



## ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST: 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

(Is 22:15,19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16: 13-20)



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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

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PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick, for all who have recently died, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Patricia McGinty Harris, Charles McGinty, Robert Sneddon, and Bernard Kelly.

ST FERGUS CHURCH: The 5.30pm Vigil Mass will resume this weekend (Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2026).

SPRED COMMISSIONING SERVICE: The annual SPRED commissioning of its members will take place on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in St Peter's Church.

FUNERAL MASS: A requiem mass will be celebrated for the happy repose of soul of Olga Balmforth on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 10am at Peter's. Her remains will be received into Church on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm. May she rest in peace, Amen.

*No mass in St Fergus on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>.*

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: The children's liturgy in St Peter's will start from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 this weekend (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August). All are most welcome. Please look for the volunteers' rota on the noticeboard.

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (16 August): St Peter's – Offertory: £431.00, B. Fund: £318.00, St Fergus: Offertory: 156.00.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: Please contact your MP today and urge them to vote 'no to assisted suicide' in the UK Parliament. Vulnerable people must be protected, proper care strengthened, and compassion, dignity and support prioritised over assisted suicide. Find your MP at:

<https://members.parliament.uk/members/commo ns>

A pastoral letter from Bishop John Keenan, Bishop President for Marriage, Family and Life, is available at the back of the Church.

A NOTE FROM ST FERGUS' PRIMARY SCHOOL: The children and staff have had a fantastic week after returning to school on Tuesday and they are all looking forward to the year ahead. We have our first Family Mass on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 9.30am in the school which you are warmly invited to. There will be no "wee tea" after this Mass, however, this will resume again at the next Mass in school. We look forward to seeing you all again this year and thank you for continuing to support our children's faith journey.

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](mailto:sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk). For more details, see [www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk).

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2027: This will take place from Friday 2nd July to Thursday 8th July 2027. Further details to follow. If you would like to come as part of our medical/nursing/helper team please attend the meeting on Monday 31st August at 7pm in Saint Ninian's hall, Gourrock or telephone Anne Louise on 01475638132 for details.

RETREAT FOR CHILDREN OF P4, P5, P6 AND P7: The diocese is organising a Retreat on Sunday 13th September for children in P4, P5, P6 and P7. The theme for this year's retreat days will be Called to God beginning with Abraham - called to go. The Retreat will take place in St James's church and hall on Greenock Road in Paisley (PA3 2LD). Holy Mass will be celebrated in the church during the Retreat. A light meal will be served as part of the day.

Registration is necessary, and families can do this at <https://tinyurl.com/DPY-September-Retreat> or by scanning the QR code (a poster with QR code is placed on the main notice board of the Church).

ST BARTHOLOMEW: St. Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, also known as Nathanael in the New Testament. It was Philip, another apostle who introduced Bartholomew to Jesus. According to tradition, Bartholomew preached in regions including India, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, and Armenia. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Armenia alongside St. Jude, converting King Polymius. It is said that Armenia became the first nation that embraced Christianity and proclaimed it a state religion, even before the Edict of Milan of 313. Traditionally he believed to have been flayed alive and beheaded in Armenia. His feast day is August 24.

ST MONICA: Saint Monica (331–387 A.D.) was an early Christian saint and the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo, one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. She was born in 332 in Tagaste, a city in North Africa that is now part of

modern-day Algeria. She was raised as a devout Christian. She married Patricius, a Roman civil servant who was a pagan and said to have had a violent temper including life of infidelity.

As Patricius had a mean character Monica's marriage and life were difficult, however, she faced them with remarkable patience, and prayer because she was a woman of deep faith and prayer. Her heart broke when her husband forbade her from baptizing their three children namely Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. As a woman of prayer and faith her immediate step was recourse to prayer for the conversion of her family. When Augustine became ill as a child, Patricius initially agreed to permit his baptism, but when the boy recovered, he once again forbade it.

In the course of time, her prayers began to be answered. As we all know, 'prayers go up, blessings come down.' Remarkable changes were noticed in Patricius as he felt he was experiencing an inner conversion. He started admiring Monica's virtues and was deeply affected by her love for him. Finally, her prayers led to his conversion and baptism around the year 370. He died one year later. Patricius' mother also converted. Her feast day is August 27.

Monica intensified her prayers for the conversion of her son, Augustine. Bishop Ambrose of Milan, a man of holiness, had a tremendous influence on Augustine as Monica sought his help in changing Augustine's attitudes and outlook. Augustine questioned the Manichean doctrines which he followed and eventually renounced them in 384. After three years of inner struggle, Augustine finally surrendered to God's grace and was baptized in 387. Having fully contented with all what happened to her by the powerful intervention of God, Monica passed away at the age of 56 in 387. However, she left behind an inspiring legacy for us to follow today.

Monica is a heavenly intercessor for us. She is seen as a powerful example of persistent prayer and faith, and a model of hope for those whose family members have gone astray. She inspires Catholics to pray and offer penance for the return of their loved ones who have strayed from the faith. Her perseverance and trust in God are indeed a driving force for us to hope always for the best from God. The best is yet to happen in our life. She is celebrated as the patron saint of mothers, wives, abuse victims, alcoholics, and widows and difficult marriages (*to be continued*).