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
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Parish Bulletin

11th/12th May 2019

Readings

Acts 13: 14.43-52
Apocalypse 7: 9.14-17
John 10: 27-30

Response

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

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
13th May - 19th 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
Eucharistic Service in St. Margaret's at 10am
Friday
Mass in St. Margaret's at 10am (Funeral)
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. SC010576

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 – last month there were so many 'empty spaces' on the list that the Blessed Sacrament was not exposed between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. I'm afraid if this continues we will need to end this monthly devotion.

This week's first Communicants are: St. Francis Xavier's – Robert O'Neil; St. Margaret's – Alexis Frankland, Robert Burleigh, Iain MacDonald, Suzannah McHugh, Bartolomeo Bagnolo and Jack Reilly.

May Devotions: These continue on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's.

Assembly of Priests: The priests of the Diocese will gather with Bishop Nolan on Wednesday and Thursday of this week in their twice-yearly assembly. Please keep the Bishop and priests in your prayers.

Holy Hour for Vocations: **TODAY,** Sunday May 12th, is referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday and is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We will have a Holy Hour in St. Margaret's at 6 p.m. to pray that the Lord will send more labourers to his harvest. Please try to come along.

Ascension Thursday: Ascension Thursday falls on May 30th this year and is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass will be at 10 a.m. in all three churches and at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's.

QMA / Friends of Badagry: For the Friends of Badagry, Srs. Cecelia and Henrietta from Nigeria will be in QMA in the late morning of Monday 20th May. More exact details to follow. If you would like to meet the sisters please contact mpratchett@talktalk.net

Weekly Collections: Thank you for your continuing generosity towards your parish community through the weekly collection. The offerings last weekend were: St. Margaret's - £1164.75; St. Paul's - £596.80; St. Francis Xavier's - £301.50.

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.

Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul: The date of our proposed Diocesan Pilgrimage to Turkey has been postponed from October 2019 to around April/May 2020 as many people were asking for more time to commit. The estimated cost of the Pilgrimage will now be £1,000, based on two people sharing a room. Flights will be direct from Glasgow, accommodation will be on a half-board basis in 4* hotels, and a full spiritual programme will be provided. If you would like to 'express and interest' in taking part in this pilgrimage please contact Fr. David Borland by email (david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or call him on 01292 263488. Please do so by August 1st 2019 when a decision will be made as to whether the Pilgrimage will proceed.

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 25 people have signed up to take part in this fundraising effort and this should allow us to sponsor almost two young people to attend WYD!

Missio Scotland Emergency Appeal for Sri Lanka: Donations can be sent directly to the Missio office: 4 Laird Street, Coatbridge ML5 3LJ, or by going to the website: www.missioscotland.com where donations can be made online using PayPal or a debit card. Whatever is raised will be sent to the Church in Sri Lanka through the Papal Nuncio in Colombo.

Bereavement Counselling: If there is anyone in our parish community who has trained or taken part in Bereavement Counselling we would be grateful if they could make themselves known to Fr. David.

Special Invitaiton to all Current and Retired Galloway Diocese Primary Head Teachers: You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Bishop's Mass, Lunch and Mini Conference on Tuesday 28 May 2019. Bishop Nolan will celebrate Mass at 12.15 in St. Joseph's Church, Hill Street, Kilmarnock, followed by lunch and speakers in the Church Hall. Please RSVP to the Diocesan Office. kate@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Forthcoming Special Collections: World Day of Prayer for Communications – June 1st/2nd; Day of Prayer for Life – June 8th/9th.

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**

Saint Margaret's

Thursday: Due to the Assembly of Priests this week there will be a Service of the Word and Holy Communion on Thursday morning in the Cathedral.
Alexander Porter RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alex Porter of Doonholm Road who has died. Alex's Funeral Mass will take place on Friday 10 a.m. and thereafter to the Crematorium. May he rest in peace.
Mary Jane McMillan R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jane McMillan who has died. Jane's body will be brought to the Church on Monday May 20th at 6.30 p.m. and the funeral Mass will be on Tuesday May 21st at 10 a.m. Thereafter to Ayr Cemetery. May she rest in peace.
First Holy Communion: Please also note that the distribution of Holy Communion in St. Margaret's will begin from the front of the Church during May.
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.
200 Club Monthly Draw: £30 M McLaughlan, £20 P McKie, £10 M Nisbet.

Saint Paul's

Friday: Due to the funeral Mass in the Cathedral on Friday morning there will be NO Mass or Service in St. Paul's on Friday.
Tea/Coffee: In the hall after Sunday morning Mass.
Art Club: The Art Club meet in the hall on Monday afternoons at 1.30pm.
Tuesday Club: The Tuesday Club meet in the hall on Tuesday afternoons 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.

