



PARISHES OF ST PETER, AND ST FERGUS

Bulletin

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2026: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

(Is 49:3-6, 1 Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34)



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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



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, Jodie Campbell and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including, Jamileh Nasr, and Cathy McAllister,

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (11 JAN): St Peter's - Offertory: £414.00, B. Fund: £301.00, Votives: £447.00, Justice & Peace: £119.00, St Fergus: Offertory: £262.00, St. Margaret's Adoption Society: £81.00

FUNERAL MASS: A requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of Helen Crawford on Wednesday 21st at 10am in St Peter's. Her remains will be received into Church on Tuesday 20th at 6.00pm. May she rest in peace.

No mass in St Fergus on Wednesday 21st.

FORMATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The Diocesan Liturgy Commission is organising a two-session course for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In Renfrewshire Deanery, it will be held in St. Charles' Hall, Paisley on Saturday 31st January and Saturday, 7th February, while in East Renfrewshire it will be on February 21st and 28th in St Joseph's Hall, Clarkston. If anyone is unable to attend one or both of these sessions at one place has an option

to attend at the next place. The course covers important topics like Theology of the Church and Theology of Ministry on the first day and Sacramental Theology and liturgy of the Holy Mass on the second day. The session will begin at 11am and conclude at 2pm on both days. Everyone who wishes to serve as an Extraordinary Minister in 2026, either at Mass or in homes, must complete this course. Once they have attended the two sessions a Certificate authorising them to act as an Extraordinary Minister will be issued by the Bishop. Attendees must complete a form and take it with them to the first session. Please collect the form from Fr Thomas.

APPLYING FOR SEMINARY: At this time of year the Catholic Church in Scotland welcomes applications for Seminary for the year 2027. If you think God may be calling you to the joyful life of a Priest in the Diocese of Paisley, to serve His people, to celebrate the Sacraments and to Preach the Word, 'do not be afraid – He is there.' To find out more about the application process and Seminary itself, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Eoin Patten, by email ve-vocations@rcdop.org.uk

DON'T MISS OUT: Financial Help for Scots in 2026. As households across Scotland continue to feel the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis, many people may be missing out on vital financial support they are entitled to. To find out more about benefits that may be available, visit mygov.scot/benefits (Information from Catholic Parliamentary Office).

WESTERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR: available in the stall. Price: £3.50

TEA AND COFFEE in the parish hall. All welcome.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: This event observed annually from January 18-25 by Catholics and other Christians, is an eight-day period for joint prayer and reflection on achieving visible unity among all denominations. It highlights the ecumenical journey with themes often drawn from Scripture, encouraging love for God and neighbour, and fostering reconciliation.

We remember the words of Jesus Christ in John's Gospel where He asked the Father that Christians "may all be one" (Jn 17:20). There have been many efforts from the churches in the last hundreds of years to achieve this goal of unity, however, it has yet to be achieved.

Why was the date of January 18th chosen to start the Week of Prayer? This day was the traditional feast of the Chair of St. Peter at Rome, while the February 22nd feast commemorated St. Peter's Chair at Antioch. In the mid-20th century, the January feast was suppressed and combined with the February feast.

On this occasion it is good to reflect on what Pope Benedict XVI said in 2012 when the Week of Prayer opened. He observes that the task of true ecumenism, which is to reconcile all Christians to the one Church of Christ, "is a responsibility of the entire Church and of all the baptized, who must develop the partial communion that already exists among Christians and make it grow into full communion in truth and in charity. Of course, the fundamental truths of the faith unite us far more than they divide us. Yet the divisions remain, and also concern various practical and ethical issues, giving rise to confusion and diffidence, undermining our ability to transmit the saving word of Christ.

Yes, we have much more in common with non-Catholic Christians than we do with Muslims, Hindus, and others because of our shared baptism and shared profession that Jesus is the Incarnate God. But the divisions among us give a counter-witness to the world. Furthermore, many of our separated brethren find themselves without recourse to the life-giving sacraments.

With this in mind, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity absolutely is all about seeking out our Christian brothers and sisters to come into full Communion with the Church. All the baptized must

take part in the work of uniting all Christians to the one Church that Christ founded. Indeed, the Second Vatican Council's *Unitatis redintegratio* most certainly suggests this seeking out of our separated brethren. What is the "fullness of unity which Jesus Christ desires"? It is that all Christians may be one in His Mystical Body, which is the Catholic Church. In the prayer for the first day, the Church prays for St. Peter and the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede before God in this way: "O Immaculate Virgin... look down with pity upon our separated brethren, who are still thy children, and call them back to the Center of Unity." And later: "Strengthened by Divine Grace, may they be led back speedily to the bosom of our common Mother, the Catholic Church" (*Catholic world report*). St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians 4:4 says, 'There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.'

POPE LEO XIV PROCLAIMS FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR: Pope Leo XIV proclaims Franciscan Jubilee Year on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi in 1226, along with plenary indulgences. During this time of grace, which will extend until January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence. This Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See. Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God. In a world where "the virtual takes over the real, disagreements and social violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more insecure and distant every day, this Year of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ," the decree states.

The Pope highlighted that St. Francis reminds us that peace with God, peace among people, and peace with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal peace and stability.

Note: Please do not leave the bulletin behind in the church. Take it home and perhaps pass it on to someone who cannot come to church. They'll be glad to know they're still in our thoughts.