

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 March 2017

Readings

Samuel 16:1.6-7. 10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Psalm Response

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

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 March-2nd April 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
Mass in St. Margaret's at 12.30pm (Funeral)

Thursday

Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am
Mass in St. Paul's at 12 noon (Funeral)

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

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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: The next diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between July 3rd – 10th 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 10th—17th 2017. Booking Forms can be obtained by contacting Alba Tours Ltd on 01698 262941.

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. This week we will pray the SCIAF Stations of the Cross which pick up SCIAF's Lenten theme "Today's Seeds Are Tomorrow's Bread".

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: Fr David and Lynsey May continue their efforts - another 'ongoing total' will appear next week. 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.

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.

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.

Youth for Lourdes: Thank you to everyone who came to the ceilidh on Saturday night. The total raised was £608 from the night and £612 from raffle tickets for the Celtic top. The winner of the Celtic top was Anne Munro.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1229.87; St. Paul's - £852.54; St. Francis Xavier's - £143.60

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.

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.

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 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.

Jumbulance Pilgrimage to Lourdes Easter 2017: A group will travel from our diocese to Lourdes on Thursday 27th April returning Saturday 6th 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 for more information.



Saint Margaret's

Claire Berretti R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Claire Berretti who was killed in an accident. Claire's body will be brought to the church on Tuesday evening at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. May she rest in peace.

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 £82.65– 2.29 yards. 678.68 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.

Food Bank: The next food bank collection will be next weekend 1st/2nd April.

200 Club March Draw: £30 E Beattie; £20 A Slater; £10 D Johnson.

SVP Meeting: Monday April 3rd at 6.00 pm in Hall.

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.

Saint Paul's

Andrew Salotti R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Andrew Salotti of Belmont Avenue who died last week and whose funeral Mass took place in St. Paul's on Friday. May he rest in peace.

William Morland R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Morland of Chalmers Avenue who died last weekend and whose funeral Mass took place in St. Paul's on Saturday. May he rest in peace.

Bob Watson R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bob Watson of Overmills Road who died last week. Bob's body will be brought to the church on Wednesday evening at 7.45 p.m. (after Stations of the Cross) and the funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday at 12 noon. May he rest in peace.

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.

Justice & Peace Group: The Justice & Peace Group will meet again on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.00pm in St. Pauls Church. The group would warmly welcome new members from both St Pauls and St Margaret's parishes. (Enter St Pauls Church by the main door).

Mad Hatters Tea Party in support of SPRED:

- by popular request from last year. St. Margaret's Hall, Sunday 23rd April 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Dress Code: Hat's must be worn!!! Entrance Tickets £2 available from Sr. Kathleen or Phone 263196

The Easter availability sheet for readers and ministers of the Eucharist is available in the Sacristy at St. Margaret's and on the wall outside the Sacristy at St. Paul's. Please fill in your availability as soon as possible. Thank you

SCIAF SUNDAY



Mothers around the world are struggling to provide for their families and give their children a better chance in life. Please give what you can to today's Special Collection and remember all mothers in your prayers.

This weekend, March 25th and 26th, 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 this 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 or by telephoning 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent Year 'A'

1 Samuel 16: 1-6.10-13

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

The second great baptismal text, the man born blind, brings us face to face with Jesus, the Light of the World. The sight he gives us is true insight to recognise him as the one sent by the Father, his anointed. hence our lives are to be suffused with his light alone.

Blindness is a terrible physical disability. But it is to me always amazing how extraordinarily a blind person can not only live, but have a fullness and development of life where they reach the peak of their profession. One blind man I knew became deputy editor of a national newspaper and a leader writer. Another lives by himself and is very active in his local parish, especially ecumenically. There is another blindness – a blindness in human relationship and most seriously in relation to belief in God. Jesus gave the blind man his sight so that he could see physically, but more subtly and deeply, he gave the man faith.

Most of us are blessed with physical sight. But how many of us have such deep belief as to have spiritual insight, a kind of assurance of God's existence, a sense of his love and care for me and us personally, a rock-solid conviction when we say on a Sunday or any other day 'I believe in One God ... in Jesus Christ ... in the Holy Spirit'? For many years, earlier in my life, I never really felt forgiven! I used to go to Confession and come out after absolution and continue with life. I had received forgiveness, I had said I was sorry to God and when I emerged from the confessional, all was well. But then things from the past came in again. I doubted my sorrow, I doubted whether I had really told the full truth, and so I began again to feel a continuing personal insecurity – was I really forgiven? I feel, from being on the receiving end of confession from all sorts of people for a while now that a number of people may know personally what I am talking about. So I want to go on more positively.

Jesus came to us in God's world to preach love and forgiveness, to unveil the love of God, who so loves us that he sent his Son, Jesus, to be with us, live and die for us, and preach forgiveness. By showing love in action, he gives a very clear teaching that he mirrors his Father, who is *Love*. He then tells us that love covers a multitude of sins. And so it is time to take a new look at forgiveness.

It hit me years ago now – Yes! I really am forgiven! My guilt, my fears, my hidden doubts, my sins are all taken up in the incredible love poured out by Jesus through the Spirit. Yes – unworthy indeed – but forgiven, loved, raised up to get on living for God, for others, and for myself. Thank God! Jesus says: If you love me, keep my commandments. This we must try to do. But he knows we are weak and liable to fall away, after all, he made us, he knows us, and he forgives. Pray hard for yourself, for those in your family, for your neighbours, and even the wider world that we may have a conversion, a renewal of faith and a clear-sightedness which will enable us to live humbly and justly in our baptismal commitment. 'Lord, that I may see.'

Weekly Words from Pope Francis

In his General Audience address on Wednesday March 22nd, following the reading of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (15: 1-6), his Holiness Pope Francis said to us: Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian hope, today we reflect on two words used by Saint Paul in the opening reading: steadfastness and encouragement. Paul says that both are contained in the message of the Scriptures, but even more, that ours is a God of steadfastness and encouragement (cf. *Rom 15:4-5*). In the Christian life, we are called to spread hope by supporting and encouraging one another, especially those in danger of faltering. But we do so with the strength provided by the Lord, who is our unfailing source of hope. Faithful to the Apostle's injunction, may we always live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus (v. 5).



Fr. David's Mass intentions this week are:

Tuesday – John Szimaitis; *Wednesday* – Claire Berretti; *Thursday* – Bob Watson; *Friday* – Catherine Kerr;

Saturday 4 p.m. – John Dawson; *Saturday 6 p.m.* – special intention;

Sunday 9.30 a.m. – Anne O'Toole; *Sunday 11.30 a.m.* – for the parishes.

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