

*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**

**PRIESTS** - Fr. David Borland

Fr Gabriel Onoyima

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## Parish Bulletin

**10th & 11th March 2018**

### Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B

**Readings**

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16.19-23    Ephesians 2: 4-10

John 3: 14-21

**Psalm Response**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not.

**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 12th March—18th March

**Monday**

Mass in St Paul's at 10am

**Tuesday**

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

**Wednesday**

Mass in St. Paul's at 10am

**Thursday**

Mass in St. Paul'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

**Parish Safeguarding:** Our parishes Safeguarding Team, led by Mrs Lynsey May, are in the process of reviewing and renewing ALL parish volunteers whose ministry gives them contact with children or vulnerable adults. They have discovered that a number of people who are fulfilling these ministries have not completed the necessary PVG process or taken part in Level 1 training – and they **MUST NOW DO SO!!!** The Safeguarding laws in Scotland changed recently and the parish priest is now criminally liable if a volunteer is ministering without having done the necessary checks and training – and I am not prepared to go to prison for any of you! Lynsey has my full authority, and that of the Bishop, to approach any volunteer and insist that everyone complies with the law. I understand a few of you are unhappy with this, but anyone who has not gone through the PVG process, or who is unwilling to take part in the required training, **MUST WITHDRAW FROM THEIR MINISTRY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.**

**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.

**SCIAF Sunday:** This weekend, March 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate SCIAF Sunday, a day we remember all the great work that SCIAF does on our behalf in the developing world. A special collection to assist with this work will be held at all Masses – gift aid envelopes are available for all those who pay tax.

**Mothers Day:** For those of us who are blessed to still have our mother with us, this Sunday is Mothers Day.

**Weekday Mass:** Due to work being carried out in St. Margaret's this week all weekday Masses will be in St. Paul's.

**Bethlehem Rosaries for World Youth Day 2019:** 1.5 million rosaries are being produced in Bethlehem for the World Youth Day in Panama, giving employment to unemployed youth in the family factories in the town. Everyone who attends World Youth Day will be given three rosaries: one to keep, one to give to someone in Panama who was not at WYD, and one to bring home to give to someone else. The organisers have produced a video to raise awareness of this wonderful venture and to encourage people to donate to the cost. The video is available to watch on Youtube:

<https://www.cmc-terrasanta.org/embed/wyd-panama-1-5-million-rosaries-made-in-bethlehem-14416>

**Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage:** The next pilgrimage to the Holy Land will take place from October 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> later this year. The cost is £1,299 based on two people sharing and booking forms will be available in the next two weeks.

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

**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"!

**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.

**Cathedral Sung Evening Prayer For Lent:** Evening Prayer of the Church will be sung in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 5 p.m. You will be very welcome.

**Collection Envelopes:** The new cycle of envelopes start on 8th April. If you are a UK Tax Payer and you don't currently use envelopes but would like to please fill in a gift aid form which is available at the back of each church and return it to the parish office so that envelopes can be made available for you.

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1113.98; St. Paul's - £664.90; St. Francis Xavier's - £166.50.

## Welcome!

We welcome to our parish communities this weekend Fr. Gabriel who will be working among us for the next six months or so. Pray that we may each be touched by his ministry and blessed by God's wisdom working through him. Welcome Fr. Gabriel!

## Saint Margaret's

**Patricia Campbell R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Campbell who died recently. Patricia's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 20th March at 10 a.m., thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May she 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.

**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 £61.70– 1.71 yards. 603.23 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.

**SVP Coffee Morning:** A coffee morning and tombola will be held after Mass on Sunday 18th March in the hall. If you have any unwanted gifts that could be used for the tombola please hand them into the hall. Tickets £2.50 available after Mass.

## 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.

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

*Monday* – Sandra Miller; *Tuesday* – Special intention; *Wednesday* – Grace Glenroy;

*Thursday* – Bridget Waterson; *Friday* – Special intention;

*Saturday 4 p.m.* – Sandra Miller; *Saturday 6 p.m.* - special intention;

*Sunday 9.30 a.m.* – for the parishes; *Sunday 11.30 a.m.* – special intention.

## An important thought

We published the following on the RC Ayr Facebook page this week and it provoked a huge number of comments, mostly from young mums with families, about how negatively their ‘fellow’ parishioners reacted when children make a noise in Church – I pray that these comments were not prompted by the actions of anyone in St. Margaret’s, St. Paul’s or St. Francis Xavier’s!!! As a Catholic Christian community our motto should be: **“Where everyone is welcome, and no-one is judged”** Rather than ‘tut tutting’, perhaps if you offered to help then things would be less stressful for everyone?

### ***To You Who Bring Small Children to Church:***

There you are sitting in Church. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they’re even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the church. All the while, you’re a little embarrassed. Maybe you’re a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, “There’s no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid.”

We want you — you mothers and/or fathers — to know just how encouraging you are to so many.

The little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She’s been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health, but seeing the vitality of young ones removes — if but for a moment — her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He’s always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you - a young family - in church, and you don’t miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn’t doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Then there’s everybody else. Some people will honestly become frustrated by noisy children in church. They have this warped idea that reverence includes absolute silence. It doesn’t.

Bring your children to church. If you don’t hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who’s half-asleep, keep on doing what you’re doing. You are an encouragement, and you’re doing great! (Author Unknown)

## **Words of Pope Francis**

At the General Audience on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> the Holy Father continued his catechesis on the Mass:

*Dear brothers and sisters:* In our catechesis on the Mass, we now turn to the Eucharistic Prayer, in which, following the Lord’s command, we repeat his words and actions at the Last Supper. In offering the bread and wine which become his body and blood, we unite ourselves to his sacrifice of reconciliation on the cross. The Eucharistic Prayer begins with the Preface, which invites us to lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for God’s blessings. The celebrant then calls down the Holy Spirit upon our offerings, and, by the words of consecration, Christ becomes truly present in the sacrament of his body and blood. As the memorial of the mystery of the Lord’s death and resurrection, the Eucharistic prayer asks that we may be drawn, in the Holy Spirit, into communion with one another in the mystical Body of Christ, and united to the Son in his eternal sacrifice of praise and intercession before the Father. At every Mass, may we enter more fully into this “mystery of faith”, which brings the forgiveness of sin, builds up the Church in unity and prays for the reconciliation and peace of our entire human family.

