



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS

Bulletin

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(*Is 7:10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24*)



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Thomas John, (*Resident at St Peter's*)

St. Fergus' R.C. Church

35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1LU

Phone- 0141 884 2435

Email - stfergus@rcdop.org.uk

Facebook: St Fergus Catholic Church

Web: www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk



Sunday Mass: St. Peter's 4.00pm (Sat) & 10.00 am, St. Fergus' 5.30pm (Sat) & 11.30 am

Weekday Mass: St Peter's – Tue, Thu, & Fri 10.00am; St Fergus – Mon, & Wed 9.30am

Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm, St Fergus' 5.00 -5.25pm; and on request

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick, for all who have recently died in particular Michael Muggins, Eleanor McNiven, and Mrs Phelps, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including William McMillan, and Bridget McGrath.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (14 DEC): St Peter's - Offertory: £472.00, B. Fund: £333.00, Hall Lets £100.00, St Fergus: Offertory: £178.00, Raffle: £179.00

CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY IN ST PETER'S: Please join the Christmas Tea Party after the morning mass in the parish hall. It is an opportunity for **fellowship and community building** among parishioners.

FUNERAL MASS: A requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of John McGregor on Tuesday 23rd Dec at 10.00am in St Peter's Church. His remains will be received into the Church on Monday 22nd at 6pm. *Requiescat in pace.*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: The Mass times in both parishes are as follows:

St Fergus: Christmas Vigil - Wednesday 24th: Carol service at 2.00pm followed by Mass.

Christmas morning Mass, Thursday 25th at 11.30am.

St Peter's: Christmas Vigil - Wednesday 24th: Nativity play and Carol service at 4.00pm, followed by Mass. Christmas morning Mass, Thursday 25th at 10.00am.

No Mass in St Peter's on Friday 26th.

St Fergus Carol choir will have practice on this Sunday 21st after the morning mass.

THE GIVING TREE AT ST PETER'S: Please feel free to choose a tag from the giving tree to give a gift to someone mentioned in the card. Please do not forget to place the tag on the gift in order to give to the right

recipient. The gifts will be given out to 'Stronger Communities Glenburn', 'The Spirit of Christmas' and 'the SSVP'.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ACROSS THE DIOCESE: You can find Mass times listings for Christmas throughout the diocese on the diocesan website: <https://rcdop.org.uk/Christmas>.

BAPTISM: Please pray for Vinnie & Ronnie who will be baptised in St Fergus after the morning mass.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. This Sunday focuses on God's love as shown in the Incarnation and the events before Jesus' birth, specifically highlighting Mary and Joseph's roles. The candle for this Sunday represents love.

This week also reminds us that God 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. This is a time of coming together, of building a community of faith that is open to all. Advent often focus on preparation for the birth of Jesus, and on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. It is a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. An ideal preparation for welcoming the Lord is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES 2026 – Diocese of Paisley: We invite engaged couples to register for one of the Marriage Preparation courses on offer in 2026. The course consists of two evening

in-person sessions, and one Saturday morning workshop, which will be held in St. Mirin's Cathedral Hall, Paisley. For any additional details or queries please contact Rebecca Harrison at marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk

The cost for the course per couple is £70 which includes a gift with additional reading materials, couple exercises, books and light refreshments during the workshop. Once couples have registered we will contact them directly regarding attendance at the course and a certificate will be issued upon completion. This course fulfils church requirements regarding preparation before marriage and is a wonderful opportunity to meet other couples and share in fellowship. You can follow the link to access further information <https://www.rcdop>

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH - As disciples, we have a duty to act as Jesus did in showing care and compassion to those in most need.

VOCATIONS NEWS: Our new Diocesan Vocations social media pages are officially up-and-running!

Instagram - dioceseofpaisleyvocations

TikTok – paisleyvocations, X - @DoPVocations

CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL: All are welcome at this annual diocesan event, as we come together as a community and worship in song the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We begin at 2pm on Saturday 27th December in St Mirin's Cathedral, with the Diocesan Choir and Schola Benedicti.

“CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE” Newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life - latest version can be found at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

PARENT’S DILEMMA: ‘We Raised Them Catholic-Why Did They Drift?’ (An excerpt from ‘Family Faith Under Fire’ by Dr. Ray Guarendi)

I'm the mother of three children, ages 28, 23, and 15. The oldest has left the Church. The middle one is lukewarm about religion. The jury is still out on the youngest. We so much tried to teach and live the Faith. It's hard not to feel like a failure. — “D-” Parent

Do you live on a farm or in a small town? Is the year 1880? If so, your children's drift is not so common. For much of Christian history, what children were raised in, they stayed in. The family, clan, or tribe was the unchallenged teacher of beliefs, morals, and attitudes — in short, its religion.

Surveys confirm: Young adults are moving away from the Church in distressing numbers.... the soul-misshaping forces of our irreligious society are everywhere and relentless: television, movies, music, celebrities, academia, advertising. Even when homes try to lock the ugliness out, it can seep in like a vapor and shape how someone inside thinks, feels, and believes — often quite counter to what is being taught in the home.

Of course, young people are not equally influenced. God's grace, free will, personality, and circumstances — all interact to move a child to hold more or less tightly to the Faith. Nonetheless, many fine parents feel what you are feeling: a profound

disappointment and a sense of failure that their offspring don't have a deeper sense of God's presence. Today's parenting has been muddled by "psychological correctness." That is, there are psychologically correct ways to talk to children, reason with them, discipline them — in short, raise them. Among religious parents, a parallel notion is spiritual correctness. It says: Do the spiritual good things — attend daily Mass, say the family Rosary, confess regularly, pray together, read the lives of the saints — and you will raise a saint.

Don't misread me. All these are faith-nurturing practices that raise the likelihood of raising a saint. But they are not guaranteeing. And when a parent believes they are, if a saint doesn't ultimately come to be, the doubts do: What more could I have done? What did I miss? Where did I fall short? Did I compromise too much with the culture? Was I too Catholic? How could I go so wrong?

Many, if not most, conscientious parents did little or nothing wrong. They imparted the Faith as well as they could. Not having God's omniscience, they lived and taught as fallible humans.

During presentations, I often ask parents to answer a series of questions with a simple yes or no.

Is there a God? Yes. Is Christ God? Yes. Was He sinless? Yes. Could He perform miracles? Yes.

Did He have perfect understanding of human nature? Yes. Pausing, I then ask: Could He get most people to follow Him? As a pensive silence drifts through the group, they answer no.

In the television miniseries *Jesus of Nazareth*, Mary Magdalene meets Jesus in the garden immediately after the Resurrection. He instructs her to go and tell His disciples that He is risen. Upon arriving at the room where the apostles are hiding, Mary Magdalene, barely able to contain herself, reports, "He is alive. I saw Him. He told me to tell you."

Mary receives a flat stare from St. Peter and a "women's fantasies" comment from St. Thomas. Whereupon she erupts, "Was His death a fantasy? I saw Him die." Regrouping, she finishes, "He told me to tell you, and I have done so." Slamming the door, she storms away.

The scene offers a lesson for faithful parents. Jesus told you to raise your children in the Faith, and you have done so. Now it is their life and their free choice to believe. God asks us to be faithful, not necessarily successful. Though you have no assurance that all your faithful years will add up to a faith-filled young adult, you do have other assurances:

- The more faithful a parent, the more likely the kids will follow.
- Of those who leave or outright reject the Faith, some will one day return, more believing than ever. They were given truth to return to when finding societies.
- Never give up praying for them.