

**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

**PRIEST** - Fr David Borland

**DEACON** - Bill Corbett

**RELIGIOUS** - Sister Marie (01292 270 408)

**PHONE** - 01292 263 488

**ADDRESS** - 27 John Street, Ayr, KA8 OBS

**MAIL** - rcchurchesayr@gmail.com

**WEB** - StMargaretsCathedralAyr.org

**FACEBOOK** - @RCAYR

**TWITTER** - @RC\_AYR

## Parish Bulletin

### 25th/26th February 2017

#### Readings

Isaiah 49:14-15  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
Matthew 6: 24-34

#### Psalm Response

In God alone is my soul at rest.

#### 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

#### 27th February—5th March 2017

**Monday:** Mass in St. Paul's at 10am  
**Tuesday:** Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am

#### Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am  
Mass in St. Paul's at 10am  
Mass in St. Francis Xavier's Primary 10am  
Mass in St. Margaret's 7pm

**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  
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.

**SCIAF Lenten Materials:** The annual packs from SCIAF (including the WEE BOX) have arrived and are at the back of the Church. Please take a pack home and support this year's Lenten campaign if you can.

**Ash Wednesday – March 1<sup>st</sup>:** Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. Masses with the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated in St. Margaret's, St. Paul's and St. Francis Xavier's Primary School at 10 a.m. There will be two Services with the distribution of Ashes in St. John's Primary School at 1.30 p.m. and 2 p.m., and the final Mass of the day with the distribution of Ashes will be in St. Margaret's at 7 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross:** During Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on the following days: Wednesdays in St. Francis Xavier's after the morning Service (beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>); Wednesdays in St. Paul's at 7 p.m. (beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>); Sundays in St. Margaret's at 4 p.m. (beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>).

**Fasting in Lent:** A guided fast is again being offered. Please see the flyers at the back of the church. We will be fasting from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, meeting every evening in that week for help with the fasting as such and for a quiet Scripture mediation. The fast is primarily a spiritual opportunity, but also a chance to spring-clean physically and to enjoy the group meetings. An **information evening** for all those who are curious will be held **after the evening Mass on Ash Wednesday**. This evening is important, but of course not binding. If you would like to fast but cannot come to the information evening, please phone Eileen Opiolka on 01292 267045

**Quiet Day:** A warm invitation to a Quiet Day to mark the beginning of Lent. It will be held in St. Margaret's Cathedral hall on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please take a flyer with you for the details.

**World Day of Prayer:** World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2 p.m. in Newton Wallacetown Church, Main St, Ayr.

**Rite of Election:** The Rite of Election for those becoming full members of the Catholic Church at Easter this year will take place in St. Margaret's Cathedral at 3 p.m. on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> – the first Sunday of Lent. These brothers and sisters come from all across our diocese and have been preparing for this next stage on their faith journey for many months. If you are able to come and offer your support and encouragement to them with your presence at this Mass it will be greatly appreciated. There will be a social gathering in the Hall afterwards to which everyone is invited.

**Sponsored Diet:** Fr David and Lynsey May are going on a sponsored diet during the season of Lent to raise funds for the *Friends of the Holy Land* and the *Youth for Lourdes*. FHL is a charity which works to enable Christians to remain living and working in the Holy Land and YFL is the group of young people from our diocese who give up their time every second year to work with the Assisted pilgrims in Lourdes. Sponsor Forms are available from the back of the church from this weekend and it would be marvellous if you could take a form away and get your family and friends to sponsor them.

**Taizé Retreat:** "Inner Life and Solidarity" is a retreat for people aged 16-35 which takes place in Birmingham from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

### **Safeguarding Update & Level One Training**

I would remind all volunteers in the church that, if their role in the community requires it, they must complete a PVG check AND the Level One Diocesan Safeguarding Training before they can begin any voluntary role – if you are in any doubt what that means then speak to one of the Safeguarding Team whose photographs and contact details are now on the notice boards. Safeguarding Training Level One for our Deanery, lasting 90 minutes, is in: St. Quivox Church Hall, Prestwick, on Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7 p.m.

**Jumbulance 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 details.

**SPRED:** AGM on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7 p.m. in the Library at Queen Margaret Academy. Tea will be served in the SPRED centre at close of meeting. Anyone interested in joining the SPRED groups in Ayr please come along and meet us and hear about what is involved. All welcome. *Sr. Kathleen*

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1226.18; St. Paul's - £551.65; St. Francis Xavier's - £106.80.

### **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.

**The next meeting of SVP members will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6 p.m. in the hall.**

## **Saint Margaret's**

**Music Group:** We would like to form a music group with our young people, to play once a month at Mass. If you can play an instrument, or sing we would love to hear from you. Please give your name and phone number to either Fr. David or Sr. Marie if you would like to be part of it.

**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 £67.25 – 1.86 yards. 688.39 yards to go.

**Food Bank Collection:** The next food bank collection will be this weekend. Please leave donations in the Church on Saturday evening but in the hall on Sunday morning.

**Catherine Coyle R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Coyle of Gould Street who died recently and whose funeral Service will take place in M L Williams' funeral parlour on Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon and thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**Winifred Kerr R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Winifred Kerr who died on Tuesday. The funeral details for Winifred are not yet known.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** If you currently use envelopes and your address or tax status has changed can you please notify us of the changes. If you do not already use envelopes but would like to either have an envelope or pay by standing order please add your name to the relevant list at the back of the churches.

## **Saint Paul's**

**Sick & Housebound parishioners:** We are struggling to get a complete list of the sick and housebound parishioners within St. Paul's parish community. If you know of anyone who is not being visited would you please write their name down and give it to Fr. David or Deacon Bill. Thank you.

