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
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Parish Bulletin

27th & 28th January 2018

The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Readings

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35
Mark 1: 21-28

Psalm Response

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

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
29th January - 4th February

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

Clergy: If you need to contact the parish clergy urgently please call contact Deacon Bill on 521208, or for parish business please call Angela in the parish office on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10am and 12 noon.

Movies most definitely worth watching: There are two movies on the parish Facebook page (RC Ayr) and the parish website (www.rcayr.org.uk) which are most definitely worth watching: The Wall, a film about the process of passing through the Separation Wall between Bethlehem and East Jerusalem, and Bishop Nolan speaking about schooling in Jerusalem during his visit to the Holy Land with the Coordination Group last week. If you get the chance please watch them.

Christian Aid: St. James' Concert Party presents 'A Touch of Tartan' on Wednesday 14th February at 7.30 in St. James Church Hall. Tickets £5 (including tea/coffee). All proceeds to Christian Aid. All welcome.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1125.03; St. Paul's - £562.05; St. Francis Xavier's - £135.20.

World Day of the Sick: The Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass will be held on Sunday 11th of February at 4pm in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. The Hospitalite looks forward to welcoming you, if you wish to be anointed please make yourself known to a member of the Hospitalite team on the day. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the hall and the Galloway Lourdes Hospitalite AGM.

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.

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?

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

Sacraments of Initiation: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on our young people in St. Margaret's Cathedral on Thursday February 22nd at 7 p.m. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at any of the weekend Masses during the month of May. Letters with the available dates were sent out from the school on Friday and for those children who don't attend the Catholic school they are available at Mass this weekend. No date will be confirmed until the request slip has been returned to the parish – and acknowledged! If you know of anyone who has been missed in the process, of any age, please ask them to contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation P3: The classes begin today (28th January) for the children not attending St. John's.

Catholic Education Week 2018

Today (Sunday) begins a week of prayer for Catholic Education. We are asked to remember especially all the staff and pupils who work so hard to provide a Catholic Education for our children. Speakers from each of our Catholic schools will speak at all our Masses this weekend. We are also asked to take up a special collection for the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) which provides materials and information to our schools for the growth of Catholic Education and the healthy development of our children

Saint Margaret's

Rosary Circle: The Rosary Circle Intentions are available at the back of the church. Please take your copy home.

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.

Mile of Coins: 50% for SCIAF and local charities, 50% to parish improvements. Last week we added £68.90– 1.91 yards. 612.93 yards to go.

Readers/Eucharistic Ministers: The new rota is available in the Sacristy.

Saint Paul's

Children's Liturgy: We now have only two volunteers to do this ministry. Unfortunately, if nobody can help with this it will mean we can no longer provide a children's liturgy for the parish. Most families have found this to be a good experience for children and volunteers who have done it in the past have found it enjoyable and by no means onerous. It would be a great pity to lose such a meaningful part of our mass for children and I hope there may be some parents, carers or grandparents who may like to help.

Art Club: The group meet in the hall on Monday at 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p. m. New members welcome.

Mother & Toddler Group: The group meet on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the hall.

Tuesday Club: The group resumes on Tuesday in the hall at 2 p.m. New members welcome.

Readers/Eucharistic Ministers: The new rota is available at the back of the church.

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:

Monday – Bill Findlay; *Tuesday* – Helen Gibson;
Wednesday – Jean Lorimer; *Thursday* – Isabel Johnston; *Friday* – Jim Cameron;
Saturday – Catherine Wilmot; *Sunday* – for the parishes.

Even though Fr David will not be in the parish this week he will celebrate Mass each day.

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 *1 Corinthians 7: 32-35* *Mark 1: 21-28*

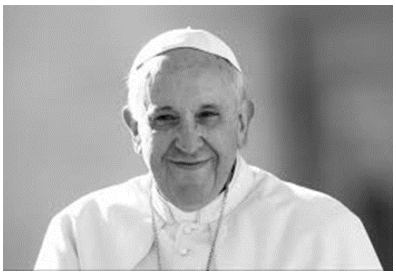
There is an old Scottish story about a man who died and went to meet the judgement of God. He pleaded ignorance saying: 'I dinnae ken' and the reply he got from God was: 'Ye ken noo!' For us, when we come to be judged, the plea of ignorance will not be enough.

This Sunday gives us both Old and New Testament illustrations of the kind of authoritative teaching which has come to us through revelation and is still coming through the Scriptures and the thinking of the Church. Moses who was a really tough leader, prophet and teacher nevertheless had great difficulties with the children of Israel who did a lot of complaining, bickering and backbiting. no matter how hard he taught them, no matter how clearly he passed on the revelation and law from God, almost as soon as his back was turned, the people made and worshipped man-made idols. This reading promises another prophet like Moses sent by God to receive and utter God's commands, Jesus. I'm sure we all know they fell away later.

When Jesus came, as today's Gospel tells us, the people in the synagogue saw him cast out a devil and teach a new teaching and with authority. Yet many questioned or refused that authoritative teaching. We think that these people were foolish beyond imagination but we are little better.

Today the kind of question we should put to ourselves is our reaction to both Scripture and to the teaching of the Church. The climate of many scholars and of others is to question the authority of Scripture. Some dismiss completely, some in part, some are indifferent, some contemptuous. The Church's teachings can suffer the same fate, even at times among those who confess to be Catholic. How then do you and I react – what is our attitude, our acceptance, our love and our prayerful listening? We all still have much to learn. Or do we feel we have all the answers? Such arrogance is only the folly before the fall. We do not have all the answers. It is right to bring our gifts of intellect and thought to scripture and tradition but we must also bring our prayer so that we can hear the Lord speaking to us in our faith, guiding us and loving us.

Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience in Vatican City on Wednesday January 24th Pope Francis reflected upon his recent apostolic visit to Chile and Peru:

Dear brothers and sisters: In my recent Apostolic Journey to Chile and Peru, I had the joy of encountering God's pilgrim people and encouraging the growth of social harmony in respect for the rich diversity of those nations. In Chile, I stressed the importance of listening to the voices of all: the poor, the young and the elderly, the immigrant and the voice of the earth itself. I encouraged the Church in its path of purification and renewal, and, appealing to the example of Saint Alberto Hurtado, I encouraged educators to help the young to share in the building of a just and inclusive society. In Peru, I expressed my confidence that the nation's environmental, spiritual and cultural riches can contribute to building unity and cooperation in meeting the grave challenges facing society. In my meeting with the Amazonian peoples, I stressed the importance of mutual respect and care for the natural environment. In Trujillo, hard hit by natural disasters, I invited all to work together in confronting the social problems of crime and the lack of education, employment and housing. In Lima, I concluded my visit to these two countries by appealing to the example of the saints and asking their intercession as the Church pursues the path of conversion and mission, and strives to be a messenger of unity, hope and peace for all peoples.