



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS

Bulletin

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025

(Sir 3:17-29, Hb 12:18-24, Lk 14:7-14)



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

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

40 HOUR ADORATION: Please do not forget to come for our annual 40-hour adoration in our parishes. While in St Peter's it will be from Monday 8th – Thursday 11th September, in St Fergus for one day, Sunday 7th after the mass until 7pm. In these days, in St Peter's Adoration will begin at 8am and concludes with mass, that starts at 7pm. Longer period of time will enable those who go for work to spend some time in prayer either before or after their work. A sign-up sheet of hourly slot is available at the back of the Church. Please be generous with your time to encourage and spread this devotion.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick ... For all who have recently died Jane Morrison and Eddie Molloy and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (24 August): St Peter's - Offertory: £616.10, B. Fund: £434.00, Tea £100.00, Sponsored Walk £3230.00. St Fergus -Offertory: £303.00

MASS IN ST PETER'S SCHOOL: On Friday 5th September mass will be celebrated in St Peter's school at 10am. No mass in St Fergus

WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? The RCIA process will be starting soon in our cluster. For more information, please contact your parish priest or fill in the enquiry form here [Diocese of Paisley | Diocese of Paisley R.C.I.A | Paisley, UK](#), where you will find more information about the process.

Quiz Night: The quiz night was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to the organizers and the participants.

100 CLUB: a reminder – the next payment for the 100 club is due this weekend, 30th/31st August.

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

DIOCESAN ANNUAL FUND-RAISING APPEAL: The Diocesan annual fund-raising appeal will take place this weekend of 30th/31st August.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS: You are invited to the Diocesan Vocations Mass on Thursday, September 11th, at 7:00pm, to be held at St. Mirin's Cathedral to pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Life. Also, a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis would be there that evening, just days after his canonisation on September 7th.

ACUTIS RELIC TOUR: Days after his canonisation, a relic of then-Saint Carlo Acutis will visit the Diocese of Paisley, from 9-13 September. These days will doubtless bring many blessings for our diocesan family. Bishop Keenan invites you to a Holy Hour from 6.30-7.30pm in St Mirin's Cathedral on Tuesday 9th September to welcome the relic and the delegation from Assisi. The relic will be available for veneration in the Cathedral on Wednesday 10th September (11.30am – 3pm), Friday 12th September (10.30am – 4pm) and Saturday 13th September (9am – 11am); and in St Mary's, Greenock on Thursday 11th September (12.30pm – 5pm). All are invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving in the cathedral on Saturday 13th September at 11am, after which the relic will leave the diocese.

Acutis Evening (S4-S6): The first Acutis Evening of the new term will take place on Friday 12th September in St James's church, Paisley, 6-8pm. The relic of then-Saint Carlo will be present. These evenings provide catechesis, dinner and prayer for young people in S4-S6. 6-8pm. Please note that (one-time) online registration for these events is necessary. Parents/guardians should visit www.tinyurl.com/dpy-acutis-evenings. Email Fr Ryan Black for more info at VE-Youth@rcdop.org.uk.

ST MONICA & ST AUGUSTINE: (Feasts celebrated on 27th & 28th August). Saint Monica and St Augustine are mother -and- son duo saints. Monica was the mother of Augustine, one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. Saint Monica is particularly known as the "child of her tears" or the "persistent mother" due to her ceaseless prayers for Augustine, who was once a wayward youth before his conversion. Monica was born in Thagaste, present-day Algeria, North Africa. Thagaste was then part of the Roman Empire, which had legalized Christianity just twenty years before Monica was born. She was raised a Christian. Monica married Patricius, who was a pagan and said to have had a violent temper and so also his mother. Monica and Patricius had three children: Augustine, Navigius and Perpetua.

Monica was a woman of deep faith and prayer. Her husband opposed her Christian faith and prayer life, but he also saw in her something that led to his respect for her. She wanted to baptize her children when they were born, but Patricius refused permission. His refusal broke her heart and led to her unwavering prayers for her family. When Augustine became ill as a child, Patricius initially agreed to permit his baptism, but when the boy recovered, Patricius once again forbade it.

