*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)

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**FACEBOOK** - @RCAYR

**TWITTER** - @RC_AYR


# Parish Bulletin

## 17th & 18th February 2018
## First Sunday of Lent Year B

**Readings**

Genesis 9: 8-15 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1: 12-15

**Psalm Response**

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
*(all bow)*
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day
he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

## Times of Mass and Services
## 19th February - 25th February

**Monday**
Mass in St Paul's at 10am

**Tuesday**
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am
Mass in St. Francis Xavier's at 1pm (Funeral)

**Wednesday**
Mass in 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

**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.

**The Creed:** During the Season of Lent we will recite the ancient Apostle's Creed during Mass. For those of you who are unsure of the words they are printed on the front of the Newsletter.

**Diocesan Mass for the Rite of Election:** This Mass will take place in St. Margaret's Cathedral on Sunday February 18th at 3 p.m. and is the Rite of Election for all who are preparing in our Diocese, through the RCIA process, to be received into the Church at Easter. If you are able to please come along and offer your support with your presence at this Mass, especially to the three people from our own parishes who are making this journey.

**Weekly Collections:** Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1074.37 St. Paul's - £710.60; St. Francis Xavier's - £177.17.

**Lenten Penitential Service:** This will take place on Wednesday March 14th at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's Cathedral. At this Service the children who are primary three age will also make their First Reconciliation. Please remember that this is the Lenten Penitential Service for everyone, there will not be a separate service for "grown-ups"!

**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.

**Lenten Course:** As a part of our preparation for Easter we are presenting a Cafe Course on Mary titled: " Let it Be done unto me according to your Word". It will take place on Tuesdays in St. Margaret's Hall after Mass and the Rosary and again at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening starting on the 20th, February. Mary once gave us the Saviour of the World, today she helps us to be filled with the Spirit of God. Everyone is welcome.

**World Day of Prayer:** This will take place on Friday 2nd March at 2 p.m. in Ayr Baptist Church. All welcome.

**Diocesan Priesthood:** Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2018? For more information please contact your Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Willie Boyd, St Mary's, Irvine on 01294 279130 or email *wh.boyd@btinternet.com* *Or e-mail the Priests for Scotland Office at office@pfs.org.uk*

**Rosary on the Coast for Life:** On Sunday April 29th there will be groups of Christians gathering on the coast all around the UK to pray together the Rosary for Life. We will hold such a gathering on Doonfoot beach that afternoon. I encourage as many of you as possible to take part. We can meet at the Cathedral at 2 p.m. and then make our way down to the beach to pray at 3 p.m. If you have space in your car to transport others down and back that would be a great help. There will be a cuppa in the Cathedral Hall on our return.

**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 during the month of May. If you know of anyone who has been missed in the process, of any age, please ask them to contact the parish office.

**SCIAF Lenten Boxes:** Every year we support the SCIAF 'Wee Box' Lenten Campaign by taking a 'Wee Box' home and using it for our Lenten alms-giving – the boxes for this year are available NOW at the back of the Church. Please take one home with you and be as generous as you are able to be – once again this year the UK government will match whatever is donated with equal funding.

**SPRED Galloway:** The SPRED Centre are looking to recruit an Administrative Assistant and an Assistant (Trainee). Please see posters in the porch for more information or contact Helena Kerr Assistant Director on 01292 263196 or email spredgalloway@talktalk.net

**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.

**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

**Bridget Waterson R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridget Waterson who died suddenly. Bridget's body will be brought to the Cathedral on Wednesday evening at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be on Thursday at 10 a.m., thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. If you would like to lead any of these services then please call the parish office on 263488.

**Short-cut:** Could we ask those who use the short-cut via the back garden of the house to come and go from the Cathedral to please make sure the gates are securely closed behind you – Fr David now has a dog who may decide to go exploring if you don't do so!!! If the double metal gates are closed you can still access the garden through them – they are not locked.

**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 £57.20– 1.59 yards. 608.11 yards to go.

**Tea/Coffee:** In the hall after Sunday morning Mass.

**200 Club February Draw:** £30 P O'Hagan, £20 R Foulkes, £10 C Hume.

**SVP Meeting:** Monday 19th February at 6 p.m. in the hall.

**Readers/Eucharistic Minsiters:** The rota for March is available in the Sacristy.

## Saint Paul's

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. If you would like to lead any of these services then please call the parish office on 263488.

