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

18th/19th November 2017
33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year 'A'

Readings

Proverbs 31: 10-13.19-20.30-31 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Matthew 25: 14-30

Psalm Response

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

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
20th November - 26th November

Monday
Mass in St. Paul's at 10am
Tuesday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am
Wednesday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am (Funeral)
Eucharistic Service at St. Paul's at 10am
Thursday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am (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 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.

Diocesan Advent Service of Readings and Carols: The annual service of readings and carols will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30 p.m. in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. Mince pies served in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

Sung Evening Prayer for Advent: Evening Prayer of the Church will be sung to mark the beginning of Advent at St Margaret's Cathedral on Sunday 3rd December at 6.00 pm. All welcome.

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*

Quiet Day on 2nd December: Please see flyers and notice boards for details and please register by Sunday 26th at the latest.

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.

SACRAMENTAL MEETING: A meeting will take place this 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.

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.

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.

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 - £1141.45; St. Paul's - £649.51; St. Francis Xavier's - £242.21.

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

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.

Maria Mancini R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Mancini who died recently. Maria's body will be brought to the church on Tuesday at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be on Wednesday at 10 a.m., thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

John Thomson R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Thomson who died recently. John's funeral Mass will be on Thursday at 10 a.m., thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

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 £69.76– 1.94yards. 626.04 yards to go.

200 Club November Draw: £30 M Millar, £20 J Carragher, £10 J Hehir.

SVP Meeting: Monday 20th November at 6 p.m. in the hall.

Saint Paul's

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

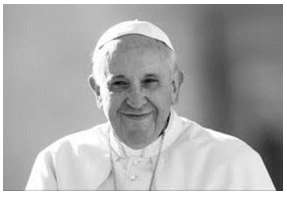
Tuesday Club: The Tuesday Club meet in the church hall every Tuesday at 2 p.m. New members most welcome.

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.

Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience on Wednesday November 15th Pope Francis continued his new series of catechesis on the Eucharist.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In this new series of catechesis on the Eucharist, we begin by reflecting on the fact that the Mass is first and foremost a prayer, indeed the prayer *par excellence*. For at every Mass we encounter God in his word and in the body and blood of Christ. Made in God's image and likeness, we were made to know him, to love and to serve him. In prayer, we experience God's closeness and love; we speak to him, but we also learn to listen to his voice speaking in our hearts. Jesus himself teaches us, as he did his disciples, how to pray. From him we learn to call God our Father, to trust in his love, and to be constantly surprised by the signs of that love. When Jesus speaks of our need to be "reborn" (cf. *Jn* 3:15), he is in fact inviting us to accept his gift of new life in the Spirit. By his sacrifice on the cross, he has atoned for all our sins and enabled us to make a new beginning, to lead a truly spiritual life. In our encounter with him in prayer, and above all in the Eucharist, we experience the consolation of his presence, the grace of his forgiveness and the joy of his invitation to live fully our vocation as God's beloved children.

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

Monday – Ted McCluskey; *Tuesday* – Thomas Letford; *Wednesday* – The Martin family;
Thursday – Peter Murray; *Friday* – Thanksgiving Mass;
Saturday – Agnes Holland; *Sunday* – for the parishes.
Even though Fr David will not be in the parish this week he will celebrate Mass each day.

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

Proverbs 31: 10-13.19-20.30-31 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6 Matthew 25: 14-30

In the extract used today from the first letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul reminds us that we do not live in darkness for we are children of light. He demands that we stay awake, unlike our servant in the Gospel story of the talents. This foolish man was afraid of his master and so misunderstood his purpose. For us it is important to get right our relationship with the Master (God) for he is the God of love, not of fear. Sadly, at certain points in history and especially in religious teaching, there has been an over-emphasis on fear of the Lord and a dominant sense of guilt. Through prayer and meditating on the Scriptures, we use the essential talent with which God has endowed us. This is the free gift of relationship with God – the power to become sons and daughters of God. When we realise that 'God so loved the world that he sent his Son', the Son lived, suffered and died in this world he loved so much that each and every one of us have available all the grace and encouragement we need to bring our talents to fulfilment in love. Jesus wants us to be whole and holy. He does not want us to bury our heads and our talents saying we are no good, unloved, unlovable.

Each person is created by God and brought into this world by the coming together of a woman and a man. Each of us, of whatever age, has a gift. Some get squashed out, some do not grow, some we ignore or neglect. Think about your possible abilities – they may be suppressed – but perhaps you can bring out those that are hidden.

One of the themes from the first reading is the beauty of the talents of women. Today, some of these values seem almost to be despised and repudiated. As a man, unable to bear a child, despite its pains and responsibilities, it seems to me wonderful to bring a child into the world. However, over the centuries, many abilities of women have been smothered, ignored or denied. Thankfully, attitudes are changing, though slowly. I think all of us should work towards rapid opening up of opportunities for an equal sharing of talents between women and men. May the Church, our mother, extend her maternal care to give power and possibility in spreading the Good News of God's salvation through women to the world starving for Word and Sacrament. Ask yourself about your personal openness to women reading, ministering, preaching and teaching in the Church. Love, peace, joy and sharing.

An 'interim' Thank You: Your response to the first five 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!!!

LIQUID VITAMINS FOR INFANTS THIS WEEKEND PLEASE

COLD & FLU SACHETS FOR KIDS NEXT WEEKEND PLEASE