Monica's only recourse was prayer. She prayed fervently for her family's conversion. Patricius admired Monica's virtues and was deeply affected by her love for him. Finally, her prayers led to Patricius' conversion and baptism, and he died a year later. Patricius' mother also converted. Augustine, her oldest child, was around sixteen when his father died. He had received a good education as a youth at a school about twenty miles south of their hometown. When Augustine was seventeen, he was sent to Carthage, in modern-day Tunisia, to study rhetoric. Though part of the Roman Empire at that time, Carthage had its roots in Greek culture and had some of the best schools where many prominent figures in society were educated. In Carthage, Augustine was searching for truth. After reading Cicero's dialogue *Hortensius*, his thirst for truth grew stronger. Around this time, Augustine fathered a child.

In Carthage, Augustine was introduced to the teachings of Mani, a man who claimed to be the final prophet in a line of prophets such as Buddha, Zoroaster, and Jesus. Mani taught that there was a fundamental conflict between two opposite, co-eternal principles: light and darkness. Light was good; darkness was evil. He taught that the material world was a union of light and darkness, good and evil, and that the goal of human life was to release the light trapped within the darkness of the material world. Augustine embraced this religion, becoming a Manichaean. But there was one problem Augustine would face: his mother's prayers and faith were powerful.

When Augustine returned from school in Carthage, he began to teach in his hometown. It was then that he announced he had become a Manichaean. Though Monica was upset with him, gradually she reconciled with him as God spoke to her in a vision. Augustine opened a school

of Rhetoric in Rome. Meanwhile, Monica's other two children had already received baptism. By the time she arrived in Rome, Augustine had left Rome and taken a prestigious teaching position in Milan. She followed him there.

Over the next four years in Milan, Monica never gave up, praying for her son through tears. Since Augustine was impressed with intellectuals, he was drawn to the Catholic Bishop of Milan and future Saint Ambrose. Bishop Ambrose was an answer to a mother's prayers. Around the year 387, at the age of thirty-three, Augustine converted to Christianity and was baptized by Bishop Ambrose. Once converted, Augustine and his mother decided to return home to Thagaste, but Monica would never complete the trip. She fell ill and died in Ostia, a city just outside of Rome. Augustine went on to become a bishop and doctor of the Church, and one of the most influential theologians in the history of the Church. In his book, *Confessions*, Saint Augustine shares the beautiful story of his mother. When Augustine went astray at Carthage, he recalls how she wept for him more than most mothers would weep over the death of their child. Augustine recounts how fervently his mother prayed while they were in Milan and sought the counsel of Bishop Ambrose. Augustine's most tender description of his mother describes his relationship with her after his conversion, their conversations, and her death. She had a profound impact upon him, and he, in turn, has had a profound impact upon the entire Church.

Saint Monica endured a difficult life, but she persevered, overcame her difficulties, and devoted herself to a life of prayer and virtuous living. Her prayers and virtues first won over her husband and mother-in-law, then all three of her children. Saint Monica is seen by many as a model of hope for those whose family members have gone astray.

As we honour her, ponder the power of her prayers. As you do, be reminded that your prayers for your family are also powerful. If you have someone in your family who has gone astray, allow Saint Monica to inspire you and devote yourself to praying for them, so that each member of your family will share, one day, the glories of Heaven with you.

Prayer: 'Saint Monica, though you had a difficult life, you continually turned your difficulties over to God. You prayed, grew in virtue, and had a profound impact on your whole family. Please pray for me, that I will never lose hope for those who have gone astray but will remain faithful in prayer for them, trusting in God's divine mercy. Saint Monica, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.'

In Monica's own words we read in Augustine's *Confessions* about her son:

'There was one thing for which I desired to linger for a while in this life, that I might see you as a Catholic Christian before I died. My God has done this for me more abundantly, that I should now see you, despising earthly happiness, become His servant' (an excerpt from My Catholic Life).