

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 Stanislaus Chukwube CSSp

DEACON - Rev. Bill Corbett (01292 521 208)

RELIGIOUS - Sister Marie (01292 270 408)

PHONE - 01292 263 488

ADDRESS - 27 John Street, Ayr, KA8 0BS

MAIL - rcayr@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

WEB - www.RCAyr.org.uk

FACEBOOK - @RCAVR

Parish Bulletin

27th/28th April 2019

Readings

Acts 5: 12-16

Apocalypse 1: 9-13.17-19

John 20: 19-31

Response

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

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 29th April - 5th 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

Christus vivit: Pope Francis has issued his Post-Synodal Exhortation to Young People and the Entire People of God, "Christus vivit", his document resulting from the Synod for Young People held at the Vatican last year. The document can be read at the following address, and the link is available on our Facebook page. www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2019/4/2/christus-vivit.html

Saturday Exposition and Benediction: The next Saturday Exposition and Benediction will take place on Saturday May 25th from after Mass until Benediction at 5 p.m. The theme of the May prayer day is "For the Conversion of Scotland". Please sign up to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never alone – there have been 'empty spaces' on the list for the last couple of months and we need to rectify this if the monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is to continue.

St John's Parent Council: The PC are having a coffee morning TODAY Sunday 28th April from 10.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall. Entry £2 which includes tea/coffee and home baking. Support your school!

First Holy Communion: The children and their families begin the First Communion celebrations at all Masses next weekend and then these continue throughout the month of May. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they take this further important step on their faith journey. Please offer a warm welcome at all our Masses to the children and their guests – and try not to get too upset if they take 'your seat'!

SCIAF Lenten Boxes: Please return your SCIAF Boxes to the Church as soon as possible. Thank you.

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1835.26; St. Paul's - £959.69; St. Francis Xavier's - £232.00. Holy Places Special Collection: St. Margaret's - £947.51; St. Paul's £427.70; St. Francis Xavier's £65.48. Many thanks.

Foodbank: The Food Bank collections are taken on the 1st Weekend each month.

Hospital: If you, or any member of your family are going into Ayr or Crosshouse Hospitals, and would like to receive a visit, and/or Holy Communion; please contact Deacon Bill Corbett (The R.C. Chaplain), on 01292 521208.

Diocesan Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul: Unfortunately, due to the low number of bookings, and the need to pay deposits by the end of this month, we have decided to delay this pilgrimage until April/May 2020. Watch this space for further information.

World Youth Day – Lisbon 2022: The 'sign-up' cards to enable you to take part in the fundraising effort to send three of our young people to World Youth Day in Lisbon in 2022 are now available at the back of each Church. If you would like to take part then please take a card, complete it, and return it to the Church and a set of envelopes will be issued for you to use. At the moment 20 people have signed up to take part in this fundraising effort and this should allow us to sponsor 1 ½ young people to attend WYD!

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2019: Booking forms are now available – see Poster for further details.

SPRED Galloway warmly invite you to an evening of Scottish Music with special guest Alastair McDonald. The event is taking place at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Hill Street, Kilmarnock on Friday 17th May 2019. Tickets are £10.00 per head inclusive of finger buffet. To purchase your tickets for what promises to be a fabulous evening of music and dancing or for further information, please contact the SPRED Office on 01292-738068 or email info@spredgalloway.org.uk

SSVP

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 SSVP please contact 07413 397630. or email ssvpayr@outlook.com**

St. Margaret's Adoption Society: Have you ever considered adoption as a way to grow your family? Could you provide a loving, stable family environment for a child who needs a forever home? If you would like to find out more about the adoption process, please visit www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk or contact us on 0141 332 8371 or email: info@stmargaretsadoption.org.uk

Fr. David's Mass intentions for this week:

Monday – James MacMillan; *Tuesday* – Charlie McFarlane;
Wednesday – Vicky Dixon; *Thursday* – Primo Salotti;
Friday – Special intention; *Saturday* – James Leslie Taylor;
Sunday – for the parishes.

Fr Stan's Mass intentions for this week:

Monday – Special intention; *Tuesday* – Special intention;
Wednesday – Special intention; *Thursday* – Special intention;
Friday – Special intention; *Saturday* – Larry Middleton;
Sunday – Sheena Middleton.

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.

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

SSVP: Meeting in the hall on Monday at 6 p.m.

Saint Paul's

Church Hall: The refurbishment work in the Hall is now complete and it is looking very smart. Please help to keep it that way by putting any equipment that you use back into storage when you are finished with it, and now that the floor has been completely renovated, please LIFT table and chairs – do not drag anything across the floor.

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

Tuesday Club: The Tuesday Club resumes on Tuesday 7th May at 2.00 p.m. New members very welcome.

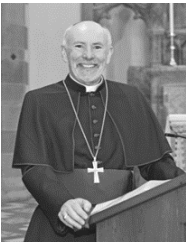
Mother & Toddler Group: The Mother & Toddler Group meet in the hall on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am.

Saint Francis Xavier's

Wednesday: There will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.

Friday: The Holy Rosary is recited at 10 a.m. on Friday morning.

