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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Fr Gabriel Onoyima
DEACON - Bill Corbett (01292 521 208)
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Parish Bulletin

28th/29th April 2018
The Fifth Sunday of Easter in Year 'B'

Readings
Acts 9:26-31 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

Psalm Response
You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

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
30th April—6th May

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

The Creed: During the Season of Easter we will continue to recite the ancient Apostle's Creed during Mass.

Bethlehem Rosaries for World Youth Day 2019: 1.5 million rosaries are being produced in Bethlehem for the World Youth Day in Panama, giving employment to unemployed youth in the family factories in the town. Everyone who attends World Youth Day will be given three rosaries: one to keep, one to give to someone in Panama who was not at WYD, and one to bring home to give to someone else. The organisers have produced a video to raise awareness of this wonderful venture and to encourage people to donate to the cost. The video is available to watch on Youtube:
https://www.cmc-terrasanta.org/embed/wyd-panama-1-5-million-rosaries-made-in-bethlehem-14416

Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage: The next pilgrimage to the Holy Land will take place from October 15th to 22nd later this year. The cost is £1,299 based on two people sharing and booking forms are now available in the Sacristy. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1034.59; St. Paul's - £756.73; St. Francis Xavier's - £172.00

Be part of the SCIAF 6k Family Fun Run: Millions of people walk for hours every day in search of food and water. Others flee across continents to get to safety. The steps you take can help share their journey. Whether you're old or young, running or walking, with SCIAF's 6k Family Fun Run you can raise money and show solidarity with people in need around the world. Your entry fee will go towards our work helping people in poverty across 27 countries. With plenty of music, stalls and games this will be a perfect summer's day out for the whole family. Whether you run, jog or take a stroll around the course we hope to see you at the starting line.
Saturday 2nd June 2018 @ Strathclyde Country Park
Fun starts 10am, run starts at 11am, Adults £10 / Children £5.
Sign up at www.sciaf.org.uk/sciaf-6k-fun-run or call Teresa on 0141 354 5555.

SCIAF Wee Boxes: If you have not already returned your wee boxes could we ask that they are returned by 29th April at the latest. Thank you.

Rosary on the Coast for Life: **TODAY** 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 will 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.

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.

Ascension Thursday: This Holyday of Obligation falls on Thursday May 10th and as usual there will be Mass in the three parishes at 10 a.m. (in St. Francis Xavier's Primary School rather than the church) and at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's.

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

Network Events: Aged 20-40? We are running a Communication Skills workshop with lots of activities to help you meet fellow young Catholics and develop your talking / listening skills. Sunday 13th May, 1pm at Blackfriars Bar. Email 2040network@gmail.com to buy a ticket (£5).

Collection Envelopes: Could I please ask you not to use last years envelopes in the collection as some numbers have been changed for the new tax year which started on 8th April. Thank you.

If you are a UK tax payer and wish to join the Gift Aid Scheme please complete a form at the back of the church and return it to the parish office where a set of envelopes will be allocated to you.

Christian AID: AGM will be held in St Margaret's Church Hall on Wednesday 2nd May at 7 p.m. all welcome.

Solemn Evening Prayer: The next Solemn Evening Prayer will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday (May 20th) at 3 p.m. All the Neophytes, those brothers and sisters who were received into the Church at Easter, will be invited to attend this celebration. There will be a small social gathering in the Hall afterwards. Please try to come along to this beautiful Service, not only to experience the beauty and calmness of the prayer, but also to welcome the newest members of the Church from across our diocese.

Saint Margaret's

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 £49.00.

SVP Meeting: Monday 30th April at 6 p.m.. In the church hall.

200 Club Winners: £30 M McFarlane, £20 E Opiolka, £10 Fr. David. £100 Bonus A Mancini.

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

Saint Paul's

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.

Irish Dancing: Irish dance classes will be held in the hall on Wednesday afternoon from 4.15 p.m.—6.15 p.m. for 4yrs+ and adults from 16yrs+. Why not come and learn with your child.

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

Saint Francis Xavier's

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: On Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.

Miles of Coins – St. Vincent de Paul Society

The 'Miles of Coins' initiative has been running now in St. Margaret's for many years raising money for the parish, for SCIAF and for local charities. There is currently just over £8,000 in the fund and I propose to divide this now, the local charity chosen being 'SeAscape' – an Ayr charity which provides assistance and support to homeless people and advice to families and individuals threatened by homelessness.

