



ST. PETER'S AND ST. FERGUS' PRISHES

Bulletin

SUNDAY 13 SEPT: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Vocations Awareness Week
(Sir 27:30-28:7, Rom 14: 7-9, Mt 18:21-35)



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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

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

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 and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ina Gordon, and John & Maryam Hajj.

PRIMARY 4 & PRIMARY 7 PARENTS' MEETING: As part of the preparation for the Sacrament Confirmation, there will be a meeting with the parents of P7, to provide information and support for families throughout this important journey of faith. 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. We had the meeting with the parents of Primary 4 children of both parishes last Thursday. Thanks to all those who participated.

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 that could be used as 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. Please come and enjoy the evening with your family and friends. There will be question for adults and also ones for children. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

LADIES' EXERCISE CLASS: FUNDRAISING FOR THE CHURCH: The Wednesday Ladies' Exercise Class at St Peter's Parish is organising a 'Ladies' Afternoon' to raise funds for the Church.

When: Sunday 4th October 2026

Time: 1.00 – 5.00pm

Where: St Peter's Church Hall

Highlights: Raffles, Music & Bingo

Tickets: £5.00

What to bring: BYOB & nibbles

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS (06 Sept): St Peter's – Offertory: £465.00, B. Fund: £286.00. St Fergus: Offertory: 233.00, B. Fund: £125.00.

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: A retreat for children from P4-P7 is taking place today, the Sunday 13th September in St James's church and hall on Greenock Road in Paisley (PA3 2LD). 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).

SAFEGUARDING THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: We work to ensure prevention of harm is our greatest priority.

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated by Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches on September 14th every year on the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica built by Emperor Constantine in Jerusalem, in the 4th century.

The day celebrates the cross as a symbol of victory, light, and resurrection rather than an instrument of mourning. The feast was formerly known as the Triumph of the Cross, but it has been renamed the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, commemorates three historical events all which took place in Jerusalem: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its initial exaltation for public veneration of the Cross in 335, and the triumphant return of the True Cross from the Persians in 629.

This Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Jesus by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, in the early 4th century. Helena, a devout Christian went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. According to tradition, she found the True Cross of Jesus in Jerusalem in 326 AD. It is said that there was a pagan temple to the Roman goddess Venus over Calvary that was demolished at the orders of the Emperor Constantine and they found three crosses in a cistern, one which was determined to be the True Cross. Legend says the True Cross was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. Subsequently, Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of two churches, the Basilica of the *Anastasis* (the Holy Sepulchre) over the tomb of Jesus to honour his Resurrection and the Basilica of the *Martyrium* over Calvary to honour the crucifixion and dedicated on 13 September 335. As the legend goes, the following day, Christ's Cross was brought outside the newly built church for the faithful to venerate. Thus, the first showing, or Exaltation of the Holy Cross, might have occurred on September 14, 335. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross in 628 AD from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614. So, another dedication was held in Jerusalem to mark the return of the Cross. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the entire empire, and has been celebrated annually on September 14 ever since.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up

the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (Jn 3:13-17).

The then Christian world was horrified when Jerusalem was ransacked by the Persians on May 20, 614 and the True Cross stolen. The Byzantine emperor, Heraclius I (575-641), a Christian, assembled an army in 622 and conquered the Persian army in 628, and the relic was returned in 629. Followed by this victory on March 21, 630, the Emperor Heraclius personally carried the True Cross relic in solemn procession into Jerusalem and restored it to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There was jubilation all over; some knelt in reverence, and others danced in jubilation. All rejoiced, exalting in the glorious Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

"Exaltation" means "to lift up," and for centuries Christians have elevated crosses so they can be clearly seen and venerated by genuflection, kneeling, a profound bow, and other expressions of respect and reverence.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17), later became a symbol of sin and death (Gen 3:6). The tree of victory is the tree of the Cross, so that where there is death, life might again spring forth. The cross, which was once an instrument of shameful death, is now a powerful symbol of Christ's sacrifice to redeem humanity. Christians are encouraged to accept the sufferings and difficulties in their lives as a spiritual journey, as a means of spiritual growth and union with Christ and a way to unite themselves with the merits of Christ's Passion. Our primary focus is the infinite love shown through the selfless and perfect Sacrifice of the Son of God and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result.

As we commemorate the triumph of Christ's Cross, call to mind the crosses we bear each day. Very often when faced with crosses like sufferings, injustices, hardships, and illness we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, and are often tempted by anger and despair. Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, your good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed (*partly taken from 'my catholic life'*).