Prayer for the Conversion of Scotland

Loving Father, in the name of your Son Jesus,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit,
we ask that you fill our country
with the knowledge of your will,
and imbue her with spiritual wisdom and understanding.
Enlighten this precious land dear Lord!
Teach this nation to live in a manner
that is worthy of you,
so as to be pleasing to you,
full of good works bearing good fruits
and ever growing in knowledge of you.
Strengthen this lost lamb, dear Lord,
with the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that, full of endurance and patience,
she may, with joy, give thanks to you, O Father.
Make this land fit to share in the inheritance
of the holy ones of the Light.
Deliver this beloved land from the power of ignorance
to be once again part of
the kingdom of your Beloved Son, Jesus,
in whom is found all mercy
and the fullness of redemption.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year 'C'

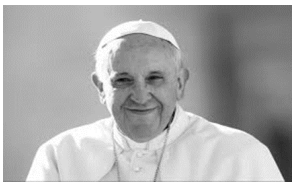
Acts 13: 14.43-52 *Apocalypse 7: 9.14-17* *John 10: 27-30*

This Sunday is normally called 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because the Gospel reading has Jesus saying: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.' The psalm has the response: 'We are his people, the sheep of his flock' and the Gospel Acclamation is 'I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord, I know my own sheep and they know me.'

I suppose this one of the series of 'I am's' in St. John's Gospel must be one of the most familiar and loved, though it's not so important to us as 'I am the bread of life' for instance. However, it contains so much that is important for Jesus does ask us to follow him, taking up our cross each day and we would in calling ourselves Christians assume that we are at least trying to be followers of the Lord. There is much meditative matter here.

Now this Sunday is also used throughout the world as a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood. Vocation is a much more generalised call than simply to priesthood but this day is set aside for centring on those who the Lord is calling to the specialised ministerial priesthood. I hope that we all know that there is the wider royal priesthood. But here we are facing the call to accept a particular ministry which involves celebrating the Mass or Eucharist, normally the administration of other Sacraments and also often the pastoral care of some of the flock of Christ. As a priest, I can assure you how much I owed to the prayers of others as I tried to seek God's will in finally going forward for ordination. That was up to ordination. Needless to say, the need and the support has continued. But today especially we are all asked to pray that the Lord will send men (and maybe sometime women?) to lead his flock.

Words of Pope Francis



At the General Audience on Wednesday in St Peter's Square Pope Francis reflected upon his very recent Apostolic Journey to Bulgaria and North Macedonia. After the reading of Luke 12: 22-23.30 he said:

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Yesterday evening I returned from my Apostolic Journey to Bulgaria and North Macedonia. I renew my heartfelt gratitude to the civil Authorities of both countries and to the respective Christian communities for their generous welcome. In Bulgaria, guided by the example of Saint John XXIII, I invited everyone to walk in the path of fraternity. It was a joy to meet Patriarch Neofit and the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, and I was also able to spend time in prayer before the throne of Saints Cyril and Methodius, two brothers who knew how to use their culture with creativity in proclaiming the Gospel. Today too we need such passionate missionary disciples. Finally, with representatives of different religions, we asked God for the gift of peace, while children carried burning torches: symbols of faith and hope. In North Macedonia, the spiritual presence of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta accompanied me. We can see in this small yet strong woman an image of the Church in that land: a small community that becomes a welcoming home where many can find rest. After Holy Mass, I met with priests and consecrated persons, as well as youth from different Christian denominations and other religions, encouraging them to listen to the Lord's voice. As I thank God for allowing me to visit these two countries, let us entrust their people to the loving providence of Almighty God.

EU Settlement Scheme

Please see the Bishops' Conference of Scotland's statement on the above scheme – which contains details of how to apply. EU (European Union), EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss citizens living in the UK must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society, and they must do so before 30 June 2021. Useful email address: www.eucitizensrights.campaign.gov.uk Helpline telephone number: 0300 123 7379. I was recently talking to a friend from primary school who came to this country as a child 50 years ago from Italy and she has had to apply – so please make sure you know if this Scheme applies to you. Please also do your best to ensure that those whose first language is not English are aware of the Scheme too.

Daughters of Charity

It is with great sadness that we inform you that the Daughters of Charity have announced the closure of their Convent in Fotheringham Road, Ayr, and that Sr. Marie and Sr. Kathleen will be leaving us. The closure will take place by the end of July this year. Bishop Nolan will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Monday June 17th at 7 p.m. for the great work the Sisters have done over the years in our parishes and diocese. Please pray for Sr. Marie and Sr. Kathleen as they embark on new ministries elsewhere.

Fr. David's Mass intentions for this week:

Monday – Jenny O'Neil; *Tuesday* – Special intention; *Wednesday* – Special intention; *Thursday* – Stevie Chalmers; *Friday* – Douglas McBride; *Saturday* – Vicky Dixon; *Sunday* – for the parishes.

Fr Stan's Mass intentions for this week:

Monday – Special intention; *Tuesday* – Maida Kablescov; *Wednesday* – Jim McMillan; *Thursday* – Special intention; *Friday* – Special intention; *Saturday* – Umberto Marioni; *Sunday* – Sr. Irene Rudginski.