



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS

Bulletin

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

(Am 6:1-7, 1 Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31)



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

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick ... For all who have recently died in particular Anthony Quinn and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marion Donaldson, Agnes Graham, Alice & Martin Nolan.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (20 August): St Peter's - Offertory: £472.00, B. Fund: £376.00, Hall Let £250.00, Teas £60.00. St Fergus -Offertory: £250.00
100 CLUB: A reminder – the next payment for the 100 club is due this weekend, 27th/ 28th Sept.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Now that parents and children have well settled after the summer holidays, the children's liturgy in St Peter's will begin on Sunday 5th October during the 10am mass at a new place, beside the sanctuary. The place has been refurnished to suit children's dream for the liturgy and it is convenient for the parents to drop off at the room before the mass. I earnestly request the parents to send their children for this important faith formation and to help create interest in them for the mass.

OCTOBER: MONTH OF ROSARY: In the month of October, dedicated to the holy rosary, we ponder with Mary the mysteries of our salvation, and we ask the Lord to help us to be proclaimers of the Gospel by his word and by his life. Let us commit ourselves to saying the rosary with faith for peace in our families, in countries, and in the whole world.

CURRY NIGHT - 24th October: Every social event organised in the parish is for the intention of enhancing and strengthening the bond of friendship among members of the parish community. So, there will be a curry night on 24th Oct in St Peter's Church Hall. Two of our parishioners have very kindly offered to buy the food, cook it and serve it. The tickets will be available over the next few weeks. Tickets will cost £12 per

person, which will include a three-course meal and a glass of wine/beer. After that it will be BYOB. There will also be free *musical programme* on the night. Please come along and join us in what will be a very enjoyable evening and hopefully will be an opportunity to socialise with other parishioners and others, and create lasting memories. Proceeds from the event will go to aid the ongoing works of the parish. Looking forward to see as many as possible on the night.

WANT TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? The RCIA process has begun Thursday 25th Sept in St Mirin's Cathedral. For more information, please contact your parish priest.

WEEKDAY MASSES: From the first week of October, St Fergus parish will have weekday masses on Monday and Wednesday, while St Peter's parish on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at the usual time.

SPRED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED - to assist with bringing learning disabled friends to their Spred group on either a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening taking them to/from the Centre at St Peter's Church, Glenburn, once a fortnight, term time only. If anyone is interested please call 0141 884 8866 or email spred@rcdop.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER: We will be judged on how fully we commit to Safeguarding, those who are vulnerable.

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

RETREAT FOR PRIMARY 7 PARENTS: The parishes in Paisley will continue their preparation program for children receiving Confirmation during the Easter season of 2026. As a first step, there will be a retreat for the parents, carers, and guardians on Monday, October 6th, from 6.00-7.30pm, at St. Andrew's Academy. We warmly invite sponsors to attend as well. Furthermore, children receiving Confirmation are also

welcome to join us; there will be a program of activities planned for them during the retreat.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Francis, founder of the Franciscan Order, was born in the small town of Assisi, Italy, about 100 miles north of Rome, in 1181. He is one of the most known and loved saints within the Catholic Church being inspired and influenced by many young people all over the world. He was born into a rich family, the merchant class, his father being a seller of fine silk. As a youth, Francis was known to be quite lively, often the centre of attention among friends. As a teenager, he enjoyed parties and singing and was quite worldly. His father wanted Francis to join him in the family business, however, he showed no interest. This caused tensions at home on a regular basis. As many young people, Francis had dreamt of achieving worldly honours. One of his chief desires was to become a great knight which his family too desired as it would elevate their social status. Around the year 1202, Francis began preparations for this end and finally he was sent into battle against the neighbouring town of Perugia. Success in that battle would prepare him to one day become a Crusader in the pope's army, hopefully earning him the dignity of a knight. In the battle of Perugia Francis was captured and imprisoned. He waited for a year before being released from the jail. After his release he suffered from a serious illness.

