

PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST. FERGUS
THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2025: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION



St. Peter's R.C. Church,
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PA2 8NG

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Sunday Mass:

St. Peter's 4.00pm (Sat) & 10.00 am

St. Fergus' 5.30 (Sat) & 11.30 am

Weekday Mass:

St Peter's - Tue, Thu & Fri

St Fergus – Mon & Wed

Confessions: St Peter's 3.15-3.50pm, St

Fergus' 5.00-5.25pm; and on request

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



St. Fergus' R.C. Church
[35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3
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Facebook: St Fergus Catholic
Church

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Christmas

In the first place I extend my warmest Christmas wishes to you and your loved ones.

For two years during the war, all public celebrations for Christmas were cancelled in the Holy Land, the most sacred place for Christians. But after the recent ceasefire, the holy city decided that this year the festivities would return as symbolised by the lighting of its traditional, giant Christmas tree in front of the historic Nativity Church. The pictures of the celebrations in the Holy Land went viral on social media. One could see the joy on the peoples' face there, when they all came out onto the streets to celebrate the preparations for Christmas.

We have been preparing for Christmas in the last four weeks through holy season of Advent. Finally, the waiting is over, as the DAY has come for us to celebrate spiritually and socially. Christians all over the world gather in the Church on 24th night and 25th through the day to celebrate the Holy Mass of Christmas. The literal meaning of Christmas is "Christ's Mass," a shortened combination of "Christ" (from Greek *Khrīstos*, meaning Messiah/anointed one) and "mass" (from Latin *missa*, the church service/Eucharist). When Catholics celebrate the Holy Mass, it refers to the entirety of Christ's saving work such as, Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

For Christians, Christmas marks the event in which God became human, born as a helpless baby in a Manger. We have the Crib, right in front of the Altar of the Church in St Peter's and at the entrance of the Church in St Fergus, symbolising the manger of Jesus. The Incarnation is a key moment in the story of salvation understood as the beginning of an act of divine love for humanity that culminates in Christ's death and Resurrection at Easter. It was the plan of God from time immemorial, that he would send the Messiah at the appropriate time to save mankind from sin and punishment and thus save our souls from corruption and preserve them for eternal life. The humble birth of Christ reveals the paradox of divine majesty expressed through human vulnerability and poverty. Indeed, the entire Christmas story is filled with wonder and miracles: a pregnant Virgin Mary, a faithful and trusting Joseph, lowly shepherds heralded by an angelic throng, a baby in the manger surrounded by animals, and the precious gifts offered by the gentile Magi.

Who is this baby born in Bethlehem in the heart of the winter? Undoubtedly, he is the Messiah promised by God thousands of years ago, prophesied by prophets after prophets in the past several hundred years, and waited endlessly by God's people generations after generations believing and trusting that God's promises would be fulfilled one day. One of the prophecies in the Old Testament is that Jesus the Messiah would be called Emmanuel meaning "God is with us," a name that expresses the Christian belief that God physically entered human history and continues to dwell with believers. The Christmas season is thus filled with hope and joy for Christians who celebrate that a loving and present God has provided a way for sinful humanity to be reconciled with the divine. Christmas is, first and foremost, about Love, God's Love. How much does God love us? God loves us so much that God gave us the most precious gift imaginable, Jesus, God's own Son. That's the heart of Christmas. In the words of Helen, Killer, 'the only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart.'

In our fast-changing world, the mystery of Christmas challenges us to welcome Jesus the new-born, into the manger of our own inmost souls. Jesus, the Son of God, the Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace is here with us today and

forever and expresses the desire to come into our lives. Jesus says, "He who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me (Mt 10:40)." Let us, therefore, welcome the baby Jesus into our hearts and family. And so, hope, peace, joy and love are born again among us. Each one of us is challenged to ask, 'What does the Christmas message mean to me personally today.' The answer is found in the manger.

What do we see in the manger? It is not only a little baby surrounded by his parents and animals but also, we all know from our faith and experience that this little baby is the most powerful God in history – the God sent Son into our midst. Today as you participate in the mass, please visit the crib with your family and say a small prayer of gratitude to God and ask the little baby to bless you and your dear ones. When we look at the manger the first feeling should be one of joy. It is evident in the words of the angel, "I am here to give you good news, great joy for all people. Today a Saviour has been born to you in David's town; he is the Messiah and the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

WORDS OF GRATITUDE: Dear brothers and sisters, we have almost come to the end of the year 2025. I sincerely thank the Almighty God on behalf of each of you for His blessings and assistance and for all your help including spiritual, moral, social and financial. It is possible to have a parish when its members participate in the Sunday and other liturgical celebrations and extend their cooperation to all the activities of the parish life. You all agree that our experience has been one of love, collaboration and mutual support throughout the year. All of us as a parish have tried to meet some of our goals and we did achieve some, however, there are some areas we still need to work together for betterment like membership drive, participation of parents and children in parish activities, spiritual programmes, financial stability and more. Let us face these challenges with God's help in the new year. There could be several unintended failures on my part as well. When we reflect back it has been a year of blessing for everyone in spite of many setbacks, hardships, struggles, sicknesses and bereavement some families might have had to face. Let us as parishioners of St Peter and St Fergus look forward to working together. May baby Jesus fill our hearts with his hope, peace, joy and love, for the year 2026. God bless you all.

Mass this week: Friday 26th - No mass

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th: Mass as usual in both parishes – Feast of the Holy Family

Monday 29th – No mass in St Fergus

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT ST PETER & ST FERGUS

LOVING

FATHER

HELP US REMEMBER

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

THAT WE MAY SHARE IN

THE SONG OF THE ANGELS

THE GLADNESS OF THE SHEPHERDS

AND THE WORSHIP OF THE WISE MEN

CLOSE THE DOOR OF HATE AND VIOLENCE

OPEN THE DOOR OF LOVE OVER ALL THE WORLD

LET KINDNESS COME WITH EVERY GIFT AND GOOD

DESIRSES WITH EVERY GREETING. DELIVER US FROM

EVIL BY THE BLESSING WHICH **CHRIST** BRINGS AND TEACH US

TO BE MERRY WITH CLEAR HEARTS. MAY THE CHRISTMAS MORNING

MAKE US HAPPY TO BE THY CHILDREN AND THE CHRISTMAS

EVENING BRING US TO OUR BEDS WITH GRATEFUL THOUGHTS,

FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN

FOR JESUS SAKE

AMEN