



St. Peter's R.C. Church
154 Braehead Road, Paisley
PA2 8NG
Phone - 0141 884 2435
Email - stpeter@rcdop.org.uk
Facebook: St Peter's Catholic Church Paisley
Web: www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk

PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST. FERGUS

Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 22 December 2024: y
(Mic 5:2-5, Hb 10:5-10, Lk 1: 39-45)



St. Fergus' R.C. Church
[35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley
PA3 1LU](https://www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk)
Phone- 0141 884 2435
Email - stfergus@rcdop.org.uk
Web: www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk



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 MASS TIMES IN OUR PARISHES: The Christmas vigil mass (Tuesday 24th) in St Peter's begins at 4.00pm with carol service and nativity play by children, followed by Mass. The morning Christmas 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 Christmas mass will be as usual at 11.30am. Mass times are also available on our parish website and Facebook.

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: The Fourth Week of Advent is the week of Love. This week reminds us that Jesus came because God loves us so much that he doesn't want any of us to miss out eternity with him. All we have to do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from sin. On this fourth Sunday the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. So, we read the story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

We mark this day by lighting the fourth candle on our Advent wreath, which is traditionally coloured purple.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick: Isobel MacFadyen ... Those who recently died Alan

Elliott, Charles Rooney, and Rena Retson and anniversaries...and six months mind of Agnes Martin.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: St Peter's (15 Dec): Offertory: £658.85, B. Fund: £357.30, Donation £130.00. St Fergus: Offertory £307.00, Raffle £300.00, Stall £37.75

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.

THANK YOU: I sincerely thank all of you for your generous contribution toward the Giving Tree. It was a genuine gesture of your love for the needy during this festive season.

Diocesan News

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE DIOCESE: 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!

JUBILEE YEAR 2025: As you know, the Jubilee Year/Holy Year begins with the ceremony for the Opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica at 7pm on Christmas Eve by Pope Francis and usher in the 2025 Jubilee. Recognising the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, Pope Francis wants this Jubilee to 'fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty... as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire.'¹ To this end, the motto of the Jubilee is, *Pilgrims of Hope*.

The Dioceses are to begin the Jubilee year locally on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. Bishop John in our Diocese will celebrate Mass, including the Opening Rites of the Jubilee with the blessing of the Jubilee Cross, in St. Mirin's Cathedral at 11am. In preparation for the Jubilee a prayer booklet has been prepared and is available after the mass. The diocese requests us to use them in the parish, in schools and in homes throughout the Jubilee year ahead. Bishop John has written a Pastoral Letter to be read and the parishioners will use the Jubilee Prayer as part of the Concluding Rite of Mass on this occasion, before the blessing. The Jubilee Cross will most often be in the Cathedral. Throughout the year the Diocese is intending to have a monthly Cluster Mass, from February onwards. Each Cluster will be invited, in turn, to host a Mass at which Bishop John will be the main celebrant. The Jubilee Year Indulgence should be encouraged throughout the year. It is possible to receive the Indulgence, with the normal conditions, in many contexts: Pilgrimages, pious visits to sacred sites, retreats, missions, engaging in corporal and spiritual works of mercy, for acts of penance and fasting (including from social media), for works in support of the protection of life, joining pilgrimages and Jubilee events through means of communication when it is not possible to be present in person.

The Holy Father encourages us, '... to foster a renewed awareness of the demands of the universal call to responsible participation by enhancing the charisms and ministries that the Holy Spirit never ceases to bestow for the building up of the one Church.'²

GOSPEL IN ART: BEHOLD, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON: LUKE 1:26-38: At that time: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of

the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her.

Throughout history, artists have depicted the Annunciation with extraordinary splendour, inviting us to immerse ourselves in the profound mystery and joy of this sacred event. Art has the unique ability to draw us into the scene, encouraging us to reflect on the significance of Mary saying 'Yes' to God. She responds to a divine call - the call to become the mother of God's Son. However, her acceptance was neither immediate nor without struggle.

Initially, the Gospel recounts that she was 'greatly troubled' by the message and questioned it, asking, 'How can this be?' Yet, in time, she chose to surrender fully to God's will, declaring, 'Let it be to me according to your word.' Mary joins a long tradition of biblical women who served God's purposes with faith and trust. Her willingness to say 'yes' had the most profound implication for all humanity. Through her generous response, God's Son took on human flesh, sharing in our humanity in every way except sin, and opening the way for us to follow him as our way, truth, and life (*Christian Art*).

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: The Church seeks to restore the fabric of broken lives and heal the pain of survivors.

¹ Letter of the Holy Father Francis for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation for the Jubilee 2025

² *Ibid.*,