



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES
Bulletin
SUNDAY 21 JUNE: 12th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A
DAY FOR LIFE
(Jer 20:10-13, Rom 5:12-15, Mt 10:26-33)



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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 Gerry Kyle, Frank McMahon, Jacqueline McGachy and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Agnes Martin.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (07 June): St Peter's – Offertory: £446.00, B. Fund: £295.00. Pro-Life: £113.00. St Fergus: Offertory: 213.00, B. Pro-Life: £ 110.00

ST FERGUS CHURCH: SUMMER SCHEDULE OF VIGIL MASS: As in previous years, there will not be a Saturday Vigil Mass at St Fergus during the summer break, starting from Saturday, 3rd July, to Saturday, 15th August. There may be some changes for weekend masses in the cluster parishes during summer. No change, however, for mass times in St Peter's.

OLIVE TREE STALL SUNDAY 14TH JUNE: Many thanks to those who supported the Olive Tree stall on Sunday 14th. Your generosity raised £151.20 for people in need in the Holy Land. Your kindness is much appreciated.

COMMISSIONING OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: The commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have undergone training a while ago in the Diocese, of St Peter's will take place during this weekend masses.

SUNDAY, 21 JUNE, DAY FOR LIFE: This Sunday is the Day for Life in the Church in Scotland. This year's theme is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb' and reflects on the humanity of the unborn child and acknowledges, with compassion, the deep grief experienced by parents who lose a child before or shortly after birth. You will find the Bishops' Letter along with other materials here: www.bcos.org.uk/dayforlife. There will be a

second collection towards the Bishops' Conference Day for Life Fund <https://www.bcos.org.uk/Day-for-Life-Fund> which offers grants for pro-life initiatives and other initiatives that allow people to live life to the full.

DAY FOR LIFE 2026: BISHOPS' MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Day for Life presents an opportunity to celebrate the dignity of all human life from conception to natural end. The theme for 2026 is 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb'.

Every year *Day for Life* falls on Father's Day and we wish fathers a blessed day. Today we remember with gratitude the loving care and direction our parents gave to us, whether they are still with us or have gone to the Lord.

Parenthood is a vocation of joys and hopes, of griefs and anxieties. On this year's *Day for Life*, we acknowledge the particular grief of mothers and fathers who have lost a child before birth or in infancy. Mother's Day and Father's Day can be especially difficult for parents who experience the loss of an infant. Such loss often takes its bodily toll upon the mother, and it can leave fathers feeling helpless and unsure of how to support their family, or of how to express their own grief.

The Church wants to be especially close to parents who have suffered the loss of an infant. We try to offer spiritual support through the pastoral care and blessing of our priests, and through the comfort of our liturgy. You only have to reach out to your priest or deacon if you would like to know more about this.

Just as importantly, many parents find consolation in their faith and its assurance that every child, including those who lose their life before they are

born or soon after, is created, willed and deeply loved by God from all eternity. We have the Lord's promise from the Scriptures that: "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you*" (Jer 1:5).

The Word of God reveals the sacred humanity of the unborn child and perhaps helps us understand why we feel such profound grief at the loss of a baby. Parents instinctively grasp how precious and unique the child is whom they have lost and whom they may already have called by name. They know how no other child can ever replace them.

Science is clear that life begins at fertilisation when a new and unique living human being comes into existence. Every technological development in recent decades has given us insight into how life in the womb unfolds for each of us. At conception, our gender, genetic makeup and eye and hair colour are already determined. As early as five weeks, our heart begins to beat. By ten weeks, we can move and respond to touch and, beginning two weeks later, we have the capacity to feel pain. By eighteen weeks, our mother can sense our movement in the womb. By twenty-seven weeks, we can recognise the voices of our parents. For some decades, parents have been able to observe some of these stages through ultrasound scans during pregnancy. The more we learn about the science, the more we understand the teaching of the Church on the unique value of the unborn baby.

This understanding, however, is not complete without the recognition that, from the beginning, every human being is not just a body but also an immortal soul, with a unique and eternal connection with God, our Creator.

It is because of what both science and faith reveal to us that the Church and many people of good will have always held that the unborn child merits the full protection of the law, and why we have always rejected elective abortion.

This *Day for Life* 2026, we reflect on the wonder of human life from the moment of fertilisation. We remember how the Lord Jesus Christ Himself sanctified and experienced the beginning of life in the world as an unborn child, hidden in the womb of Mary. Mary knew that she was carrying the Son of God – God and man – as soon as He was conceived. John the Baptist leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Mary greeted her. Our Lady treasured Our Lord in her heart and womb until His birth.

We, in our turn, commit ourselves to work and pray for our society to cherish the value of every little one, especially those at the earliest stage of human

life, and to help our parish communities support all those in our midst who have suffered the loss of a child.

Most Reverend John Sherrington,
Archbishop of Liverpool, *England and Wales*

Most Reverend Kevin Doran,
Bishop of Elphin and of Achonry, *Ireland*

Right Reverend John Keenan,
Bishop of Paisley, *Scotland*.

DIVINE MERCY MASS AND DEVOTIONS: The Friends of Divine Mercy Scotland are hosting their monthly Mass and Devotions on Wednesday 24th June at 7pm in Saint Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley. Monsignor Joe Burke will be celebrating Holy Mass. All are welcome.

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST – SOLEMNITY: The Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist is a high-ranking liturgical feast celebrated annually on June 24. It is one of the very few birthdays observed in the Church's calendar, besides Jesus (Christmas), and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Generally, Church celebrates only the saints' 'birth into heaven.'

Jesus said, "*Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist*" (Mt. 11:11). He was the last of the great prophets of Israel, the first to testify to Jesus, who initiated a baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He baptized Jesus; he was a martyr who died defending the Judaic law. As early as the 4th century, we find a liturgical commemoration for Saint John the Baptist celebrated on a variety of dates. The date of 24 June was established based on Lk 1:36a where speaking of Elizabeth it says, "*this is the sixth month for her who was called barren*", therefore, six months before Christmas. Since the 6th century, this Feast also had a vigil. St Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD), in one of his sermons regarding the birth of John the Baptist, "For all these the final day of their lives, the day on which they completed their earthly service is honoured. But for John the day of his birth, the day on which he began this mortal life is likewise sacred. The reason for this is, of course, that the Lord willed to announce to men His own coming through the Baptist, lest if He appeared suddenly, they would fail to recognize Him. John represented the Old Covenant and the Law. Therefore, he preceded the Redeemer, even as the Law preceded and heralded the new dispensation of grace."