The amount placed in the 'Miles for Coins' box at the back of the Church has been steadily reducing in recent years, I'm sure you will have noticed that from the figures published in this Bulletin, and now seems the right time to bring this initiative to an end – with many thanks to all who have supported this.

While the 'Mile of Coins' comes to an end, there is still, sadly, a huge need for charity giving in Ayr, and nowhere is that seen more than in the demands being made on the services of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, people are asking for help from them like never before, and this places a strain on their very limited resources. Some of you have been extremely generous towards their work, I have even heard that some of the members of the Society have dug deep into their own pockets when resources have been short, so now is the time for us all as a parish to start supporting them more.

So from next weekend the 'Miles of Coins' box will be replaced by an 'SVDP' box and every penny you place in the box will be used by our SVDP to help those in our parish most in need. Please support this noble cause if you are able to, and if you would like to join the SVDP and help them in their work you would be made most welcome.

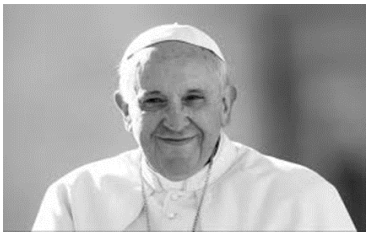
Fifth Sunday of Easter in Year 'B'

Acts 9: 26-31 *1 John 3: 18-24* *John 15: 1-8*

About a hundred years ago, Saint Therese, who was then a Carmelite nun in Lisieux, wrote about her desires. She wanted to be a priest, a missionary, a martyr. Then she came across St. Paul's statement that there are faith, hope and love – but the greatest of thee is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). At once she cried out in joy that she had finally found her vocation – to be love in the Church. St. Therese highlights for each of us, whatever other calling or vocation we may have, that the heart of any Christian living must be love. This really is for each of us!

But love is not just a nice word to be used in song or on greetings cards or for young lovers. Earlier in the same chapter, St. Paul talks of love as patient, kind, does not take offence or store up grievances 'Love never comes to an end' (1 Corinthians 13:5). So we must realise and live out that everlasting love, because Jesus tells us to love one another as he loves us (John 15:12). This is a beautiful, joyful and fulfilling way of life. It is also a tough one to live, because it involves patience and suffering. Often we are not very good at giving ourselves in love. Bringing ourselves back to Christ's life, we have to realise that we are not given the example of just ideas or emotion in Jesus. At his own profound level *he gives himself in love*. Christ's love was and is for us and for all life.

Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience on Wednesday April 25th the Holy Father continued his catechesis on the Sacrament of Baptism:

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on the sacrament of Baptism, we have seen that it is the door by which we enter, through faith, into the mystery of Christ's passover from death to life. Guided by the light of God's word, and accompanied by the prayers of the saints in heaven and our brothers and sisters here on earth, we begin a journey of growth in faith and in the Church's sacramental life. The Christian life remains a constant struggle, with the help of God's grace, to renounce sin and to grow in union with the Lord. As a sign of the strength needed for this spiritual struggle, those to be baptized are first anointed with the oil of catechumens. This anointing, and the prayers of exorcism that accompany the rite, invoke the gift of the Holy Spirit, who defends us from the snares of the devil and strengthens us to persevere in our freedom as God's adopted sons and daughters in Christ. Just as ancient athletes anointed themselves with oil to prepare for their contests, so we are prepared to live fully the new life of grace, trusting in the Lord's triumph over sin and death, sustained by the prayers of the whole Church, and awaiting the fulfilment of our hope in heaven.

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

Monday – Special Intention;
Tuesday – Sandra Miller;
Wednesday – Ellen Woods;
Thursday – Cardinal Keith O'Brien;
Friday – Grace Brogan;
Saturday 4 p.m. – Agnes Hainey;
Sunday 11.30 a.m. – for the parishes.

Fr. Gabriel's Mass intentions for this week are:

Monday – Teresa Borland;
Tuesday – James Murray;
Wednesday – Netta Carnegie;
Thursday – Marie Godfrey;
Friday – John O'Neil;
Saturday 6 p.m. – Special intention;
Sunday 9.30 a.m. – Teresa Borland.