

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

PRIEST - Fr David Borland

DEACON - Bill Corbett

RELIGIOUS - Sister Marie (01292 270 408)

PHONE - 01292 263 488

ADDRESS - 27 John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS

MAIL - rcchurchesayr@gmail.com

WEB - www.RCAyr.org.uk

FACEBOOK - @RCAYR

TWITTER - @RC_AYR

Parish Bulletin

5th/6th August 2017

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Readings

Daniel 7: 9-10.13-14 2 Peter 1: 16-19
Matthew 17: 1-9

Psalm Response

The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

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 7th - 13th August

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 11am

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

Discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate? If you have been able to view the two films 'Why I choose to be a priest' and 'Ordinary men – extraordinary lives' which I drew your attention to last week then you will realise that God is calling people to serve the Church in Galloway as ordained ministers. The task we have, every one of us, is to encourage people to hear and respond to this call. If you think someone has a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate why not approach them gently and speak with them about it?

Weekday thoughts on the Sunday Gospels: This is the title of Bishop Taylor's new book which is ON SALE NOW! Running to 227 pages and costing £10, this book is something we would all benefit from reading. Copies are available to purchase at the back of the Churches.

Annual Mission Appeal: We welcome Sr. Eleanor Breen O.S.F. of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception to all Masses this weekend, 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.

Sponsored Walk: On Monday July 31st the McQuillan Family walked part of the Whithorn Way, getting wet and muddy in the process, to help raise funds for the Irish/Scottish Youth Fatima Pilgrimage. Time to hand over you sponsor money!

150th Anniversary of the opening of Our Lady and St. Patrick's Church, Birniknowe, (Auchinleck): Bishop Nolan will celebrate Mass at the original church site on Sunday, 20th August, at 2:30pm to mark the 150th Anniversary. Refreshments afterwards in the present church hall. A welcome is extended to all.

Mary's Meals – Rags to Riches Collection: Mary's Meals will send their van to both St. Margaret's and St. Paul's on Sunday September 3rd to collect all your unwanted fabrics and clothing to turn into funds to continue their great work of providing meals for hungry children in the developing world. This is one of the main ways we can support Mary's Meals in this very necessary work.

Deacon Bill: Deacon Bill will be having his summer holiday for the next two weeks so please refrain from calling him about parish business, please speak to Fr. David instead.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1,098.80; St. Paul's - £610.71; St. Francis Xavier's - £176.00.

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary: This is celebrated on Tuesday August 15th and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in all three churches and at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's Cathedral.

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Whithorn: Our diocesan pilgrimage will take place on Sunday August 27th with Mass being celebrated on the beach near St. Ninian's Cave at 4 p.m. and in the village Church at 4.45 p.m. Lists are now on the noticeboard for you to add your name in order to reserve your seat on the coach. This annual event is always a wonderful occasion so try to go along if you can.

National Pilgrimage to Carfin: This will take place on Sunday September 3rd and during the pilgrimage the Consecration of Scotland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place. John Byars from Prestwick is organising a coach for the pilgrimage so if you would like to reserve a seat please call John on 07842 651612. See Poster for pick-up times and places.

National Youth Pilgrimage to Iona: Young people aged 14-25 from Scotland are invited to travel on pilgrimage to Iona on Sunday 10th September to visit the Abbey where St Columba and his monks lived in the 6th century. The Galloway group will travel by coach to Oban on Saturday 9th September where they will stay overnight in a youth hostel, travelling on to Iona and returning home on the Sunday. Cost £30. To register and for more information please email Fr Stephen McGrattan at info@stephenmcgrattan.org.uk.

Foodbank: As of August the Food Bank collections for BOTH parishes are taken on the 1st Weekend each month.

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.

Attention all walkers! Please remember that the group walking the St. Ninian's Way will be leaving at 9 a.m. from the Cathedral on Saturday August 19th to walk to Maybole - the next stage of their walk. They would love it if some parishioners from Ayr were able to walk with them on this leg of their pilgrimage - just turn up, suitably dressed, and join them.

Fr. David's Mass intentions this coming week are:
Tuesday – John Maley; *Wednesday* – Geoffrey Thomas;
Thursday – Mary Cairney; *Friday* – Billy Connelly;
Saturday 4 p.m. – Special Intention;
Saturday 6 p.m. – Ian Drury;
Sunday 9.30 a.m. – Pauline Slater;
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.

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?

Tea/Coffee: 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 £102.80–2.85yards. 648.89 yards to go.

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

Organic Health Products: Aloe Vera and bee products will be on sale in the hall on Sunday 6th August after Mass.

Readers, Psalmists, Extraordinary Ministers

We have a small, but committed, group of volunteer Readers, Psalmists and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and we thank them all for their willingness to serve our parish communities in these ministries, but we could certainly do with more volunteers to fill these roles. The purpose of this piece is not to ask you to volunteer, or to give you time to think up an excuse as to why you can't do it, but simply to ask you to pray, to pray that more people from within our parish families will step forward into one of these ministries. If we all pray for this then I am sure that many people will come forward over the next few weeks and offer themselves in the service of our parishes. Thank you.

Saint Paul's

William Currie R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Billy Currie who died on Thursday. There will be a funeral Service on Friday at 12.30 p.m. and thereafter to the cemetery.

Ann Finnegan R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Finnegan of Creggan Bahn Court who died this week. Ann's funeral will take place on Monday August 14th at 10 a.m. and thereafter to the Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

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

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.

