



St. Peter's R.C. Church
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PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST. FERGUS

Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 15 December 2024:

"Gaudete" Sunday

(Zep 3:14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Lk 3:10-18)

Parish Priest: Rev. Thomas John



St. Fergus' R.C. Church
[35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley](http://35BlackstounRoad,Paisley)
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Sunday Mass:

St. Peter's 4.00pm (Sat) & 10.00 am, St. Fergus' 6pm (Sat) & 11.30 am
Weekday Mass: St Peter's - Tue, Thu & Sat; St Fergus - Mon, Wed & Fri
Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm, St Fergus' 5.20-5.50pm; and on request

Parish News

CHRISTMAS MASSES: The Christmas vigil (Tuesday 24th) in St Peter's begins at 4.00pm with carol service and nativity play by children, followed by Mass. The morning mass will be as usual at 10am. While in St Fergus, the vigil begins at 2.00pm with the carol service by children followed by Mass. The morning mass will be as usual at 11.30am.

CRIB SERVICE AT ST PETER'S: On Wednesday 18th the children of St Peter's Primary will have the Crib service in the Church at 10am. Parishioners are welcome. No mass in St Fergus.

ANNUAL CRIB APPEAL: As every year St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society (Adoption Society) appeals to the parishes for a special collection at the crib. The society is a charity of the dioceses and if you can please donate as you visit the crib. You can find more information about the society on www.stmargaretadoption.org.uk

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because it introduces us into the second half of season of Advent, and at the opening of matins our anxiety and joy are given impetus: "The Lord is already near. Come, let us adore Him!" *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice."

This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." So,

on this day, we recognize the closeness of the Lord. He is not only coming, He is near!

We mark this day by lighting the third candle on our Advent wreath, which is traditionally coloured pink. At mass, we will see the priest wearing pink or rose-coloured vestments. The colour signifies that we look forward to the arrival of Christ. This Sunday centres on the theme of joy, celebrating the announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds and the nearness of His arrival (Luke 2:10). So, it is a time of joy, a time of being thankful for all that has been given—the promise of the Saviour who has come, who is present, and who promises a return.

This is a time of coming together, of building a community of faith that is open to all. Advent often focus on preparation for the birth of Jesus, and on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. It is a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. An ideal preparation for welcoming the Lord is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

May this Advent be a time of spiritual awakening and renewal for you as you prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick: Kevin McPhee, and Isobel MacFadyen ... Those who recently died.... and anniversaries occur around this time: Charlie Doherty

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: St Peter's (08 Dec): Offertory: £602.25, B. Fund: £330.45, Hall Lets:

£50.00. St Fergus: Offertory £264.00, B. Fund £120.00

REGISTRATION AND SUGGESTIONS: (In St Peter's) - We request the new parishioners in particular or anyone who wishes, to enter your name and address in our new parish register which is placed in the main chapel as you enter. This is in view of contacting you if any need arises and to facilitate pastoral activities with you. It is done in accordance with GDPR rules. Also, we have placed a suggestion box at the same place and if anyone has suggestions for the betterment of the parish you are most welcome to do so. Thanks.

STALL: Stalls have a good collection of Christmas cards and gifts items. Please visit.

TEA & COFFEE: Tea, coffee available in the parish halls after the morning mass. All welcome.

ST PETER'S PARISH WEBSITE: I am happy to announce that St Peter's has launched a new website. As and when more programmes and activities are organised we can add them to it. Please go through it. Your ideas and suggestions are most welcome. Website Id: WWW.STPETERSPAISLEY.CO.UK. The parish also has a Facebook. The user ID is St Peter's Catholic Church Paisley.

PARISH MASS BOOKS: The revised edition of the mass book and lectionary have come into use from the First Sunday of Advent. The remaining five editions of Year - ABC will be available later. St Peter's has ordered 100 copies each of these editions and St Fergus 50. Each mass book costs £5.00. If you would like to dedicate one or more copies of these books in memory of a loved one or to the parish, please speak to Fr Thomas.

Diocesan News

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE DIOCESE: Christmas Mass times for the whole diocese can be found on the diocesan website at rcdop.org.uk/Christmas. You can list Masses by parish, by time, by location, or download a spreadsheet with all the schedule information. Please check back regularly as we will add to the page as parishes confirm their schedules.

CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL: Join Bishop John Keenan and the Diocesan Choir for the annual Carol Service in St Mirin's Cathedral, Friday 27th of December at 2pm. Refreshments in the hall afterwards. All welcome!

DIOCESE OF PAISLEY PODCAST: The Diocese of Paisley podcast has been nominated for a prestigious Renfrewshire Council Provost's Community Award! The podcast initiative has been running for only six-months but already had over

two and a half thousand downloads in more than 20 countries around the world. The podcasts highlight the great work happening throughout the Diocese which impacts positively on local communities. This week Tony Waterston reports on the P4-P7 Advent Retreat at St. Mirin's Cathedral. The Diocese of Paisley podcast is available to listen to on the website rcdop.org.uk/podcast or wherever you listen to your podcasts. Please leave us a review!

LOURDES HOSPITALITÉ: Booking is now open for the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, 28th June-3rd July 2025. Booking is currently via the Tangney Tours website, booking forms will be available soon. If you have a life limiting, chronic medical condition or a taking regular medication you should register with the medical/nursing team. If you wish to come to Lourdes as part of the medical/nursing or helper team, please attend the meeting on 7th January at 7pm in St Ninian's, Gourrock. If you would like to come to Lourdes as a registered sick pilgrim please come to the meeting on 26th January at 2pm in St Ninian's, Gourrock. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Louise pilgrimage co-ordinator on 01475 638132

Safeguarding Thought for the Month of December: The Church seeks to restore the fabric of broken lives and heal the pain of survivors.

ADVENT ACTIVITY PACK: CELEBRATE have created a brilliant family resource, the Advent Online Family Activity Pack, which can download from here for free <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>. The Advent pack is full of wonderful things for families to do, pray, read and watch together. It also features the CELEBRATE Advent Matchbox Manger which can also be downloaded for free from their website from here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScj0GxNXsRV9sL4oJPiDS1ShLDKIGMaEufhQ6T7ksh5nCwmhg/viewform>. Children can cut out their own manger and Baby Jesus. During Advent, every time they do a kind deed or make a little sacrifice, they place a little piece of straw in the manger, and on Christmas Day they can place the Baby Jesus on the straw. It's a really lovely way to help children prepare their hearts for Jesus during Advent 😊.

LONGING FOR LIGHT: Journeying through Advent with the Scriptures. You are invited to the talk on the scriptures of Advent with Fr Ryan Black, in the Diocesan Office from 7pm. Tue 17th Dec.