

**ST MARGARET'S CATHEDRAL** - Ayr, KA8 OBS

Saturday Vigil: 6pm Sunday: 9.30am  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10am  
Rosary: Tuesday after Mass  
Exposition & Confession: Thursday after Mass

**ST PAUL'S** - Ayr, KA7 3RF

Sunday: 11.30am  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am  
Exposition & Confession: Friday after Mass

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S** - Waterside, KA6 7JF

Saturday Vigil: 4pm Rosary: Friday, 10am  
Service of the Word & Holy Communion: Wed, 10am



RC AYR  
NEWSLETTER

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## Parish Bulletin

### 18th/19th March 2017

#### Readings

Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2. 5-8  
John 4:5-42

#### Psalm Response

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.

#### 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 20th March-26th March 2017

#### 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 (Funeral)

#### Friday

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

#### 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  
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

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** The next diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2017. Booking Forms are now available from the back of the churches.

**Diocesan pilgrimage to Rome:** The next diocesan pilgrimage to Rome will take place between September 10<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> 2017. Booking Forms can be obtained by contacting Alba Tours Ltd on 01698 262941.

**Sacramental Classes:** The classes continue for children not at St John's on Sunday mornings in St. Paul's Church at 10.45 a.m.

**Lenten Penitential Service:** The Lenten Penitential Service for the parishes and First Reconciliation for the primary three aged children will take place THIS Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6.30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

**Stations of the Cross:** During the Season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on the following days: Wednesdays in St. Francis Xavier's after the morning Service, Wednesdays in St. Paul's at 7 p.m. and Sundays in St. Margaret's at 4 p.m.

**Lenten Course Strength to Strength:** The Practical benefits of daily prayer. A six session Café DVD series will take place every Monday evening from 7 p.m. and Tuesday after Mass & Rosary in St. Margaret's Hall. All welcome.

**Sponsored Diet UPDATE for FHL and YFL:** Two weeks in and the combined weight loss of Fr David and Lynsey May is 16 lbs. Please keep gathering sponsors from your family and friends as every pound raised will be used to help the Christians in the Holy Land and our diocesan young people in their work with the assisted pilgrims in Lourdes.

**A gentle reminder:** Next Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, is Mother's Day – don't forget!

**Ayr Choral Union Spring Concert 2 works by Brahms:** The "German Requiem" and "Song of Destiny" accompanied by the City of Glasgow Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gerard Doherty will take place in Ayr Town Hall on Sunday 2nd April at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10—£14 from ACU members or The Gaiety Box Office.

**Music Therapy for Alzheimer/Dementia/Multiple Sclerosis Community:** Phoenix Musical Hearts and Minds is a music therapy support offshoot of Ayr Folk Club. A tried and tested interactive musical entertainment model is now operating at Ayr Ex-Services Club in Academy Street, Ayr, on the first Monday of every month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. See poster for more information.

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1428.72; St. Paul's - £540.30; St. Francis Xavier's - £212.10.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** The new cycle of envelopes for those **who have signed a GIFT AID FORM** are available at the back of all churches.

If you do not currently use envelopes and wish to make your weekly contribution to the Church by envelope or standing order, please add your name to the relevant list which is available in the porch. Please consider the Gift Aid scheme.

**CATHEDRAL SUNG EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT:**

Evening Prayer of the Church will be sung in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Sunday, 2nd April at 6.00 pm. All welcome.

**PALM SUNDAY NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:**

Young people aged 11-25 are invited to mark the beginning of Holy Week with other young Catholics from Scotland on Palm Sunday, 9th April, at St Mary's Monastery, Perth for an afternoon of bishops' teaching, Mass, and social time with a buffet dinner. Cost £5 including transport by coach from Galloway diocese. For more information, or to book a place, please contact Fr Stephen McGrattan ([info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk](mailto:info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk) or on 01563 521832).

**Taizé Retreat:** "Inner Life and Solidarity" is a retreat for people aged 16-35 which takes place in Birmingham from Friday 28th April – Monday 1st May and it is led by Brother Paolo and the Taizé community. In the wake of a number of international events which have underlined divisions in our societies, this retreat will celebrate the commitment lived out by Christians and others of goodwill. Transport, accommodation, meals and registration all included for £100. For booking and information contact [info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk](mailto:info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk).

**Jumbalance Pilgrimage to Lourdes Easter 2017:** A group will travel from our diocese to Lourdes on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April returning Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The travel is by medically-adapted coach and is particularly suited to those unable to fly for health reasons and/or those who wish to be in a smaller group. Places available for VIPs (sick pilgrims), helpers & nurses/carers. The group travels with a doctor, nurses & chaplain and can cater for almost all needs. Please contact Alison Neil on 07749 555 955 or [amd.neil@outlook.com](mailto:amd.neil@outlook.com) for more information.

**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.

**St. John's Primary School Show:** Music of the Decades will be held in Belmont Academy on 29th and 30th March at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale from the school office (01292 612711). Cost £5 adults, £3 child/concession and £13 for a family ticket (2adults and 2 children). Please support the children in what is sure to be a wonderful evening of song and dance.

## Saint Margaret's

**Fay Penders R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fay Penders who died recently. Fay's body will be brought to the church on Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. (after the Reconciliation Service) and the funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 10 a.m. May she rest in peace.

**Music Group:** Our first music practice will take place on Tuesday evening at 6.30 p.m. in the Church. Please bring your instruments and music with you. It will hopefully last no longer than an hour. Many thanks. Sr. Marie

**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.

**Weekly Social Gathering:** This takes place in the Hall on **Thursdays from 11.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m.** All are welcome to drop in.

