the Word and Holy Communion:** Due to the funeral Mass in St. Margaret's on Monday morning there will be a Service in St. Paul's.

**Art Club:** The group meet in the hall on Monday at 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. New members welcome.

**Mother & Toddler Group:** The group meet on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the hall.

**Tuesday Club:** The group meet on Tuesday in the hall at 2 p.m. New members welcome.

**Tea/Coffee:** In the hall after Sunday morning Mass.

**Readers/Eucharistic Ministers:** The availability sheet for Holy Week and Easter is available in the Sacristy.

## Saint Francis Xavier's

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

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross after the Wednesday morning Service.

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

## Fr. Gabriel Onoyima CSSp



It is with great pleasure that I let you know that Fr Gabriel Onoyima CSSp (a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father) will be coming to live and work in our three parishes from the beginning of March (5<sup>th</sup>). Fr Gabriel will live in the Cathedral house and work with Fr David and Deacon Bill for a period of approximately six months while he gets to know our Diocese with a view to being joined later in the summer by a brother Spiritan priest who together will then form a new community somewhere in the Diocese of Galloway. I am sure you will all make Fr Gabriel very welcome. Please keep him in your prayers.

## Second Sunday of Lent in Year 'B'

Genesis 22: 1-2.9-13.15-18      Romans 8: 31-34      Mark 9: 2-10

You could say that this Sunday takes us a few steps closer to the cost of God's covenant with us. Cost like that of Abraham going along with God's demand that he sacrifices his only son, Isaac. This can be seen as a foretaste of God's offering of his only Son to fulfil the later covenant. For Abraham, the covenant promise for the future was a result of his obedience even to accepting the death of his son. In Christ it is in following his Father's will that he became obedient even to death of a Cross. This means that the New Covenant that Jesus talked of at his Last Supper will also be fulfilled.

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain forms an important bridge between the Old and New Testaments. The bridge can be seen in the two figures with Jesus. Moses who represents the covenant of the Law and Elijah who represents all the prophets and their foretelling of the Christ. That person is the third party Jesus whom they have joined on the mount.

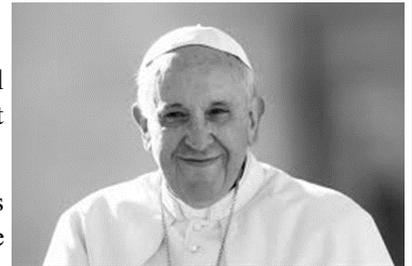
This Gospel is also a reminder of the content and cost of transfiguration, though it is not stated in Mark's version. Elsewhere the vision includes the reference to the conversations Moses and Elijah were having about his passing which would take place in Jerusalem. From this we can grasp that the glory is all mingled with the pain and suffering of his Passion and Death. It reminds me of the joyful acceptance and recognition of the recently born Jesus in the Temple by Simeon and at the same time him telling Mary that a sword would pierce her heart.

The mixture of pain and joy in love is ever present in our own lives too. It may be helpful for us to realise that whatever pain and suffering we go through in our lives Jesus understands for he has suffered, he has been happy, he has been lonely, he has been beaten, he has gone through a painful death. In short we have a Saviour who has shared our human condition and is therefore much closer to us than we realise.

## Words of Pope Francis

Pope Francis was on a Lenten Retreat last week and therefore there was no General Audience on Wednesday. The following is his teaching from his Angelus address last weekend:

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!* On this first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel recalls the themes of temptation, conversion and Good news. The evangelist Mark writes: "The Spirit pushed Jesus into the desert and remained in the desert forty days, tempted by Satan". Jesus goes to the desert to prepare for his mission in the world. He does not need conversion, but, as a man, he must go through this trial, both for himself, to obey the will of the Father, and for us, to give us the grace to overcome temptation. This preparation consists in fighting against the spirit of evil, that is, against the devil. Also for us Lent is a time of spiritual 'agony', of spiritual struggle: we are called to face this Evil through prayer to be able, with the help of God, to beat it in our daily life. We know evil is unfortunately at work in our existence and around us, where violence, rejection of the other, closures, wars, injustices occur. All these are works of the evil one.



Immediately after the temptations in the desert, Jesus begins to preach the Gospel, that is, the Good News. The first word was 'temptation'; the second, 'Good news', and this Good News demands from us conversion - a third word - faith. He announces: "Time is complete and the kingdom of God is near"; then he addressed the exhortation: "Be converted and believe in the Gospel", believe this Good News that the kingdom of God is near. In our life we always need conversion - every day! -, and the Church makes us pray for this. In fact, we are never sufficiently oriented towards God and we must continually direct our mind and heart to Him. To do this we must have the courage to reject all that leads us astray, the false values that deceive us by attracting our selfishness in a subtle way. Instead we must trust the Lord, his goodness and his plan of love for each of us. Lent is a time of penitence, yes, but it is not a sad time! It is a time of penitence, but it is not a sad time of mourning. It is a joyous and serious commitment to get rid of our egoism, our old self, and renew ourselves according to the grace of our baptism.

Only God can give us true happiness: it is useless that we waste our time looking for it elsewhere, in riches, in pleasures, in power, in career. The kingdom of God is the realization of all our aspirations, because it is, at the time same, the salvation of humankind and the glory of God. On this first Sunday of Lent we are invited to listen attentively and gather this call of Jesus to convert us and to believe in the Gospel. We are exhorted to begin with commitment the journey towards Easter, to receive ever more the grace of God, who wants to transform the world into a kingdom of justice, peace and brotherhood.

May Mary Most Holy help us to live this Lent with fidelity to the Word of God and with an incessant prayer, as Jesus did in the desert. It is not impossible! It is about living the days with the desire to welcome the love that comes from God and wants to transform our lives and the whole world.