

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



RCAYR

PRIEST - Fr David Borland

DEACON - Bill Corbett

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Parish Bulletin

22nd/23rd July 2017

Readings

Wisdom 12: 13.16-19

Romans 8: 26-27

Matthew 13: 24-43

Psalm Response

O Lord, you are good and forgiving

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

24th—30th July

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

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 11 am

Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway -
Registered Charity No. SCO10576

SPUC Scotland 'No to Abortion Decriminalisation'

Petition: We will be sending the petition sheets to
SPUC Scotland this week – so if you haven't signed
yet please do so this weekend. After this weekend you
can still sign the petition online at
www.spucscotland.org/petition

Annual Mission Appeal: Sr. Eleanor Breen O.S.F.
of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception will be at all Masses on the weekend of
August 4th/5th to make an appeal on behalf of her
Order. Every parish in the diocese is asked to host
such an appeal once a year.

Could you host a Spanish student for the academic

term 2017/18?: A 15 year old Spanish boy is looking
for a practising Catholic family to stay with while he
attends S3 at Wellington School in the next academic
year. The lad speaks fluent English, loves football,
swimming and biking, and would love to stay with a
family with other children. All expenses will be
covered and support will be offered 24/7. His older
brother will also be studying full-time at Strathclyde
University and will be available as required. This
placement is being organised by Susana Guzman of
Holoenglish.es If you would consider doing this for
this young man then please contact
susanaguzman@holaenglish.es as soon as possible.

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.

Facebook: For all who are users of Facebook please
be aware that the parishes have a Facebook page –
simply search for “RC Ayr” and ‘like’ our page to
see the regular updates – we now have almost 900
followers, invite your friends and let's try to reach
1,000. The Diocese has its own Facebook page –
search for “Galloway Diocese”.

New Website: Our new website for the three parishes
has been launched you will find it at
www.rcayr.org.uk The old St. Margaret's website is
no longer used and should not be used for up-to-date
information.

St Margaret's Children & Family Care Society:

Have you ever considered adoption? Could you give a
loving, stable home to a child who has suffered abuse or
trauma? Do you have what it takes to be a ‘Therapeutic
Parent’? If the answer to any of these questions is yes,
please visit our website
www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk for more info or call
0141 332 8371 and speak to our duty worker.

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.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: There are lots of clips of
the Masses and Services from the Diocesan Lourdes
Pilgrimage on the parish website. Thanks to Chris Colvin
for his hard work putting these together.

Foodbank: The foodbank are currently running low on the
following items:

UHT milk,
small bottles of diluting juice
tinned pudding rice,
tinned custard,
jam,
dried pasta,
breakfast cereal,
tinned mince/stew/cold meat.

Thank you for your continued support of the foodbank.

As of August the Food Bank collections for **BOTH**
parishes will be taken on the First Weekend of each month.

SPRED

Are you open and ready for a new challenge?

Could you make a commitment to SPRED as a Volunteer?
As a catechist partner in a group, as a driver enabling a
‘friend’ member to come to SPRED, as a fundraiser, or by
offering clerical help in the office?

For more information contact:

Sr. Kathleen on 01292 263196,

Email: spredgalloway@talktalk.net or visit us
at www.spredgalloway.org.uk.

Thank you, Sr. Kathleen

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

Tuesday – James Duffy;

Wednesday – Frank O'Toole;

Thursday – Susan Stewart;

Friday – Fr. John Gallagher;

Saturday 4 p.m. – Nicola McIndoe;

Saturday 6 p.m. – Special Intention;

Sunday 9.30 a.m. – Kay McHenry;

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.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing
generosity towards your parish community through the
weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were:
St. Margaret's - £1170.25; St. Paul's - £842.42;
St. Francis Xavier's - £137.70.

Saint Margaret's

Leaving Mass early: It really saddens me to see so many people leaving Mass every week before the blessing and dismissal are given – important parts of the Mass which remind us of our mission as Catholics to go out and live in the world as Christians, and which help us to do so. I understand that occasionally we might have something pressing which requires us to leave a few minutes early, but for many is not 'occasionally' but every single week! Try to come to the whole Mass.

Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrimage Statue: A full-sized replica of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is visiting the Cathedrals of Scotland during this 100th anniversary year of the apparitions at Fatima. The statue will be welcomed to St. Margaret's on Saturday 23rd September and will be with us, or other churches within the diocese, for two weeks.

Children's Liturgy Leaders and Volunteers: Once again we are desperately short of Leaders and Volunteer helpers for the Children's Liturgy on Sunday morning and the burden is now falling heavily on only a few people. This is an essential ministry on a Sunday morning and I ask you to consider if you could become part of this team – please speak to Teresa Drotar if you can help. Leaders need to complete the necessary Safeguarding checks and training. If you are not sure what is involved and what you would have to do, why not ask to sit in one Sunday morning and observe?

Hot Rolls: Today we have hot filled rolls in the hall after Mass. Please also note that tea & coffee is available in the hall every Sunday after Mass.

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 £65.50–1.82yards. 651.74 yards to go.

200 Club Draw: £30 M Hehir, £20 M Graham, £10 B Waterson, £100 Bonus S Dickie.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers: Please pick up the new rota which is available in the Sacristy.