**Mile of Coins:** 50% for SCIAF and local charities, 50% to parish improvements. Last week we added £66.40–1.84yards. 680.98 yards to go.

**Coffee & Chat Evening:** Tuesday 28th March at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall. Entry £2 (pay at the door). Bingo and raffle extra.

**Boys Brigade Race Night in Aid of Romania Youth:** Saturday 25th March at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall. Entry £5 (pay at the door).

## Saint Paul's

**Andrew Salotti R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Andrew Salotti who died recently. Andrew's body will be brought to the church on Thursday evening at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 10 a.m. May he rest in peace.

**Repository:** New stock of Cards/Gifts for Easter, Confirmation and First Communion are now available.

**Mother & Toddler Group:** The Mother & Toddler group meet in the hall on Tuesday at 10.30am.

**Tuesday Club:** The Tuesday Club meet in the hall on Tuesday from 2 p.m. Transport is available if required.

**South Ayrshire Foodbank:** For information regarding the next collection date, please refer to the notice in the porch.

## Saint Francis Xavier's

**Wednesday:** There will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion in St. Francis Xavier's on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

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

**The Easter availability sheet for readers and ministers of the Eucharist is available at the back of all churches. Please fill in your availability as soon as possible. Thank you**

### Today's seeds are tomorrow's bread



SCIAF are working with the Church in Zambia to find long term solutions to poverty and hunger. Your donations are helping poor families learn cheaper new ways of farming so that they can grow more food—whatever the weather.

**SCIAF Sunday:** Next weekend, March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, is SCIAF Sunday and we are asked to pray in a very special way for all who work for, or are assisted by, SCIAF. We are also asked to have a *special collection* to support the great work that they do in our name every day. In light of SCIAF's emergency appeal launched last week for the 16 million people starving in South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria, I ask you to be as generous as you possibly can be to this collection next weekend as this will enable us to avoid another collection for the emergency appeal at a later date and enable us to get the funds raised to SCIAF as soon as possible. If you make an offering by cheque please make the cheque payable to your parish as this means we only have to send one cheque to SCIAF from each of the parishes. Donations to the Emergency Appeal can be made directly at [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk) or by telephoning 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

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

*Tuesday* – Bernard Tierney; *Wednesday* – Edward and Marion McCluskey;

*Thursday* – Fay Penders; *Friday* – Andrew Salotti;

*Saturday 4 p.m.* – Margaret McCann; *Saturday 6 p.m.* – special intention;

*Sunday 9.30 a.m.* – for the parishes; *Sunday 11.30 a.m.* – William Tait.

When you ask Fr. David to say a Mass please give him a written note of who the Mass is for. Thank you.

## The Third Sunday of Lent Year 'A'

Exodus 17: 3-7

Romans 5: 1-2.5-8

John 4: 5-42

*The first great baptismal text, the Samaritan woman, brings us face to face with Jesus who will give us water welling up to eternal life. Like the water given through Moses, that given by Christ is life itself, the life of the Spirit, in which we can enter into the very life of God.*

The Lenten liturgy leads us towards Baptism. In older times most Baptisms were celebrated at Easter, because this was the very time when the Church was celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. The symbolism of baptism is that each of us goes down into the waters of baptism (into the Jordan as Jesus did) and rises again from the water, which has now become *'living water – welling up to eternal life'* (John 4).

The story we read and listen to this weekend is of the Samaritan woman – touched by Christ. He asks her help, giving her dignity and power, because she has the wherewithal to draw water and he has not. When they talk – Jesus tells the Samaritan woman of the coming salvation symbolised in the living water and so convinced her by his word and attitude that she goes to persuade her village that she has found the Messiah. Yet after she has called them forward they hear and believe of their own accord. They in their turn accept Jesus as their Saviour.

Each Christian mother and father has been baptised in the living water of the font, and so takes on the same task as the Samaritan woman – to bring others to the Lord. They offer their children to the Lord through the living water of baptism and then talking to them of living life in spirit and truth. However, without the nurturing of the faith by the family there is no growth in the relationship with the Lord. To nurture the faith is a duty that the parents and indeed the godparents agree to at the baptism ceremony itself. We should always be aware that these words should be backed up by action in living the Christian life for all our sakes.

So as Lent goes on, as we go on in Lent, we must make space and time to live in the spirit of truth. Try to be open to being changed, not just afraid. Begin by *repenting*. This means acknowledging your failures and deliberate choices for self against God. Then being sorry and expressing your sorrow to God in Jesus – asking Jesus' mercy and love. Jesus says to his friends: 'Fear not, little flock'. Love him, because love throws out fear. Offer yourself to God as his beautiful creation. You who can personally love him and give him the service of love, now and until death.

## Weekly Words from Pope Francis

In his General Audience address on Wednesday March 15th, his Holiness Pope Francis said to us:

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian hope, today we consider the joy that hope brings to our daily exercise of charity. We know how difficult it is to love as our Lord commands us, and how often our love can be tainted by self-interest. It is important to remember that love – charity – is a grace, the fruit of our saving encounter with God's own love. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord's grace forgives our sins, heals our hearts and enables us to become channels of



his own unconditional love. Our efforts to love our brothers and sisters with a pure and disinterested love are really our response to the love we have been shown in Christ. Conscious of our human weakness, let us ask our Lord daily to renew the gift of his love within us and to enable us to be witnesses of that love to others, especially those in greatest need. In this way, we will fulfil the Apostle's command to "rejoice in hope" (*Rom 12:12*), as we strive to grow in the life of charity and to draw others to the merciful love of the Father.