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

11th/12th November 2017
32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year 'A'

Readings

Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13

Psalm Response

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

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
13th November - 19th November

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

Fr David: Fr David is absent from the parish but hopes be back soon. Please keep him in your prayers. In the meantime please contact Deacon Bill on 521208 if you need to contact the clergy, or for parish business please call Angela in the parish office on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10am and 12 noon.

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?

November Lists: Sheets and envelopes are now available for November, the month we pray for our deceased family and friends. Please return your completed sheet, along with your offering, to the Church and it will lie on the altar during the month of November.

Ayrshire Interfaith Group: As part of Scottish Interfaith week we would like to invite you to attend our event *Religion, The Arts and Creativity* on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 7pm. This is an event with a local artist, music and performances from different faiths, breaking down barriers through sharing music, performance and dialogue. Please join us for a fun evening at: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mossgiel Place, Ayr, KA7 3DL. Please confirm your attendance by emailing stuartlang1@hotmail.com or calling Stuart on 07875 847593.

SPRED: In each of our Ayr SPRED groups is a parishioner who has special needs waiting for a volunteer to partner them in the group. Could **YOU** give a Monday or a Thursday evening in term time to take part in SPRED?
Please contact the SPRED office on 263196 or email spredgalloway@talktalk.net for more information. *Thank you, Sr. Kathleen*

Advent Quiet Day: A quiet day to mark the start of Advent will be held in St. Margaret's Church Hall on Saturday 2nd December from 10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Please see notice board and flyers that are at the back of the church for details.

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

Welcome: This weekend we welcome Bishop Taylor to St. Margaret's and Fr. John McLean to St. Francis Xavier's and St. Paul's for Masses.

Coffee & Chat Evening: A coffee & chat evening will be held in St. Margaret's church hall on Wednesday 29th November at 7.30 p.m. Their will be a raffle, alternative bingo and zumba demonstration. All welcome. Pay at the door £3.00. Raffle and bingo extra.

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.

Justice and Peace Scotland – Give Me Five Campaign: The "Give Me Five" campaign aims to lift 30,000 children in Scotland out of poverty by increasing child benefit by £5 a week per child. While the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill is welcomed, setting out as it does ambitious targets to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030, this campaign seeks urgent action now to meet the needs of the 260,000 children living in poverty in Scotland today. Go to www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk to sign the petition.

SCIAF Remembrance Mass: Each November in the month of the Holy Souls, we remember our supporters who are no longer with us. Holy Mass is celebrated in memory of all those touched by SCIAF's work both here in Scotland and across the world and we would be delighted if you could join us on November 21st 2017 at Carfin. Candlelight procession 6.45pm at Carfin Grotto, Mass at 7pm in St Francis Xavier's Church, Taylor Avenue, Carfin, ML1 5AJ.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £979.853; St. Paul's - £674.48; St. Francis Xavier's - £154.20.

St. John's Primary Christmas Fair: The Parent Council & Fundraising Group have organised a Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December from 3.15 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the school hall. See posters for more information. Please try to support this fundraising event.

Saint Margaret's

RED WEDNESDAY: 'Aid To The Church In Need' has designated Wednesday November 22nd as Red Wednesday – a day of prayer to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians across the world. All churches with floodlights have been asked to try and light up their building in red that evening to mark this day of prayer and to hold a prayer liturgy in the evening. St. Margaret's will be floodlight red during the hours of darkness and an Evening Prayer will be held in the Church at 7 p.m. Bishop Nolan will lead this liturgy so please make every effort to come along and pray for your fellow Christians – it would be wonderful to have a good representation from all three parishes and beyond.

Tea/Coffee: Tea and 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 £42.90– 1.19yards. 627.98yards to go.

Saint Paul's

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 will be recited in the Church on Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

SACRAMENTAL MEETING: A meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st November at 6.30 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church Hall for all parents of children who will celebrate Confirmation and First Holy Communion next year. It is important that you attend as your child will be registered for the Sacraments at this meeting.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in St. Margaret's Cathedral on Thursday 22nd February 2018.

