



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES  
Bulletin  
SUNDAY 26 APRIL: 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations



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

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 (Sat), St Fergus' 5.00 -5.25pm (Sat); and on request

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick, for all who have recently died in particular John O'Donnel, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Dennis Pope, John Donaldson, James Burns, and Moira Ruthven.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April): St Peter's - Offertory: £942.00, B. Fund: £684.00, SCIAF WEE BOXES: £504.00, Mission Appeal: £451.00. St Fergus – Offertory: £668.00, Mission Appeal: £202.00, SCIAF WEE BOXES: £245.00

SACRAMENTS: Fourteen children of St Fergus School received their First Holy Communion Saturday 25 in St Fergus Church. We extend our prayerful wishes and congratulations to them.

While children of St Peter's will have it on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Confirmation for Primary 7 of both schools will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May in St Mirin's Cathedral.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS: Children of St Peter's School will join the community for mass on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 10am in the Church.

NEW STALL: From this Sunday after the 10am mass onwards, you can visit the new refurbished stall in St Peter's Church with varieties of religious articles and gifts for various occasions. Framed religious pictures, rosaries, medals, bibles for both children and adults, greeting cards, mass cards, and a host of others available. Thanks to Kathleen O'Neil and her family for their hard work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: FOR CHURCH HALL COMMITTEE AND CLEANING: We have been requesting volunteers for the Church Hall Committee as well as individuals to assist with cleaning of St Peter's Church. If you are able to assist, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Thomas.

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH – APRIL 2026: We aim to make the Church an increasingly safe place for all.

REGISTRATION: If you are a new parishioner, please enter your name and address in our new parish register which is placed in the main chapel as you enter (Both parishes).

NOVENA FOR CONFIRMANDI 2026: Please pray the following prayer/novena for nine days for the intention of Confirmation.

\*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

\**COME, HOLY SPIRIT*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful. Kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of Confirmation and for the children from our parish community you are calling to grow in faith. Bless our community and strengthen these young people as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit. Give them a living faith in Jesus Christ. Help them to listen to You in prayer, to understand Your teaching with their minds and hearts, and to live it with courage. Protect them from discouragement, temptation, and fear. Send Your Spirit to make them holy, joyful, and faithful witnesses of Christ. We entrust them to Mary, Mother of the Church, and to Saint Joseph, protector of families.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father...Hail Mary.... Glory Be...

FIRST FRIDAYS FOR LIFE Bishop John invites all the faithful of the diocese to pray and fast for life on the first Fridays of the month. The most powerful prayer gifted to the Church by our Lord is the Mass. You are warmly invited to join your priests at these Masses to pray for

the culture of life and the protection of the unborn child. The next Mass in this year's Novena will be offered in St John's, Port Glasgow, on Friday the 1st of May at 7pm; Holy Mass will be preceded by some time for Adoration and Confessions from 6pm.

YOUNG ADULTS: The Young Adults series on the Doctors of the Church continues on Wednesday 29th April at 7pm in the Diocesan Office, with a talk on St Therese of Lisieux. For more information contact Fr. Joe McGill at [joe.mcgill@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:joe.mcgill@rcdop.org.uk) or Fr Paul Laverty [Paul.laverty@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:Paul.laverty@rcdop.org.uk)

### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. It is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, focusing on Jesus as the selfless shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Based on the Gospel of John 10, it emphasizes Christ's intimate knowledge, protection, and sacrificial love for the Church. The day is also traditionally observed as World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The image of the Good Shepherd is a foundational, recurring theme throughout the Old and New Testament. Yet we see how little has changed over thousands of years. The shepherd metaphor for God is mentioned in the Old Testament books of Genesis 48:15 and Psalm 23 and in the New Testament books of the gospels of Luke chapter 15 and John chapter 10. It is not exclusive to the Bible; Babylonians and Greeks used shepherd imagery for leaders, but the Bible expands this into a deeply personal, divine, and sacrificial motif.

Indeed, it was St. John the Baptist who pointed Jesus out as "the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the World" (Jn 1:29). "This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again" (John 10:17). Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, instituted by Pope Paul VI in 1964. Parishes are especially encouraged to include prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the general intercessions. The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is also to publicly fulfil the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

In his Message for the World Day of Vocations, the Holy Father Pope Leo reiterates that "every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy." The Pope called the day "an occasion of grace in which we share some reflections on the interior dimension of vocation, understood as the discovery of God's free gift that blossoms in the depths of our hearts." He also called it an opportunity to "explore together the truly beautiful path of life along which the Shepherd guides us."

"What is most extraordinary," Pope Leo observed, "is that, in becoming His disciple, one truly becomes 'beautiful'; His beauty transforms us." He recalled that St. Augustine had this experience of life, faith, and meaning. Acknowledging the sins and errors of his youth, Augustine discovered the beauty of the divine light that guides him in the darkness. Such a relationship based on prayer and silence, Pope Leo said, when cultivated, opens us to receive and actively respond to the gift of vocation.

On the basis of caring for the interior life," he said, "we must urgently recommence our vocational ministry and renew our commitment to evangelization." In light of this, the Pope invited everyone, "families, parishes, and religious communities, as well as bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, educators, and all the faithful," to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift to be embraced, nourished, protected, and accompanied so that it may bear abundant fruit.

"Only when our surroundings are illumined by living faith, sustained by constant prayer and enriched by fraternal accompaniment," he said, "can God's call blossom and mature." The Lord, Pope Leo said, knows us and enlightens our hearts with His loving gaze. In fact, he highlighted, every vocation begins with the awareness and experience of a God who is love. "The Lord knows us profoundly, has counted the hairs of our head, and has envisaged for each person a unique path of holiness and service," the Holy Father said. Yet this awareness, he underscored, must always be reciprocal, for "we are invited to know God through prayer, listening to the Word, the Sacraments, the life of the Church and works of charity for our brothers and sisters." For young people to come to know the Lord, he urged them to make time for Eucharistic adoration; to meditate faithfully on the Word of God, so that they may put it into practice each day; and to participate actively and fully in the sacramental and ecclesial life of the Church.

Through the intimacy of friendship with Jesus, the Pope said, they will discover how to give of themselves, whether through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life.

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