Easter Message from Bishop Nolan



The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter remind us of the sorrows and joys of our faith. With the disciples on Good Friday we mourn the death of Jesus; on Easter Sunday we rejoice in his resurrection to new life. We take comfort too in knowing that in our sufferings Jesus is with us, and that with Jesus we too will experience resurrection. Whatever sorrows we experience now, we are never abandoned by God. As Jesus bore his cross, may we too bear the heavy cross of suffering that weighs upon our shoulders. May we persevere in faith and never doubt that the joy of Easter eclipses our Good Friday. With every blessing. +William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway.

Why does Easter last for 50 days?

Most people think of Easter as a single day. It's never had the commercial appeal of Christmas, and because it always falls on Sunday, many people don't get an additional day off from work. But for Catholics, Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season. The Easter season stretches all the way to the feast of Pentecost. Lent, which sometimes feels like it's stretching on forever, is actually forty days long. Easter, on the other hand, is all of fifty days long. About these fifty days theologian Nathan Mitchell writes: "The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to 'party on,' even if we don't feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply 'the weather of the heart,' to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation."

One way the church pursues this goal of seeing God present in the world is through the reading of the Acts of the Apostles. At Masses all through the Easter season, our usual practice of reading from the Old Testament is replaced by reading from the Acts of the Apostles. These readings tell the story of the church's earliest days, and the beginnings of our faith's spreading throughout the ancient world. These stories of heroism, controversies, persecutions and miracles all testify to the continued presence of the Risen Christ in the world, through the lives of his disciples, and the actions of the Holy Spirit.

All of this should be an encouragement and a sign of hope for us today. Despite war, violence, poverty, personal struggles, economic difficulties and even Brexit, God has not abandoned us, nor left us to our own devices. The Risen Saviour is still with us. These 50 days of Easter ask us to reflect on his presence, and even in the face of danger or fear, to live with joy.

2nd Sunday of Easter– Year ‘C’

Acts 5: 12-16

Apocalypse 1: 9-13.17-19

John 20: 19-31

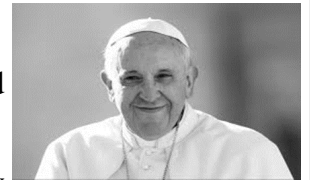
The WONDER of Easter. I use the word wonder because I think it is possible to take Easter for granted in our way of life. When something is beyond our understanding, we can simply accept it without thinking, or we can dismiss it. It is therefore quite a good thing when a leading figure says something about God and Jesus which seems shocking and causes an outcry. It may make us think. What do you believe when you say in the Creed ‘on the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures’?

In the scriptures, the disciples received the news ‘he is risen’ with doubt and scepticism and even disbelief. There was also the element of wonder which comes out in the different references to Christ appearing to individuals and groups. I am not intending to give you an exposition of the meaning of Resurrection here and now. What I want to ask you is to take some time to think about, ponder on, pray about, wonder at the Resurrection.

Apart from other aspects, we are to recall our Baptism which has given us ‘new life in Christ’. Have we taken on our Baptism in an adult way? Is that ‘new life’ growing in us and so in our family and community? More to pray over and ponder about. We have some weeks directly thinking about the Resurrection in the Sunday and weekday Masses and readings. Let wonder take you over. Do not take the Resurrection for granted and do not dismiss the whole idea. Ponder and wonder. However deeply you go into the mystery it will still remain a mystery – and so an event of wonder for us all.

Words of Pope Francis

At the General Audience on Wednesday in St Peter’s Square Pope Francis continued his ongoing catechesis on the ‘Our Father’.



Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the “Our Father”, we now consider the expression: “as we forgive those who trespass against us”. Since everything we have, including our very existence, comes as a gift from God, we are always in his debt, for our life was not simply willed, it was also loved into being. We can be confident, then, that the Lord will always forgive our trespasses when we ask him with contrite hearts. Yet this grace also calls us to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us. We see this in the parable of the unmerciful servant, who though having his own enormous debt written off, in turn refuses to cancel a much smaller debt owed to him. The message is clear: if you refuse to forgive, then you will not be forgiven. God, however, grants every Christian the grace to be able to transmit to others the precious gift of forgiveness, which we can do with a word, an embrace, or a smile.

Visits to the Cathedral

We have two very important visitors coming to the Cathedral this year. A Statue of Our Lady of Aberdeen and the Relics of St. Therese of Lisieux!

The Statue of Our Lady of Aberdeen, our unbroken link with Pre-Reformation Scotland, is visiting all eight Catholic Cathedrals in Scotland as part of a programme of Prayer for the conversion of our country. The image of Our Lady of Aberdeen has now become widely recognised as our Scottish National Image of Our Lady and it will be coming to Ayr on Tuesday May 7th at 11 a.m. and remain with us for the whole month.

While the statue is with us we will celebrate May Devotions on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and we will say a Prayer for the Conversion of Scotland at the end of all weekday and weekend Masses in St. Margaret’s.

The Relics of St. Therese of Lisieux will be coming to Scotland in September and will be in our Diocese from Monday September 2nd until Wednesday September 4th – they will be welcomed to St. Margaret’s Cathedral on the 2nd and remain with us until the 3rd when they will be transferred to Dumfries. A spiritual programme is being put together now and we hope that many people from across the Diocese will come and pray before the relics. This will be a very special time of grace for our Diocese.

