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

PRIESTS - Fr. David Borland
Fr Gabriel Onoyima
DEACON - Bill Corbett (01292 521 208)
RELIGIOUS - Sister Marie (01292 270 408)
PHONE - 01292 263 488
ADDRESS - 27 John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS
MAIL - rcchurchesayr@gmail.com
WEB - www.RCAyr.org.uk
FACEBOOK - @RCAYR

Parish Bulletin

14th July/15th July 2018

Readings

Amos 7: 12-15 Ephesians 1: 3-14
Mark 6: 7-13

Psalm Response

Let us see, O Lord your mercy
And give us your saving help.

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
16th July – 29th July

Monday
Mass in St Paul's at 10am
Tuesday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am
Wednesday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am **(18th)**
Mass in St. Paul's 10am (25th)
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

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. There are only about 3 places left on the pilgrimage so if you are thinking about coming then you better book soon!

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in Ayr: Bishop Nolan has asked me to seek a parishioner who could represent the diocese on a steering group being established to look at the possibility of creating a CAB in Ayr – the only town in Scotland of its size/ population that does not have one. If you think you could fulfil this important role then please speak to Fr. David as soon as possible (he returns from annual leave on Sunday evening). The Church of Scotland are also being asked to have a representative.

Friends of the Holy Land: We will have a buffet supper dance on Friday 20th July in St. Margaret's Church Hall in aid of the Friends of the Holy Land. Tickets £10. Bring your own bottle! Unwanted gifts for the raffle would be much appreciated.

SeAscape – The Cobbler Challenge: The local charity tackling homelessness, poverty and isolation in our community are facilitating this short walk to one of Scotland's most iconic peaks on Sunday 2nd September 2018 – and it is a great day out for all ages while supporting a worthy cause. Text **WALK** to **07833 472313** for more information and a sponsor pack. There are cards at the back of the Churches with these details - please take one.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £965.90; St. Paul's - £505.88; St. Francis Xavier's - £116.60. Mission Appeal collection: St. Margaret's - £1686.45; St. Paul's - £603.77; St Francis Xavier's £119.40. Thank you.

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?

Newsletter: Please note the newsletter is for this weekend 14th/15th July and next weekend 21st/22nd July.

SeAscape – Tea with a Refugee: A social event, requested by Syrian refugees in the local area to help them connect and bond with the local community, will take place in the South Church Hall, Prestwick, on Saturday July 21st at 10 a.m. There will be home baking, stalls, tea and coffee, and everyone would be very welcome to attend. There are some leaflets at the back of the Church with more information – please take one.

Request for your help: Many charity events take place over the summer months, if you are involved in one and would like us to put a notice in the Parish Newsletter please email the office with details and if there is space we will let people know about it. Please give us enough warning!

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

Dominicans in Glasgow and Ayrshire. The Lay Dominicans meet monthly at St. Columba's Church in the Glasgow area. Membership is open to all who are interested in Dominican spirituality. **The Dominican Secular Institute** is an Institute of consecrated life under Canons 710-730 (Code of Canon Law). Membership is therefore only open to single or widowed women and there is a 7 year formation period. Members live in their own homes during formation and after consecration but a significant amount of travel may be required annually. If you are interested in either of these please contact **Debra** on 07807 644776.

Seminar on Emmanuel Levinas: Friday 24 – Saturday 25 August 2018. See poster in porch for more information.

Scottish Interfaith Youth Camp: 7 – 9 September 2018 See posters in porch for more information.

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

Monday – Carol Murphy; *Tuesday* – Barbara Brophy; *Wednesday* – Susan Stewart; *Thursday* – Special Intention; Friday – Vincent Canon Walker; *Saturday* – Special intention; *Sunday* – for the parishes.

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

Monday – Sarah Rooney; *Tuesday* – Rose McBride; *Wednesday* – Sarah Rooney; *Thursday* – Special Intention; *Friday* – Irmo & Elvira Galli; *Saturday* – Sarah Rooney; *Sunday* – Sarah Rooney.

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.

SVP Meeting: Monday at 6 p.m. in the church hall. New members very welcome.

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

Saint Paul's

Mass on Wednesday: Due to the launch of the "Sharing Our Common Home" exhibition in the Cathedral on Wednesday morning there will be no Mass in St. Paul's that day. Mass will be in St. Margaret's at 10 a.m.

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

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

Saint Francis Xavier's

Service of the Word and Holy Communion: There will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion on Wednesday morning of this week.

SVDP

Visit requests: 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. If you require the assistance of the SVDP please contact 07722 707076.

Collections for June from St. Margaret's and St. Paul's £594.00. Relief and donations given out £160.00. Many thanks for your generosity.

"Sharing Our Common Home"

Sharing our Common Home is a photographic exhibition created by Justice and Peace (Scotland) and SCIAF to raise awareness of the many issues being faced by refugees across the world – with a special focus on the Rohingya refugees. Having been on display in the Archdiocese of Glasgow for the last month it is now coming to be displayed in the Diocese of Galloway for three weeks. The official launch of the exhibition will be in St. Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday July 18th – this coming week – and it will be with us until the following Tuesday before moving to Ardrossan and then Dumfries.

Bishop Nolan will celebrate a Mass for Refugees and Exiles in the Cathedral on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and the official launch of the exhibition in the diocese will take place immediately afterwards, then there will be an opportunity to view the photographs, read the materials provided, and share some drinks and nibbles. The local churches have all been invited to come along.