Saint Francis Xavier's

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: This will be held 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

St. Paul's 50th Anniversary: The film of the 50th Anniversary Mass is now uploaded to the parishes website and Youtube page and shorter clips are available on the parishes Facebook page.

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

Some photographs from the Quiz Night held in Lourdes. One of our teams called themselves 'The Eedjits', you will have to decide for yourself from the photographs which team that was, and there were calls for a stewards inquiry when they failed to reach their self-expected position of coming last!



The Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

Wisdom 12: 13.16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43

The mustard seed, the yeast and the darnel all show the difference between God's plan for our salvation and our understanding. From seemingly insignificant beginnings, shown by the smallness of the seed, the Kingdom will spread to all, shown by the yeast. Eventually at the end those who have lived in the light of Christ will be separated from those who have not, shown by the darnel. We must have faith in his plan and be patient.

Our Gospel reading this week continues the theme of the seed being sown and its growth. But this time there is a more direct statement of the problems which surrounds the seed that falls among thorns. This week it is not just chance falling among thorns, but a deliberate evil action attempting to spoil growth. If we look at this picture in relation to ourselves and our lives we realise that we need more balance. Firstly, the 'world' is not in itself an evil creation set to trap human beings into wicked lives. Creation is God's wonderful work moving towards completion, and we are blessed people who should live to our fullness as physical, mental and spiritual growth go on together.

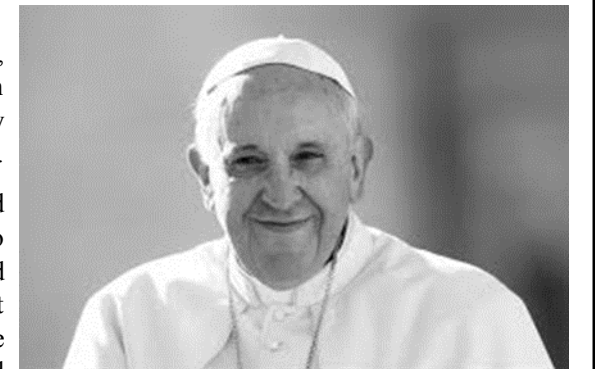
Our problem is that we lose our balance and really do get swamped and overpowered by the difficulties of living, finding work and housing, paying our bills, living together in families, singly, but always in some kind of neighbourhood. Especially in inner cities or towns our material existence can dominate in two ways. The life and excitement of all that is going on, the speed of events, keeping up with a peer group, especially for younger people – sadly getting involved with drink and drugs, too fast sexual involvement ending in break-up – all those can be too much for a faintly burning spiritual flame. So it is not just cares which choke us and keep us from God, it can be progress, self-making, ambition, love of leisure and entertainment.

On the other side, there are very few of any age group not harassed by the demands and pressures – in school passing exams, trying to decide what to do, go to college or university, go for training, find a job – just hang about. Later still the work problem, to which is added getting the right setting for marriage and somewhere to live. Later stages of challenge – children, schools, work, home, neighbourhood pressures. There can be accidents and illnesses. As age creeps on, bereavement, lessening powers, worries about pensions, the future, loneliness, and so on.

Now, in all this and through all this, we Catholics accept the presence of God's Spirit leading, guiding and supporting us. But if we allow the spiritual part of us to get marginalised, we lose so much and may well simply get more tangled and depressed. Try then to make a space in your life, space to be quiet and alone, quiet with God in prayer, sharing in the Eucharist, accepting some difficulties, driving others out, keeping close to God in open, silent prayer or meditation, making time to share in Mass and Holy Communion. Please find time to waste time on God. If you have a family, help them to do the same.

Weekly Words from Pope Francis

During the month of July there is no General Audience in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City. However Pope Francis still give his Angelus address on Sundays and the following words are taken from last Sunday's address (July 16th). The Holy Father reflected upon the Sunday Gospel, Matthew 13: 1-23.



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! Jesus, when he spoke, used simple language and images which were examples from everyday life, so they could be easily understood by all. When they listened to him gladly and appreciated his message it went straight into their hearts. It was not complicated language which was difficult to understand, as used by the doctors of the law of the time which was not clear but full of rigidity and which sent away the people. With his language Jesus helped the people understand the mystery of the Kingdom of God using uncomplicated theology, such as in today's Gospel of the parable of the sower.

The sower is Jesus, one who does not impose but proposes; not conquering us but attracting us, by giving himself. He spreads his Word with patience and generosity, which is not a cage or a trap, but a seed that may bear fruit. And how it can bear fruit? If we receive him in our heart.

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus invites us today to look into our heart today: to give thanks for our good works on the ground and to correct our 'poor soil'. Let us ask ourselves if our hearts are open to welcome with faith the seed of the Word of God. Let us ask ourselves if our 'laziness stones' are still many and great; let us identify and call by name our thorns of vices. May we find the courage to make a beautiful *land reclamation*, a beautiful remediation of our heart, leading to the Lord in confession and prayer of our stones and our brambles. By doing so, Jesus, the Good Sower, will be happy to perform any additional work: purify our hearts, removing our stones and thorns that choke his Word.

POPE'S MISSION INTENTIONS FOR JULY

We pray that, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, all brothers and sisters of good will may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.