



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS
Bulletin
SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025: THE EPIPHANY OF THE
LORD – SOLEMNITY
(Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace)
(Readings: Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-6, Mt 2: 1-12)



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St. Fergus' R.C. Church
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Parish Priest: Rev. Thomas John
(Resident at St Peter's)

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

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick ... For all who have recently died Kevin McPhee and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time Rose McGinty, Catherine & James Mailley, Michael & Anne Muggins

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: St Peter's (22nd & 29th Dec): Offertory: 947.9, B. Fund: £656.9, Christmas: £917.30, St Fergus: Offertory £596.6, Christmas 418.00

THANKING YOU: We are already in the New Year 2025. We may not be able to recollect each and every blessing we received from God and others in the past one year as perhaps they must have been too many to recollect, yet we have some blessings/experiences that are very fresh in our minds to say 'Thank You Lord.' In numerous ways we all have experienced God's love and care in our family and parish. As we had bid farewell to the year 2024 I would like to thank each of you the countless ways you supported me throughout the year. I wish to thank you most sincerely for your Christmas cards, gifts, prayers and your generosity in the Christmas collection. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are a source of great encouragement for me.

SPECIAL THANKS: I am most grateful to you all for making our Christmas services so beautiful and enriching. I thank our children for their inspiring nativity play and carol singing. I sincerely appreciate the parents and family of these children who showed interest and took them to the Church for mass and practice. Thanks to Sofia, Anna, and Ide for their magical hands on violin and made the congregation spellbound when they played 'Silent Night.... Holy Night.' The nativity programme would not have been possible without the efforts and hard work of our children's liturgy team led by

Pat Hallan, Louise Steel, Louise McBride and Adam. Your help in the children's ministry is much appreciated. Special thanks to you, our musical team of Anne Marie, Beth McLean and Michael New who enhanced our liturgy through their talents.

Many thanks to the children of St Fergus who sang Christmas carols. It was an attempt made just a few days before Christmas to get some children back to the church for Christmas. This initiative was hugely supported by the school and we hope to see better participation in the coming years. Thanks also to volunteers of both parishes who welcomed people as they came in. People always say how good it is to receive such a warm welcome in our parishes. It was so inspiring and encouraging to see many families that came together for the Christmas mass. Thank you too, to the readers, eucharistic ministers, pass keepers and servers. A word of gratitude to Bernadette and her team in St Fergus' and Margaret and her team in St Peter's for decorating the church so beautifully. Finally, it is my honour to admit that every parishioner without exception who contributed through prayers and participations throughout the advent leading to Christmas celebrations made a great difference in the celebration of Christmas liturgy; so, to every one of you my deepest thanks.

FUNERAL: In St Peter's, a requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of the soul of Kevin McPhee at 10.00am on Tuesday 7 January. His remains will be received into the church prior to the mass. RIP

NEW YEAR: All of us would like to embrace the new year with hopes and aspirations. We try to forget the bad experiences of the past and look forward with certain clear goals/objectives to achieve them in this year. I am sure every family

would have some projects in mind. It is possible to achieve them with confidence and trust in God. We read in the book of Sirach (34: 13-17), “The spirit of those who fear the Lord will live, for their hope is placed in the One who saves. He who fears the Lord is in dread of nothing. He will not be cowardly for he is his hope. He who fears the Lord is a happy person. To whom does he turn? Who is his support? The eyes of the Lord are on those who love him. For them he is a powerful protection, strong support, shelter against scorching wind and the midday sun. He is a safeguard against stumbling and assurance against a fall. He lifts up the soul and gives a sparkle to the eyes; he gives healing, life and blessing.”

In the book of Numbers 6: 22-26, God tells Aaron to bless the people in the following words, “May Yahweh bless you and keep you! May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May Yahweh look kindly on you, and give you his peace!” God let his face shine upon us and uncovered his face to us with the coming of Jesus. It was a strongly held belief in the Jewish tradition that no one could see the face of God and live. Yet, God showed us his face through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was God-with-us, Emmanuel. This coming year we commit ourselves anew to receiving all that God wants to give us through his Son, who declares in the Gospel of John (10:10) ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full’.

As I had mentioned in one of recent bulletins that going forward as communities we have many things to focus on for the betterment of our parishes in the new year. Besides, alongside our projects, we need to keep in mind the theme of the Jubilee Year 2025, ‘*PILGRIMS OF HOPE*’ to take our both parishes forward with new hope, vigour, and commitment. I earnestly request you all to extend your full cooperation and support as and when a new programme is initiated in view of the Jubilee year. I wish you all a Happy New Year. May God grant you, peace, health and happiness along with every blessing in 2025.

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

JUBILEE YEAR OF 2025: Pope Francis officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on Dec. 24, 2024. Passing through a Holy Door during the jubilee symbolizes entry into a new life in Christ and the beginning of a journey of conversion. Holy Doors “can be permanent or not.” The first category includes only nine in the whole world: The most famous is that of St. Peter in the Vatican, followed by those of the three major basilicas in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major. But there are also others outside Rome, such as the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio in L’Aquila (Italy), the Basilica-Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Québec (Canada), the Atri Cathedral (Italy), and Sacred Heart Cathedral in New Delhi (India).

A jubilee is one of the most significant events of the Catholic Church that occurs only every 25 years. With the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, there are many questions the faithful may ask: What can the jubilee contribute to my life of faith? What is a Holy Door? What is a jubilee church? How can I participate if I don’t go on pilgrimage to Rome? Why is the jubilee such an important event for Catholics? The answer is simple: It offers an extraordinary opportunity to attain salvation and experience that God’s holiness can transform us. Ultimately, it is a gift that helps us reach heaven. Why? Because it makes available to the faithful all the easy means to obtain benefits from the “treasury” of the Church, for example, a plenary indulgence, which returns the soul to the state it was in when it received baptism. In fact, during each month of the year, one or more jubilees dedicated to different groups will be celebrated in Rome. In January, for example, there is the Jubilee of the World of Communications, in February the Jubilee of Artists, in April the Jubilee of Teenagers, in May the Jubilee of Confraternities..... You can consult the calendar. The immense value and profound significance that this “treasure” contains makes it a privilege reserved for specific places and times designated for it to be granted. This is where the greatness of the jubilee year lies, a time when the opportunities to obtain it are multiplied. *(Catholic News Agency..... to be continued).*