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

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Parish Bulletin

23rd/24th September 2017
25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year 'A'

Readings

Isaiah 55: 6-9 Philippians 1: 20-24.27
Matthew 20: 1-16

Psalm Response

The Lord is close to all who call him**.**

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
25th September –1st October

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 and Thursday and Saturday before Mass at 9.30am 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

Retired Priests—Special Collection: There will be a special collection at all Masses this weekend (September 23rd/24th) for the retired priests fund. Gift Aid envelopes for those who pay tax are available at the back of each church.

Discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate? 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?

New Volunteer Readers and Extraordinary Ministers: I am delighted to say that a number of people have told me they are thinking seriously about offering their gifts and talents to the service of our parish communities through these ministries – so it's now time to convert those thoughts to commitments. There are sheets at the back of the Churches for you to sign-up on, and in a few weeks time we will have a training evening for everyone. Thank you.

RCIA Team members: The RCIA process for those who wish to become full members of the Church will begin in early October – thank you to those who have volunteered to be part of the Team. If you are thinking about joining the Church then please call Sr. Marie on 270408 and let her know – she will be co-ordinating the process this year.

Parish Pastoral Council: Thank you to all the former members of the PPC for coming along to the meeting on Wednesday evening and bringing me up-to-speed on the activities of the former PPC's. It is time now to establish a joint-PPC for the parishes, made up of members from each of our parish communities, but fewer numbers will be required than before. I will speak to all of you after some prayer and reflection.

Concert: Please note that the Concert in St. Columba's Church on Wednesday has been cancelled.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1226.94; St. Paul's - £594.19; St. Francis Xavier's - £148.20.

Foodbank: The Food Bank collections for St. Margaret's and St. Paul's parishes are taken on the 1st Weekend each month.

Vincentian Family Annual Mass (Celebrating 400 years od the SVP Society): This will take place at Carfin Grotto on Saturday September 30th with Rosary Procession at 1.00 p.m. and Mass at 2.00 p.m. Principal Celebrant, Bishop of Motherwell, Rt. Rev. Joseph Toal. The SVP will run a free bus. If anyone from the parishes is interested please put your name on the list at the back of the churches. The bus will leave from St. Margaret's at 11 a.m.

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.

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.

Receiving Holy Communion: I have been asked recently by a few people if the way we should receive Holy Communion has changed – no, it hasn't. When the new translation of the Mass was introduced six years ago the Bishops of Scotland instructed us as follows in regard to receiving Holy Communion: we should approach the Blessed Sacrament in a dignified manner, bowing in a sign of reverence as we approach the Host, we then receive the Host from the priest or extraordinary minister, on the hand or the tongue, while standing. We should also bow in an act of reverence before we receive the Precious Blood from the chalice, again while standing. Hope this clarifies things for you.

SPRED: We are currently in need of new Volunteers for our Ayr groups – meetings take place on Monday and Thursday evenings in Queen Margaret Academy.
A couple of our 'friend' members who have special needs do not have a partner. Could you volunteer one evening a week in term time?
We are also looking for a volunteer with Book Keeping skills to assist with our monthly accounts.
Please contact Sr. Kathleen on 263196 or email: spredgalloway@talktalk.net for more information.

SPUC Scotland National Conference, 200 St Vincent St. Glasgow – Saturday 7th October 2017
This event is an excellent opportunity to hear top international speakers and learn about the exciting work being done to promote the right to life. The day commences with registration from 9.30 and ends at 4pm. The day includes refreshments throughout the day and lunch. Tickets are £25 and can be booked on 0141 221 2094.

Visit of the 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 was welcomed to St. Margaret's on Saturday 23rd September and will be with us, or other churches within the diocese, for two weeks.

Programme of Events during the Visit of the Statue

Saturday September 23rd	Recitation of the Rosary & Litany of Fatima	After the Vigil Mass
Sunday September 24th	Recitation of the Rosary & Litany of Fatima	After the Morning Mass
	Evening Prayer of the Church	6 p.m.
Monday September 25th	Recitation of the Rosary & Litany of Fatima	6 p.m.
Tuesday September 26th	Recitation of the Rosary & Litany of Fatima	After the Morning Mass
	Prayer Vigil for Peace	6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesday September 27th	Recitation of the Rosary & Litany of Fatima	9 a.m.