An 'interim' Thank You: Your response to the first three weeks of our appeal for 'over the counter' medicines for our fellow Christians in the Holy Land has been absolutely magnificent – thank you very, very much! Just a gentle reminder that we cannot accept any prescription medication – even if you have very carefully removed the chemist's label!!!

CHEWABLE MULTI-VITAMINS THIS WEEKEND PLEASE

LIQUID VITAMINS FOR INFANTS NEXT WEEKEND PLEASE

The Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year 'A'

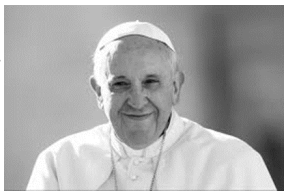
Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13

This weekend we have as a Gospel reading the story of the ten bridesmaids who had to wait for the bridegroom who was late. As a priest, I often find this happening, and interestingly the bridegroom and not only the bride turns up late! This brings to mind a memorable phrase of a spiritual writer – 'the sacrament of the present moment'. For me this is an essential basic for my spiritual life and that of others I know.

The only reality we have is here and now. The past is past and the future has not come. Here and now is where we live and move and have our being. More of us can afford to be asleep when the bridegroom comes – and yet how often can our minds get distracted. We can find we are far from thinking about Jesus or anything spiritual. Personally, I can find myself wandering all over the place and I wonder if you do also? Perhaps this is an occasion to be still, to know God, to know ourselves and to practise the sacrament of the present moment. On the whole we are like Martha, busy about many things. It may be a real conversion in our lives if we come to realise moment by moment the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is said that the moment you and I are born we begin to die. Death is tied in to the nature of human beings. None of us can escape it. But sickness is less inevitable. I know people coming close to retirement age who, despite all the pollution, stress and accidents, have never had a day off work from sickness. That is wonderful, but I'm afraid it is unusual! So we are faced with the fact that our bodies come under stress and become liable to 'go sick'. We can be the fittest person eating a healthy and balanced diet, exercising and looking after ourselves, and still get sick! We can suffer from unexpected and sudden illnesses, we can be born with medical conditions, we can all suffer from physical or mental health problems at any time. Each and every one of us must rebuild our lives from these, and living the 'sacrament of the moment' can help us to do so.

Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience on Wednesday November 8th Pope Francis began a new series of catechesis on the Eucharist.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today begins a new series of catechesis devoted to the Eucharist. The Mass is the very "heart" of the Church and the source of her life. How many martyrs have died to defend the Eucharist! Their witness confirms our Lord's promise that by partaking of his body and blood we pass with him from death to life (cf. *Jn* 6:54). At every celebration of Mass, our lives, offered in union with Christ's sacrifice on the cross, become, in him, an offering of praise and thanksgiving pleasing to the Father, for the salvation of the world. The liturgical renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council sought to help the faithful understand more fully and share more fruitfully in the Eucharist. At Mass, Jesus becomes truly present and allows us in some way, like the Apostle Thomas, to touch his flesh and renew our faith in him. In coming weeks, we will seek to grow in our appreciation of this great gift, so as to share more fully in its spiritual riches and beauty, which give ultimate meaning and direction to our lives.

A Message from Fr. David: Hello everyone! Just a wee note to let you know that I am still alive, much better than I was, and I hope to back home with you all in a couple of weeks – I'm aiming for the Red Wednesday liturgy. I've been away much longer than I anticipated or would have liked, but health issues, especially mental health issues like anxiety and depression, have to take their own time to heal, and I've discovered there is no shortcut! Thank you all for your prayers and for your cards, they have been a huge source of strength for me over these weeks, and if I could ask of you only one thing – please keep praying for me. Fr D.

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

Saturday - Tessie Baillie, *Sunday* - for the parishes
Monday – Ian Drury; *Tuesday* – Richard Sopwith; *Wednesday* – Henry Damassa;
Thursday – The Reilly family; *Friday* – Kirsteen Jamieson;
Saturday – Archie Anderson; *Sunday* – for the parishes.
Even though Fr David will not be in the parish this week he will celebrate Mass each day.