**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 meet on Tuesday in the hall at 2 p.m. New members welcome.

**Tea/Coffee:** In the hall after Sunday morning Mass.

## Saint Francis Xavier's

**Sandra Miller R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sandra Miller who died last Sunday evening. Sandra's body will be brought to the Church on Monday at 6.30 p.m. and her funeral Mass will be on Tuesday at 1 p.m. and thereafter to Dalmellington Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

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

**Stations of the Cross:** During the season of Lent we will walk the Way of the Cross after the Wednesday morning Service.

**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* – Isabel Johnston; *Tuesday* – Sandra Miller; *Wednesday* – Special intention;
*Thursday* – Bridget Waterson; *Friday* – Special intention;
*Saturday* – Special intention; *Sunday* – for the parishes.

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

# First Sunday of Lent in Year 'B'

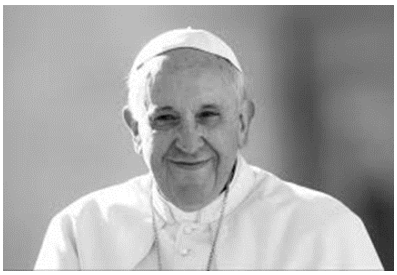
*Genesis 9: 8-15* *1 Peter 3: 18-22* *Mark 1: 12-15*

As the whole period of Lent forms a final preparation for those who are called catechumens – people approaching Baptism who are not infants – the readings are there to lead, guide and enlighten them. We who are already members of the Church are reminded of our need to repent and follow the Gospel. So now we have the chance to make the following of the Gospel a reality through the liturgy of Lent. We are all going forward towards the re-enactment of Holy Week of the new and eternal covenant of Jesus Christ. So it is fitting that our first reading this Sunday is all about Noah and the original Covenant made by God with him. This begins a series of covenants and promises by God to his people and of course they culminate at the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

I'm not sure whether the idea of making Lenten resolutions has any sense of origin in God's covenant. At any rate, it has been a custom over the centuries for individuals to make such resolutions. They can be good, but they can perish along the weeks and make us feel guilty.

The Church gives us a suggestion in the three eminent good works – prayer, fasting and alms giving, which we heard about on Ash Wednesday. Why not resolve to follow that pattern? All of us can do well to emphasise prayer and to develop our habit of giving time to God each day. Much of fasting has gone by the wayside, but SCIAF always has one Family Fast Day in Lent and we might extend that to each Friday. We can also link that to trying to give some money saved from food and drink towards the SCIAF Wee Box campaign, or towards the homeless, the poor, refugees and dispossessed. Try any little Lenten extra – only be sure not to give up half way through.

# Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience in Vatican City on Wednesday February 14th, Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis continued his catechesis on the Eucharist:

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on Holy Mass, we now turn to the Profession of Faith and the Universal Prayer of all the Christian faithful. In the Liturgy of the Word, after the homily and a time of silence, the whole assembly professes its faith: we recite the Creed, which bridges the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. In doing so, we respond to what we have heard and received; this will lead us, in turn, to the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Apostles' Creed, which is the Church of Rome's Baptismal Creed, may be appropriately taken up especially in Lent and Eastertide. Particularly on Sundays and feast days, we then offer the prayers of all the faithful: "for holy Church, for the civil authorities, for those oppressed by various needs, for all mankind, and for the salvation of the entire world." After each intention, we pray together: "Lord, graciously hear us" (or similar words), confident that God takes care of his sons and daughters.

## Fr. Gabriel Onoyima CSSp

It is with great pleasure that I let you know that Fr Gabriel Onoyima CSSp (a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father) will be coming to live and work in our three parishes from the beginning of March (5th). Fr Gabriel will live in the Cathedral house and work with Fr David and Deacon Bill for a period of approximately six months while he gets to know our Diocese with a view to being joined later in the summer by a brother Spiritan priest who together will then form a new community somewhere in the Diocese of Galloway. I am sure you will all make Fr Gabriel very welcome. Please keep him in your prayers.