



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER: 23rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

(Ez 33:7-9, Rom 13:8-10, Mt 18:15-20)



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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

WELCOME MASS FOR OUR PRIMARY 1 CHILDREN AND PARENTS:

We will warmly welcome the P1 children and their parents/guardians from St. Peter's Primary and St. Fergus Primary into our respective parishes today (Sunday 6th September 2026) during morning Mass (10am St Peter's, 11.30am St Fergus). We look forward to sharing this special occasion with the children and their families as they begin this new chapter in their school and faith journey. Please join us for tea in the hall.

40-HOUR ADORATION: The annual Forty Hour Adoration will take place in St Peter's in two weeks' time, from Monday 21st – Thursday 24th September.

On these days, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration from 8:00 a.m., concluding with Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. (No morning mass in St Peter's in those days). Longer period of time will enable those who go for work to spend some time in prayer either before or after their work. A sign-up sheet of hourly slot is available at the back of the Church. Please be generous with your time to encourage and spread this devotion. It is recommended that one or more persons be present when the Eucharist is exposed. Please mark these days in your diary.

Adoration in St Fergus will be made known later.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Both parishes have resumed the children's liturgy during Sunday morning mass. It is a humble request to parents/guardians: please send your children to this important faith formation programme.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We pray for all who are sick, for all who have recently died, Patricia McAuley and Mary Young and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Agnes Anderson, John McPhee and three months mind of Rosemary McMulkin.

PRIMAY 4 & PRMIARY 7 PARENTS' MEETING: As part of the preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy

Communion and Confirmation, two parents' meetings will be held to provide information and support for families throughout this important journey of faith.

St Fergus Primary 4 - Thursday 10th Sept at 2.30pm in the school hall.

St Peter's Primary 4 – Thursday 10th Sept at 7pm in the parish hall.

St Fergus Primary 7 – Thursday 17th Sept at 2.30pm in the school hall.

St Peter's Primary 7 – Thursday 17th Sept at 7pm in the parish hall.

Please make sure to attend the meeting without fail.

QUIZ NIGHT: St Peter's parish is organizing a Quiz Night on Friday 18th September at 7.30 in the Church Hall. Admission will be £2.00 for adults, payable on the night and there will be no charge for children. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. We are looking for gifts which could be used for raffle prizes. If you have any gifts that you would like to donate, please place them in the collection box at the back of the Church. The box will be available for the next two weeks. Please come and join us and test your general knowledge. There will be question for adults and also ones for children. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

TEA & COFFEE All are most welcome to join for tea and coffee after the morning mass.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (30 August): St Peter's – Offertory: £564.00, B. Fund: £374.00, Votives: £154.00. St Fergus: Offertory: 271.00, Lucky Star: £44.00.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS: Bishop John invites everyone to join him in Saint Mirin's Cathedral for the annual Vocations Mass on Tuesday 15th September at 6:30pm. The 15th September is the Feast of Saint Mirin, the Patron of our Diocese, and is an important day for everyone involved in parishes. We will pray for more Vocations to the Priesthood for the Diocese under the intercession and guidance of Saint Mirin.

RETREAT FOR P4 – P7: On Sunday 13th September 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).

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY-FEAST:

The Church celebrates the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th September, nine months after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. Along with the birthdays of Jesus (Christmas) and St. John the Baptist, it is one of only three birthdays celebrated on the traditional liturgical calendar of the Church. The Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, and many Anglican and Lutheran denominations also celebrate this feast. Scripture does not record Mary's birth. The account comes from ancient tradition and early writings like the 2nd-century *Protoevangelium of James*, which gives a detailed picture of her conception, birth, early years, betrothal to Saint Joseph and names her parents as Saints Joachim and Anne. Though the account is not part of the canon of Scripture, it has been a source of reflection throughout the centuries.

In various ways, this feast is being celebrated, such as attending Mass on all eight days beginning on 1st September, seeking Mary's intercession through prayer, praying the novena, and taking part in a procession. The Syrian Christians observe a '*eight-day lent*' involving fasting and prayer. In some countries like France, Spain, Italy people celebrate this feast with special masses and processions. Saint Andrew of Crete beautifully relates that on this day, the "Creator of the world constructed His temple..." Mary is that temple, that Arc of the New Covenant, the tabernacle and first dwelling place of God Incarnate. Her soul was born pure, spotless, and holy. As she grew, she manifested every virtue perfectly. All who knew her as a child would have been deeply impressed by her sanctity.

The feast invites us to reflect on her early life and seek her intercession for particularly for children. While many titles of the Blessed Virgin focus on her roles as the Queen of Heaven and Earth, the title "Mary the Child" stands out, emphasizing her humble beginnings and purity as a young girl. In his homily, on the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in 2004 homily, Pope St. John Paul II spoke profoundly about this aspect of Mary:

"The liturgy today commemorates the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast, very important to popular piety, leads us to admire in Mary the Child, the purest dawn of the Redemption. We are contemplating a little girl like every other, yet at the same time the only one who was 'blessed among women' (Lk 1: 42). Mary was the immaculate 'Daughter of Zion,' destined to become the Mother of the Messiah."

Pope St. John Paul II's reflection on Mary the Child is not just an acknowledgment of her past but a call to action. In

light of specific global tragedies, he urged the faithful to pray for children suffering around the world. He noted: *"Looking at the Child Mary, how can we fail to remember the many defenceless children.... victims of a barbaric kidnapping and tragic massacre?... At this moment our gaze broadens to take in all innocent children in every corner of the earth who are victims of the violence of adults. Children forced to use weapons and taught to hate and kill; children induced to beg in the streets, exploited for easy earnings; children ill-treated and humiliated by arrogant, abusive grown-ups; children left to themselves, deprived of the warmth of a family and prospects of a future; children who die of hunger, children killed in the many wars in various regions of the world."*

As we celebrate the birth of the Child Mary, let us reflect on her life and pray earnestly for children suffering around the world. May Mary, in her purity and grace, intercede for their protection and comfort.

ST MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA: Popularly known as Mother Teresa or Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Catholic nun, and founder of the Missionaries of Charity. She was born in Skopje, Albania, on August 26, 1910, as Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu. From an early age, young Agnes was fascinated by the lives of missionaries and by the age of 12 she decided to pursue a consecrated religious life. She entered the Sisters of Loreto at Loreto Abbey in Ireland in 1928. In order to become a missionary, she entered the novitiate in Calcutta in 1929. She learned Bengali and taught at St. Teresa's School. She took her first vows in 1931 and chose the name, Sister Mary Teresa. She made her final profession of vows in 1937. She was first called Mother Teresa while teaching at St. Mary's School in Calcutta.

In September 1946, while traveling by train from Calcutta to Darjeeling for a retreat with her community, she felt a call within the call. She decided to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them.

In 1948, she received permission to begin the Missionaries of Charity. She became an Indian citizen and received basic medical training. By 1949, a group of young women had joined her, and the Missionaries of Charity became officially recognized in 1950. They went into the slums of Calcutta to care for the sick and hungry. She started a home for the Dying, home for orphans and homeless youth, home for those with leprosy and established clinics. In the following years she founded the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, and the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. For the laity, she founded the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa, the Sick and Suffering Co-Workers, and later, the Lay Missionaries of Charity. She also founded the Corpus Christi Movement for Priests in 1981, as a "little way of holiness" for those who wished to share in her charism. She established her convents worldwide.

Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She died in 1997. She was declared a saint in 2016. Her feast is on 5th September. One of her sayings: "In the poor it is the *hungry* Christ that we are feeding, it is the *naked* Christ that we are clothing, it is the homeless Christ that we are giving shelter."