Both his imprisonment and illness affected him greatly, and he began to re-evaluate his life. Despite that, in 1205 he set off for another battle in the army of the Count of Brienne. Before he arrived, however, Francis had a vision that would change his life. In that vision, Francis heard a voice say to him: "Why do burden yourself seeking the servant instead of the Master? Who can do more for you? The master or the servant? The rich man or poor man?" Francis quickly answered, "The rich master!" The voice then asked, "Then why do you leave the Lord for the servant and the God of infinite riches for the poor mortal?" This vision was enough for Francis to turn around and return to Assisi in search of God's will. Everyone noticed great changes in this young man. His gradual detachment from worldly things and turning towards God was not easily accepted by many young people including his family. Francis and his father were at odds as the latter continued to insist that Francis become a knight or work in the family business. During that year, prayer and silent contemplation in the Umbrian countryside led him to serve the lepers at a nearby hospital and embrace them and outcasts as brothers and sisters, those in the past he had always found disgusting and repulsive.

While praying one day before a Byzantine crucifix in the small dilapidated church of San Damiano, in Spoleto, he heard a voice from heaven: "Francis, go repair my church, which as you can see is in ruin". Saint Francis first interpreted that call as an invitation to reconstruct the ruins of the small chapel stone by stone, but in later years he came to understand the full meaning of the call. He was called to "great things - to renew", with a spirit of obedience, the Church, which at that time was dealing with divisions and heresies. He, at the same time began to physically repair that church, live in solitude, and pray continually.

Based on the Gospel, he decided to give away all he had to the poor. At this point the distance between him and his father

became irreparable. His father denounced him publicly in 1206, when he was twenty-five years old during an audience with Bishop Guido. Over the next three years, Francis began to live his new life of poverty, prayer, and service of God. Meanwhile he declared his deep desire to marry "Lady Poverty", and he removed his clothes as a way of renouncing his father's wealth.

At first, most of the townspeople thought Francis was out of his mind, and they ridiculed him. But as time passed, Francis began to attract some followers. He and his followers spent much time praying, listening to the voice of God, serving the poor and lepers, and working with their hands to repair abandoned churches. His companions also agreed to live the life of poverty, chastity and obedience. In 1209 the first group of brothers made a pilgrimage to Rome to get papal approval for their Rule from Pope Innocent III who, struck by "that short and thin young man with burning eyes", approved the Rule.

Francis and his companions returned to Assisi and took up residence in a small church called the Portiuncula. From there, Francis and his Friars Minor began their life of prayer and missionary preaching. Now, they began to rebuild God's Church, the spiritual Body of Christ.

Over the next ten years, the Order of Friars Minor grew from only twelve to about five thousand. They took up residence across Europe and began to have a powerful effect upon many people. Francis continued to preach and was also the instrument of countless miracles. In 1223 the pope approved the final and definitive Rule of the Friars Minor in writing, and Francis entered into the final years of his life.

In 1224, while on a forty-day retreat, Francis was gifted with the stigmata, the visible wounds of Christ in his hands, feet, and side. Those final two years were also marked with much suffering from various illnesses and the loss of his sight. On October 4, 1226, at the age of 44 Francis died surrounded by his brothers in Assisi at the Portiuncula where his life as a Friar Minor began. Just two years later, Pope Gregory IX canonized him as a saint, and his legacy continued to grow. His feast day is on 4th October.

The charism of Francis also attracted Clare, a noblewoman from Assisi. Francis welcomed her and founded the second Franciscan order, "The Poor Clares". Later he founded the third order for lay people.

Saint Francis was unquestionably one of the greatest saints to ever live. The way he accomplished this greatness is worth studying and imitating. Though it is hard to imagine ourselves ever reaching the heights of sanctity that Saint Francis achieved, know that it is possible for us all. Saint Francis embraced the will of God with a radical abandonment and ongoing zeal. This resulted in his becoming one with Christ and doing great things for God and His Church in a very short period of time.

Prayer: Dear Saint Francis, you fell radically in love with God and with God's people. Help and inspire our people especially our youth to fall in love with Jesus your Son and come closer to Him and proclaim Him faithfully in word and deed. Show them the path of Light and faith. May the spirit of St Francis continue to inspire so many in following Christ, Amen.