It would be really good if we could have a high turnout of parishioners from our all our parishes to welcome our guests.

Advanced Warning of A713 Road Closures affecting access to St. Francis Xavier's Church, Waterside

The A713 between Dalmellington and Ayr is to be closed on the weekends of July 7th/8th, July 14th/15th, July 21st/22nd, July 28th/29th, and August 4th/5th and will affect those who travel to St. Francis Xavier's Church for Mass on Saturday afternoons.

July 21st: Closed from Patna to Hollybush – no access to the Church from the Ayr side without using the diversion via Coylton and Coalhall.

July 28th/Aug 4th: Closed between the B7034 and B742 Dalrymple junctions – no access to the Church from the Ayr side without using the diversion via Dalrymple.

The Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Amos 7: 12-15 *Ephesians 1: 3-14* *Mark 6: 7-13*

On the ceremony of Baptism, the parents of the child to be baptised are asked to accept the responsibility to bring the child up in the knowledge of God and his commandments. They say they are willing. Later the priest or deacon says they are to be the first and best teachers in the ways of faith.

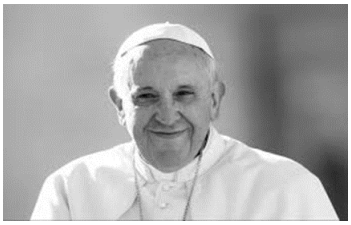
It is interesting that often in talking with parents, some are inclined to say that they cannot teach their children – "That's your job Father, and the job of the Catholic school. We don't know enough." Now that is sad because it is probably not true. It is their diffidence, perhaps encouraged by priests and teachers, implying our superiority. But it can also reflect on their parents and teachers who do not seem to have given them the confidence to help their young people.

Some of the prophets felt the same reluctance when God told them to prophesy. For instance in today's first reading Amos says: *I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets. I was a shepherd and looked after sycamores, but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock and said to me 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'*

Many parts of the faith and of scripture we do not understand ourselves. Always we must hope to grow – a whole lifetime of growth and at the end, may we grow into Christ in eternal life.

I confess I often feel like that when someone asks me a question. I have no idea how to put an answer which will mean anything. I try a quick prayer – often I am still at a loss and so do not be surprised if you are too. But don't just give up. It is not infrequent that if you have the patience to listen and let the other person talk they almost work out their own difficulty and feel you have helped them. For ourselves – perhaps we can suggest they come again or we can ask a friend for help.

Words of Pope Francis



As the General Audience does not take place during the month of July the Holy Father's challenging words from last Sunday's Angelus are below:

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! Today's Gospel (cf. *Mk*6.1-6) presents Jesus who returns to Nazareth and on Saturday begins to teach in the synagogue. Since he had left and had begun to preach in the neighbouring towns and villages, he had never set foot in his homeland. He is back. Therefore, there will have been the whole country to listen to this son of the people, whose fame as a wise master and powerful healer was now spreading through Galilee and beyond. But what could be considered a success, turned into a resounding rejection, to the point that Jesus could not operate there any miracles, but only a few healings. The dynamics of that day is reconstructed in detail by the evangelist Mark: the people of Nazareth first listen, and remain amazed; then they wonder perplexed: "where do these things come from, this wisdom?"; and in the end it is scandalized, recognizing in him the carpenter, the son of Mary, whom they saw growing up. Therefore Jesus concludes with the expression that has become proverbial: "A prophet is not despised except in his homeland."

We ask ourselves: how come Jesus' fellow citizens go from wonder to unbelief? They make a comparison between the humble origin of Jesus and his current capacities: he is a carpenter, he has not studied, yet he preaches better than the scribes and works miracles. And instead of opening up to reality, they are scandalized. According to the inhabitants of Nazareth, God is too great to stoop to speak through such a simple man! It is the scandal of incarnation: the disconcerting event of a God made flesh, who thinks with a human mind, works and acts with human hands, loves with a human heart, a God who struggles, eats and sleeps like one of us. The Son of God overturns every human scheme: it was not the disciples who washed the feet of the Lord, but the Lord who washed the feet of his disciples (cf. *Jn*13:1-20). This is a cause of scandal and disbelief not only in that era, in every age, even today.

The reversal made by Jesus commits his disciples of yesterday and today to a personal and community verification. In our day, in fact, it may happen to feed prejudices that prevent us from grasping reality. But the Lord invites us to adopt an attitude of humble listening and docile waiting, because the grace of God often presents itself to us in surprising ways, which do not correspond to our expectations. Let's think together of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, for example. A tiny little girl - nobody gave ten lire for her - that went to the streets to take the dying to have a worthy death. This little nun with prayer and her work has done wonders! The smallness of a woman has revolutionized the work of charity in the Church. It is an example of our days. God does not conform to prejudices. We must strive to open the heart and mind, to welcome the divine reality that comes to meet us. It is about having faith: the lack of faith is an obstacle to God's grace. Many baptized live as if Christ did not exist: the gestures and signs of faith are repeated, but they do not correspond to a real adhesion to the person of Jesus and to his Gospel. Every Christian - all of us, each of us - is called to deepen this fundamental belonging, trying to witness it with a coherent conduct of life, whose guiding thread will always be charity.

We ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to dissolve the hardness of hearts and the narrowness of minds, because we are open to his grace, to his truth and to his mission of goodness and mercy, which is addressed to all, without any exclusion .