



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – SOLEMNITY

(Transferred from 15 August)

(Rev 11:19, 12:1-6, 1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk 1:39-56)

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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



St. Fergus' R.C. Church

35 Blackstoun Road, Paisley PA3 1LU

Phone- 0141 884 2435

Email - stfergus@rcdop.org.uk

Facebook: St Fergus Catholic Church

Web: www.stpeterspaisley.co.uk

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick, for all who have recently died: Astrid Hasnan, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including George Thorburn, Mary Wilson, Anthony Janota, Rose Duffy, Eddie Lochrie and Patricia McGinnigle

ST FERGUS CHURCH: The 5.30pm Vigil Mass will resume on Saturday 22nd August 2026.

FUNERAL MASS: A requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of soul of Kathleen Buchanan on Friday 21st August at 10am at Peter's. Her remains will be received into Church just before the Mass. May she rest in peace, Amen.

SCHOOLS RE-OPEN: Schools will reopen this week after the summer holidays. Let us welcome all students and teachers back to our schools and Churches.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The children's liturgy in St Peter's will start from Sunday 30th August. It is a humble request to parents/guardians: please send your children to this important faith formation programme.

TEA & COFFEE will resume in St Peter's parish hall from next weekend (Sunday 23rd August). Please look for the volunteers' rota on the noticeboard.

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST: We continue to ensure our parishes are safe places.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (09 August): St Peter's – Offertory: £568.00, B. Fund: £320.00, St Fergus: Offertory: 182.00.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK 2026: In partnership with SPUC you are invited to join Bishop John Keenan on his coach to London for March for Life UK 2026. Departing midnight Friday 4th September from Paisley Saint Mirin's Cathedral, with a pickup 12:30am at Glasgow Saint Andrew's Cathedral. Arriving in London at Emmanuel Centre approx. 7:30am to 8am Saturday 5th September for the exhibition, Mass, talks and stall. Departing on Saturday 5th September at approximately 6pm, dropping off at Glasgow and Paisley. £30pp. For further details, visit rcdop.org.uk/marchforlife2026.

RACHAEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT FOR SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALING AFTER ABORTION: A retreat will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday 8th September to Thursday 10th September. This confidential, supportive retreat is powerful for anyone who has been affected by their own or someone else's abortion experience. For more information, please call/text Sister Andrea on 07816942824 or email sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk. For more details, see www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrate on August 15th every year, is the dogma most recently proclaimed by a pope infallibly. (However, this year August 15th falls on a Saturday, it has been moved to Sunday

August 16th). This feast of Mary's Assumption declares that after the completion of her earthly life, she was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven and she has come to share fully in the risen life of her Son. Even though the Assumption of Mary into heaven was only proclaimed as a solemn teaching of the church in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the tradition of Mary's Assumption into heaven had been part of the church's living faith from the earliest centuries. This feast is one of the dogmas declared by the Church. It is important to note that the Pope was not inventing a new belief; on the contrary, he was defining what already existed as an element of faith believed by the faithful for past many centuries.

On 1 November, 1950, Pope Pius XII issued the Apostolic Constitution '*Munificentissimus Deus*' in which he proclaimed the *ex cathedra* definition of the dogma of the Assumption: "we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" (no. 44).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 966) explains: 'Finally, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death'. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.

As mentioned, believing in the Assumption is a long-standing tradition among the faithful. The church's sacred tradition and the Word of God paved a strong basis for the belief in the assumption. St. Gregory of Tours of the fifth century, and St. John Damascene of the eighth century had also written about the assumption. It had always been the conviction of believers that because Mary belonged to Jesus in a special way, she now shares in his risen life in a special way. Many ask the question, 'why is the Assumption of Mary' important?' The answer to this question can be found in the Sacred Scripture. The first reading of today - Revelation 11: 19ff, says:

'Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple...And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' Here the Ark of the Covenant is associated with the apparition of a glorious woman. Also in the Gospel of Luke 1: 43-45, we find Mary associated with the Ark of the Covenant, since her cousin Elizabeth greets her with almost the same words used by David when the Ark came to him (2 Samuel 6:9, 14). Pope Pius XII also quotes Psalm 132:8, which has often been read symbolically of Mary's Assumption: "Arise, O Lord, into your resting place: you and the ark, which you have sanctified." In the Magnificat Mary says: "For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and Holy is his Name."

Theological reason for the belief in the assumption is her Immaculate Conception and sinless life.

The life of Mary inspires us to follow her purity of life, knowing more clearly the rewards of fidelity to God's grace. This feast does not celebrate a privilege of Mary alone, but of every baptized person who leads a holy life.

