



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 26 JULY: 17 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

(1 Kgs 3:5-12, Rom 8:28-30, Mt 13: 44-52)



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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, Elaine Paterson and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Connie McGettigan, Janet Traynor and Aimee Donnachie.

FUNERAL MASS: A requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of soul of Rose Mullin on Wednesday 29th July at 11.30am at Peter's. Her remains will be received into Church just before the Mass. May she rest in peace, Amen.

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: Everyone is warmly invited to a special celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly at Carfin Grotto this Sunday 26th July. Bishop John Keenan will celebrate Holy Mass at 3pm as we give thanks for the invaluable contribution of grandparents and the elderly to our families, parishes and communities. Please bring your grandparents, family members and friends. All are welcome.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING QUALIFICATION IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CATHOLIC SCHOOLS): The Saint Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education is delighted to offer the opportunity for teachers to gain an additional qualification in religious education. The ATQRE course fulfils the academic requirement for applying to the GTCS for professional registration as a specialist Religious Education teacher in the Catholic Secondary school. The course begins in August. For all details including teaching dates and costs see <https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/cpd/atqreforcatholicalschools/>. The Diocese of Paisley support ATQRE and will pay one third of the fees for any applicants who live in the diocese and attend bishop John's support sessions. For details see

<https://www.rcdop.org.uk/atqre>.

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY: We provide training and support for all who are responsible for safeguarding.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (19 July): St Peter's – Offertory: £519.00, B. Fund: £301.00, Votives: £311.00. St Fergus: Offertory: 203.00

POPE LEO'S MESSAGE ON THE WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS & ELDERLY:

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of July, coinciding with the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Instituted by Pope Francis in 2021, the day emphasizes bridging generational gaps, combating loneliness, and honouring the wisdom and faith of older adults. The theme for the celebration is "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15.) It serves as a reminder of the vital role older generations play in the transmission of faith and family support. This remembrance also reassures them that they are loved and that they are needed.

The Vatican often offers a *plenary indulgence* for Catholics who participate in the celebration, which includes those who visit the elderly, the sick, or those who join spiritually from home if they are unable to leave.

The Catholic Grandparents Association has been at the forefront in campaigning for greater recognition of Grandparents for their role and vocation in passing on the faith to the next generation.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he

has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands (cf. *Is* 49:16) and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child (cf. *Is* 49:15). The prophet gives us a glimpse of an intimate and intense dialogue in which God addresses, in familiar terms, each person individually and the people as a whole. Even today, we can read these words as referring to each of us, and everyone can hear that "I will never forget you" spoken directly to them.

These are words that fill us with comfort and hope.... The painful feeling of being forgotten is, unfortunately, shared by many people, and among them are quite a few elderly people..... The lives of many elderly people, in particular, seem to be covered by a veil that blurs the features of their faces and shrouds them in oblivion. This is what happens in homes where loneliness reigns and also in those care facilities where each person's uniqueness risks being reduced to a bed number or an illness.

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, "But I will never forget you," take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter. "In an era that favours speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness" (Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, 239).

The Church understands the suffering of her elderly members; she knows full well that they are all too often viewed through the lens of stereotypes and considered a burden; she is aware that a profit-driven economy weakens family ties; she knows that many elderly people are left behind by children who are forced to migrate or, in some cases, to fight in wars. For each of these reasons, she joyfully proclaims the Lord's promise: "But I will never forget you!" It is a joy, at any age, but especially when we are no longer young, to discover, as *John Paul I* said, that we are the recipients "of undying

love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother" (*Angelus*, 10 September 1978). Even if it does not come naturally to think this way, the truth is that even in old age we do not cease to be sons and daughters; therefore, the invitation to return to the arms of God — whose love is both paternal and maternal — remains worthwhile at any age.



Unlike in the past, it is increasingly common to reach old age without having had a genuine experience of faith. In such cases, old age — beginning with the questions that arise with greater urgency during this season of life — can become the right time to begin or resume a spiritual life. It is an awareness that helps us not to feel ashamed of the fragility that emerges and also to understand that we are always in need of one another and in need of attention and care. To God, who draws near to us and whom we learn to recognize in his tenderness, we can now turn with filial trust in prayer. It is never too late to begin turning to him. It can be a great gift for everyone. I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life. Indeed, when "we acknowledge our fragility, our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and, with it, true peace" (*Meeting with the Algerian community*, Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, 13 April 2026). This is how we can live out our old age as Christians: "fragile" yet at the same time "called." A man and a woman can, in fact, be born anew in old age (cf. *Jn* 3:4-6).

This strength can become an invitation not to resort to the ways of arrogance and power to ensure human coexistence, but to the ways of reconciliation and true peace. Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us (*Pope Leo*)!