RCIA

The RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation, is the process through which people become full members of the Church. This process typically takes a number of months and begins in the autumn of one year, reaches a climax at the Easter Vigil of the following year, and then continues on a joyful plateau for the rest of the persons life of faith.

We will have a meeting in September to answer any questions those thinking about joining the Church might have and to look forward to the year ahead, so if you know of anyone who is thinking about taking such a wonderful step then please talk to them about faith and invite them to come to Sunday Mass. The date of the meeting will be published as soon as possible.

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

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Daniel 7: 9-10.13-14

2 Peter 1: 16-19

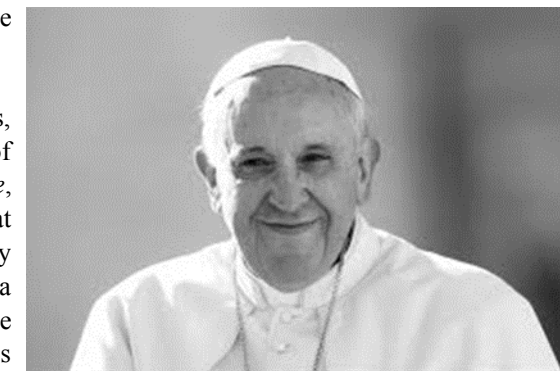
Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus sets his sights of the Cross even at this moment of his glory and revelation. Christ's Passion will lead all to the full light of the kingdom once we have realised that he is the Son of God.

At the birth of Jesus and in his early life Scripture tells us that there were some strange circumstances – shepherds given a revelation, angels seen, recognition of him when he is presented in the Temple. Then there is practically nothing for some thirty years – no miracles, nor preaching, no adulation – apparently an ordinary boy and young man growing up in a small hill town called Nazareth. Now, Scriptural revelation and our faith state that this man is God made man. It is as though he lived under 'disguise'. But this disguise was not like a false moustache or cheek pads. Manhood was as real as Godhead, but in a way the human nature concealed the Godliness. When Jesus began to preach and work miracles he aroused curiosity, antagonism and a large following. But he was still an enigma: how was he, the son of a carpenter, doing all this? Was he a prophet? Was he possessed by the Devil? But the story of the Transfiguration is very different. The three witnesses, Jesus' friends Peter, James and John, are taken out for the day – up a mountain. Here they are privileged to see the reality of Jesus, God and man – 'the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ' (2 Corinthians 4: 6). For them it is both uplifting and overwhelming, especially when they are covered by a cloud and hear the words 'This is my Son, listen to him!' Christ stands with two of the greatest prophets, Moses and Elijah. But Jesus is alone in glory, he is something more than a prophet. However, as we witness the 'true Jesus', there is a warning. Jesus talks with the two prophets about his Passion and Death in Jerusalem. And when he leaves the mountain he tells Peter, James and John not to mention what has happened, what they have seen, until Jesus has risen from the dead. Can we concentrate on: a) pondering our belief in Jesus as God and human. b) realising that he has entered his glory through suffering. c) that we are 'transfigured' by baptism and that the glory of God is with us and in each of us now. d) for our total transfiguration, we too will suffer, taking up the cross.

Weekly Words from Pope Francis

In his Angelus address last Sunday the Holy Father reflected upon the Sunday Gospel, Matthew 13: 44-52.



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! The *parabolic discourse* of Jesus, which brings together seven parables in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, concludes with the three parables of today: the *hidden treasure*, the *precious pearl* and the *fishing net*. I am silent on the first two that underline the decision of the protagonists to sell everything to get what they have discovered. In the first case it is a farmer who casually encounters a hidden treasure in the field where he is working. Not being his property he has to buy it if he wants to get the treasure, so he decides to risk all his belongings in order not to miss that extraordinary opportunity. In the second case we find a precious pearl merchant; he, as an expert, has identified a pearl of great value. He also decides to gamble everything on that pearl, to the point of selling all the others.

These similarities highlight two characteristics concerning the possession of the Kingdom of God: *research* and *sacrifice*. True, the Kingdom of God is offered to all - it is a gift, a gift, a grace - but is not made available on a silver plate, it requires dynamism: it is to seek, to walk, to do. The attitude of *research* is the essential condition to find; it is necessary that the heart be burned by the desire to attain the precious good, that is, the Kingdom of God that is present in the person of Jesus. He is the hidden treasure, he is the pearl of great value. He is the fundamental discovery, which can make a decisive turning point in our lives, filling it with meaning.

Faced with the unexpected discovery, both the peasant and the merchant realize that they have a unique opportunity to avoid being left out, so they sell everything they own. Evaluating the invaluable treasure value leads to a decision that also involves *sacrifice*, detachment and renunciation. When the treasure and the pearl have been discovered, when we have found the Lord, we do not find this discovery sterile, but sacrifice to it everything else. It is not a matter of despising the rest, but of subordinating it to Jesus, placing Him in the first place. Grace first. The disciple of Christ is not one who has been deprived of something essential; he is one who has found much more: he has found the full joy that only the Lord can give. It is the evangelical joy of the healed people; forgiven sinners; of the thief to whom the door of paradise opens.

The joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet with Jesus. Those who are saved by Him are freed from sin, sadness, inner void, and isolation. *With Jesus Christ, the joy is always born and reborn* (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, No. 1). Today we are exhorted to contemplate the joy of the farmer and the merchant. It is the joy of each of us when we discover the proximity and consoling presence of Jesus in our lives. A presence that transforms the heart and opens us to the needs and the acceptance of the brothers and sisters, especially the weaker ones.