Saint Margaret's

McMillan Coffee Morning: This will take place on Wednesday 27th September in the church hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please try to support this very worthwhile cause.

200 Club: The Annual Subscription of £13 is now due. Payment can be made in the Hall TODAY Sunday 24th September after Mass. There are several spare numbers. Please make cheques payable to St. Margaret's Cathedral.

SVP: Meeting in St Margaret's Hall, Monday 25th Sep. at 6.00 pm.

Tea/Coffee: Tea & Coffee is available in the hall 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 £67.30– 1.87yards. 638.94 yards to go.

Saint Paul's

Ann Gillespie R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Gillespie who died on Friday morning. The funeral arrangements are not yet known. May she 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 church hall every Tuesday at 2 p.m. New members most welcome.

Saint Francis Xavier's

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: In the Church on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

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

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

Tuesday – Ian Drury; *Wednesday* – Frances O'Neill;
Thursday – Catherine Saunders; *Friday* – Edward & Marion McCluskey;
Saturday 4 p.m. – Nicola McIndoe; *Saturday 6 p.m.* – special intention;
Sunday 9.30 a.m. – for the parishes; *Sunday 11.30 a.m.* – Sammy Rodger.

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

The Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

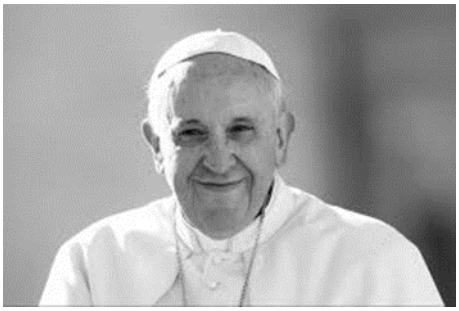
Isaiah 55: 6-9 Philippians 1: 20-24.27 Matthew 20: 1-16

The people of Israel were the first to be called by God and to receive his blessing. Those of a later age, the followers of Christ, are also called and receive his blessing. The love of God is given to all as long as they are ready to have a real and personal relationship with him. This is the key for us to follow, we need this relationship, we need to 'seek the Lord while he is still to be found'.

At one point in Scripture the Lord says 'to me a thousand years is as a day and a day as a thousand years'. Well, I must say that I have had crisis times in my life when a day has seemed to last forever as I waited for something. Also, there has been a day now and then which was so joy-filled I wanted it never to end – and it was gone in a flash of delight. So, in some ways, perhaps we can sense what God is saying in the time-space, but what about the thoughts? In this Sunday's first reading, we carry on something of what I wrote last week about forgiveness – 'let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving: for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways: it is the Lord who speaks' (Isaiah 55:6-9). Perhaps this weekend and during the week we will try: to make space to be alone, to waste time with God and to ask his Spirit to open our minds to understand more of his thoughts – and our hearts to grasp some of his ways.

We will not 'get there' in this life, that is why we have the next life. I cannot myself begin to understand how mind blowing it will be when we realise how things really are. When we are part of the kingdom of God and see the Lord face to face. Meanwhile, let us try to open ourselves, to be willing and available for learning, and open also to go forward into an unknown future with our hands in the hands of the Lord! Let us pray for each other - because apart from God, I have to say - and you should say to me: 'my thoughts are not your thoughts!'

Weekly Words from Pope Francis



During his General Audience on Wednesday September 20th Pope Francis continued his catechesis on Christian hope.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian hope, I would now like to reflect on how we *teach* the virtue of hope. So I will speak directly, person to person, especially to our young people, with a few words of guidance and encouragement. First and foremost, wherever the Lord has planted you, stand firm in hope; never lose heart! Trust in God's fatherly care, the love of Jesus and the power of the Spirit to transform and renew all things. Never yield to the negativity that tears things and people down, but keep building, trying to make this world conform ever more fully to God's plan. Keep your eyes open to the beauty all around you, keep the lamp of faith burning in your heart, and trust in the fulfilment of God's promises. Use your God-given gifts of mind and heart to help our human family to grow in freedom, justice and dignity. Jesus has won the victory and he asks us to follow his example by bringing his love and mercy to a world wounded by sin, hatred and division. Be faithful to your ideals, get up whenever you fall, and never despair. In a word: live, love and believe! And with God's grace, be beacons of hope to all around you.