



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS
Bulletin
SUNDAY 6 JULY: 14 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.
(Gn Is 66:10-14 Gal 6:14-18, Lk 10:1-12, 17-20)



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

St. Fergus' R.C. Church
[35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1LU](http://35BlackstounRoad,PaisleyPA31LU)
Phone- 0141 884 2435
Email - stfergus@rcdop.org.uk
Facebook: St Fergus Catholic Church
Web: www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk

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 10.00am; St Fergus – Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30am
Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm, St Fergus' 5.20-5.50pm; and on request

PARISH WALK: St Peter's parish is embarking on a Sponsored Walk on Sunday 3rd August at 1pm to visit churches in the cluster. We will start at St Peter's, then move on to St Charles, St Mirin's Cathedral, St Mary's, and concludes at St Fergus. Parishioners, please join the walk, if possible the entire walk, or just a part of it if preferred. If you need transportation from whichever place you want to return, we can arrange it. Funds raised will be used for the repairs and maintenance of the Church.

HOLY HOUR: St Peter's will have a holy hour for the SPUC Pro-Life Group on the 7th of July at 7pm in the Church/chapel house. You are most welcome. The Pro-Life Group aims at promoting the value of life from conception to natural death through talks, prayer, and grass root initiatives.

CONGRATULATIONS: The parish wishes Mr & Mrs McAnulty continued happiness, good health, joy and prayers on the special milestone of their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

NO SATURDAY VIGIL MASS IN ST FERGUS

As in previous years there won't be Saturday Vigil Mass in St Fergus during summer break starting from Saturday 28th June to Saturday 12th August.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (15 June): St Peter's - Offertory: £434.60, B. Fund: £365.35, Peter's Pence £41.00, St Fergus: Offertory: £181.19, **LUCKY STAR** £44.00 Congratulations to Paul Doherty for winning the Lucky Star.

STANDING ORDERS: If any of you wish to increase your standing orders or set up new standing orders, please complete a standing order form and gift aid declaration, if applicable and return them to Fr Thomas. These forms can be obtained from the parish website or from the parish office.

Alternatively, you can set up regular faster payment to the parish via your online banking system. Parish bank details as follows: **St Peter's Parish:** Sort Code 80-22-60, Account No 16382568. **St Fergus Parish:** Sort Code: 80-22-60, Account No: 16819664.

TEA & COFFEE - available in the parish hall after the morning mass. All are most welcome.

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR JULY 2025: The Church is fully committed to the provision of compassionate care for survivors.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Our Lady of Lourdes is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary recalling her apparitions in the year 1858 in the grotto at Lourdes, France to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen-year-old peasant girl. Bernadette Soubirous was born on January 7, 1844, into a humble and very poor family in Lourdes, France. The eldest of nine children, Bernadette received a simple education from the Sisters of Charity, but frequent illness hindered her studies. Growing up, she spoke the local dialect of Occitan and learned some French in her teenage years. Her family of eleven lived together for free in a relative's one-room basement that was formerly used as a prison or dungeon. When Bernadette was fourteen years old, she went with her sister and a friend to gather some firewood. She fell behind as they searched for wood near a natural rock grotto. She then heard a sound like a gust of wind. Inside the grotto she saw a supernatural light in which a beautiful lady appeared. This woman was very young. She was wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot. She was enveloped in a white veil which covered her head, her shoulders and her arms, and almost reached the bottom of her dress. Bernadette could not turn away

from that beautiful face. While the other two girls saw nothing but Bernadette on her knees, gazing at the grotto. Bernadette asked her sister not to tell anyone, but her sister later told their mother. Bernadette's mother told the girls not to tell lies and forbade them to return to the grotto.

Three days later, Bernadette felt drawn to return to the grotto, so she and her two companions begged for permission from her mother who reluctantly agreed. When they arrived at the grotto, the three girls knelt to pray the rosary. Before finishing the first decade, the young woman in white appeared and Bernadette told the young woman that if she were from God she should stay; if not, she should leave. The woman smiled and stayed for the rest of the rosary and then departed.

By this time, some of the local townspeople began to hear about these encounters. Some were superstitious, thinking it was the souls of dead relatives. Others believed it was the Blessed Virgin Mary. Four days later, Bernadette returned to the cave accompanied by a few grown-ups. When the lady appeared, she spoke to Bernadette for the first time, in Occitan. She asked Bernadette if she was willing to return for the next fourteen days. Bernadette agreed and she did come back for a fortnight.

The vision appeared every day, except one Monday and one Friday. The young lady repeated to her several times that she was to tell the priests they were to build a chapel there, and she was to go to the fountain to wash, and that she was to pray for sinners. During this fortnight, she told her three secrets which she forbade her to tell anyone. She has been faithful to it.

As word spread, the numbers in attendance grew to thousands. The lady asked people to pray for sinners and to do penance. During the ninth vision, the lady asked Bernadette to drink from a spring of water in the cave. Many began to believe when a woman's paralyzed arm was cured after bathing it in the new spring of water. Throughout the fourteen days, Bernadette continually asked the lady's name, because the parish priest had asked her to do so. Each time, the lady only smiled. However, on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette was drawn once again to the grotto. This time, she repeatedly asked the lady's name. The lady responded, ***"I am the Immaculate Conception."*** Bernadette being young, simple and poorly educated peasant girl had no idea what the "Immaculate Conception" was. But she repeated the name to herself over and over so she wouldn't forget. When she told the parish priest, he was stunned. Only four years prior, the pope had issued

the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. This fact, especially, helped convince the Church leaders that the apparitions were authentic. These apparitions, which occurred 18 times, have become one of the most significant Marian events in the Church's history. Lourdes has become one of the most frequented pilgrimage sites in the world. It is said that every year six million pilgrims' journey to Lourdes Grotto, seeking healing, peace and divine intervention. The sick flock to this holy grotto to bathe in or drink the miraculous water, seeking a cure for their ailments. After a thorough investigation, the apparitions were approved for devotion by the Catholic Church in 1862.

Several years after her visions, Bernadette entered religious life. She died in 1879 and was canonized in 1933. The grotto was Our Lady's gift to the people. On February 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and February 18 is the feast day of Saint Bernadette.

The Diocese of Paisley organised a seven-day pilgrimage to Lourdes last week with around 150 people which included seven priests and bishop from the Diocese. It was my first pilgrimage there. The place is absolutely stunning and peaceful. Thousands of people from different nationalities flocking to the grotto and shrine every day would strengthen one's faith in God and devotion to Our Lady. By seeing this one might wonder: what makes Lourdes very special for a Catholic. When you go there you will realise how great our Catholic faith is and how people from all over the world are united in one faith. The daily masses celebrated in different chapels, the torchlight rosary procession attended by thousands every day in the evenings and other devotions like way of the cross are the highlights of the day. The streets are clean and calm but at the same time busy. One of the beautiful sights is religious article shops along the roads that are always with people buying things. All along the streets are also hotels and restaurants providing good accommodation and delicious foods. The French wines and beer, famous worldwide, will cool down your mind and temperature outside. It is quite unfortunate that Lourdes even though it became a pilgrimage centre for more than one and half century, many Catholics are not aware of the importance of this place. Any way every year people go for their annual holidays and perhaps one year along with children, parents (and grandparents) could make their journey to Lourdes and I am sure it would be a worthy pilgrimage and a holiday. It is an ideal place to learn about our faith besides providing a great learning experience for our children.