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

### **Mother & Toddler Group**

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

### **South Ayrshire Foodbank**

For information re 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.

## **Holy Week and Easter**

Due to the reduction in the number of priests covering our three churches in October last year, 'Embracing Change' became very much a reality for us and the number and location of our Holy Week and Easter Services and Masses will therefore be affected.

The plan for Holy Week and Easter is therefore:

Passion Sunday:	Masses at the Normal times	
	Holy Hour for Peace in St. Paul's:	6pm – 7pm
Holy Thursday:	Mass of the Lord's Supper in St. Margaret's	7 pm
	Night Prayer at the place of Repose in St. Margaret's	10 pm
Good Friday:	Morning Prayer of the Church in all 3 churches	10 am
	Celebration of the Passion in all 3 churches	3pm
	Stations of the Cross in all 3 churches	7 pm
Holy Saturday:	Morning Prayer of the Church in all 3 churches	10 am
	Easter Vigil in St. Margaret's	9 pm
Easter Sunday:	Mass in St. Margaret's	9.30 am & 11.30 am
	Mass in St. Francis Xavier's	9.30 am
	Mass in St. Paul's	11.30 am

I realise this is a change from what was celebrated in past years but, as I said when I came, "there is only me!" and I cannot be in more than one place at the same time.

## **Youth For Lourdes**

The Youth for Lourdes group are organising a St. Patrick's Day Ceilidh in St. Margaret's Church Hall on Saturday 18th March at 7pm to raise funds for their pilgrimage in July. It is bring your own bottle. A buffet will be provided. Tickets cost £10 and are available at the back of the church. There will also be 2 raffles, one of which will be for a signed Celtic top! Raffle tickets are £1 a ticket. Anyone who would like raffle tickets contact Meghan Hamilton 07932 731519

## The Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

Isaiah 49: 14-15

1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

Matthew 6: 24-34

*We cannot be the 'slave of two masters'. Our love for our God should be total and wholehearted. No matter what the world thinks of us, no matter what difficulties we face, we are to place our trust in the love our Father has for us. For in the words of the prophet when describing the Lord's love: "even if these forget, I will never forget you."*

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to 'consider the lilies of the field. Do not worry about tomorrow'. I used to think this was a romantic image until I went to Israel one February and saw the rough ground dotted with these 'lilies', which are in fact our red anemones. Jesus was using a homily image like 'consider the daisies ...' These red anemones came to the UK a thousand years ago when the Knights went to the Holy Land to join the Crusades, and brought them home with them. You can buy them now on flower stalls.

Jesus loved nature. He went into the hills, into the quiet world of nature, to pray. Even in the town one can glimpse the same peace if you open the window a little as you fall out of bed in the morning and hear a springtime dawn chorus. In this part of the world we can marvel at the beauty of a sunset over Arran. Or you can take the dog for a walk on the beach or in a park and surprise a squirrel or a rabbit at play. These things help us 'not to worry about tomorrow' but to enjoy the gift of today. Or you could find the first blossom on the trees. In Hebrew these are referred to as the 'Watchful Trees' – they saw them as a sign that God watches over us to make us blossom. Or you could buy a few anemones and then read today's Gospel again.

These are all a reminder that God will never leave us or forget us. Even if all others do, God will not. In a film released many years ago called *Ordinary People*, a family were trying to come to terms with the death of an oldest son. This son, the mother's favourite, had died in a boating accident which his younger brother had survived. This younger of the sons, racked with guilt, tried to take his own life. At one point in the film the father asks the mother if she does indeed love the younger son. Her reply is that it is "not natural for a mother not to love her son" but that is exactly what she does. Here we have in this shocking image what the Scriptures tell us. Even if we lose our mother's love the Lord will never leave us.

### Weekly Words from Pope Francis

In his weekly General Audience in Vatican City on Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, his Holiness Pope Francis taught:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters: Rather than being something we possess and use for own pleasure, Saint Paul reminds us that creation is God's gift, which reveals to us his loving plan. But when we are self-centred and commit sin, we break our communion with God, and the original beauty of human nature and creation is marred. Thus, rather than show God's infinite love, creation bears the wounds of human pride. The Lord, however, does not abandon us, but offers us a new horizon of freedom and salvation. Saint Paul reminds us of this truth, by inviting us to hear the groaning of all people and things, and even the groaning of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. These groans are not sterile, but speak of the pangs of birth, the ushering in of new life. Despite the many signs of our sins and failings, we know that we are saved by the Lord, and even now contemplate and experience within ourselves and all around us signs of the Resurrection, a new creation. We know that Jesus wants to heal us and creation once and for all, and reconcile us in his love. Let us see ourselves and the world with Christ's eyes. And when we are discouraged or tempted to despair, let us remember that the Holy Spirit comes to our aid, to keep alive our cries to God, and to reveal new heavens and a new earth which he is preparing for us."



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

*Tuesday* – Canon John Walls; *Wednesday* – Nan McKeown; *Thursday* – Margaret Ogilvie; *Friday* – Winnie Carragher;  
*Saturday 4 p.m.* – John Szimaitis; *Saturday 6 p.m.* – special intention;  
*Sunday 9.30 a.m.* – for the parishes; *Sunday 11.30 a.m.* – Sophie Doherty.

If you ask for a Mass intention to be said, but do not see the name on this list, please understand that I may have had to ask another priest to say that Mass because of the huge number of requests that are being made for me to say Masses. Be assured that Mass will be offered for your requested intention.