



The Parishes of St Andrew's, Dumfries, and St Columba's, Annan

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Parish Bulletin

27th/28th May 2017

Seventh Sunday of Easter

(Year A)

Today's Liturgy

Preface of Easter season
Eucharistic Prayer II

Readings

Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11

Spoken Psalm Response

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
In the land of the living

Readings for Next Sunday

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13
John 20:19-23

Spoken Psalm Response

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
And renew the face of the earth

Pope Francis' intention for May, For Christians in Africa

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace.



In June, for National Leaders.

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

Missal reading in many languages

www.virc.at This very good website provides the readings for the Mass in many languages.

Times of Mass and Services 29th May—4th June 2017

Tuesday

Mass in St Columba's at 10 am

Wednesday

Mass in St Andrew's at 10 am

Thursday

Mass in St Columba's at 10 am

Friday

Mass St Andrew's at 10 am

Saturday

Mass in St Andrew's at 10 am

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Mass in St Teresa's at 10 am

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass in St Andrew's at 6.00 pm

Mass in St Andrew's at 10 am

Mass in St Columba's at 12 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation

After morning Mass on Thursday and Saturday
and on request at any other suitable time

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

After Mass on Thursday and Saturday morning

Holydays of Obligation

Mass at 9.30 am and 7 pm in St Andrew's

Mass at 11.30 am in St Columba's

First Friday of the month

Eucharistic Service at 10 am

in St Columba's followed by tea/coffee

First Saturday of the month

Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima
at 5 pm in St Andrew's

Liturgy for 7th Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel we listen as Jesus converses with God the Father, and the more he speaks, the more we hear that we are the subject of this great conversation.

What's happening?

Communication Sunday

This is Communication Sunday, where we think of and pray in a special way for all who work in the media and in the field of communication. There are so many ways to communicate now—many of them instantaneous and much unregulated. We have to be careful to get it right, both in what we 'consume' and in what we contribute. There will be a special collection at all Masses this weekend for the work of the Diocese of Galloway Communication fund. This collection can be gift aided and envelopes are available.

And in the spirit of communication ... Email address

Would those of you who communicate with the church or with Mary by email please make sure that you no longer use the Tiscali address and delete it from contacts and group addresses. This email address ceased three years ago and can no longer be monitored so if anything is sent there it simply disappears into cyberspace!

The email address is rcdumfriesannan@sky.com

Bulletin

Please note that the bulletin will be prepared on THURSDAY this week so get any items to Mary by Thursday morning at the latest, thank you.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 3rd-10th July.

This is probably your last chance to join this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes. There are still a few places available on this year's pilgrimage and booking forms are in the sacristy. Remember also, Galloway Lourdes Hospitalite exists look after the assisted pilgrims in Lourdes. For more information on Assisted Pilgrims contact Ms Janie Agnew on 07739399222.

Pilgrimage to Rome 10th—17th September 2017

If you would like to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome, (with a day trip to Assisi) booking forms are available from Alba Tours Ltd, 40 Chestnut Grove, Motherwell, ML1 3JF. The cost is £925 for a 7 night, half board in Rome at the Hotel Olympic. Please see the notice for more information.



Celebration of First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in St Andrew's and St Columba's on Sunday 11th June when the worshipping community gathers together.

Lay leaders

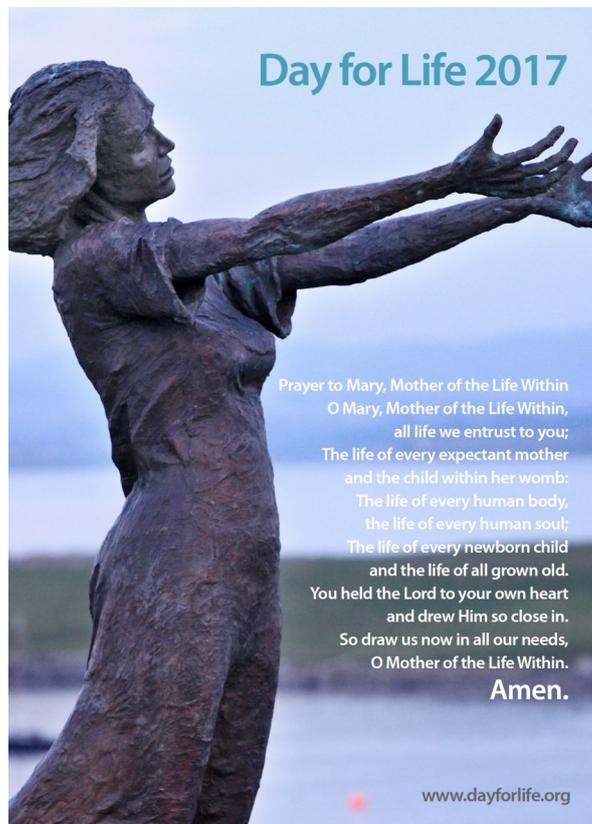
Due in no small part to the effects of Embracing Change Fr Willie McFadden has already held some courses to train lay Leaders in conducting funeral rites and it is hoped to hold additional courses in the Dumfries area in June and September. If you feel that you might be able to take on this duty please get in touch with Fr Gerald. More details to follow.

General Election

The Bishops of Scotland have written to all parishes about the upcoming General Election and this letter is reproduced on the back page.

Day for Life

The feast of the Visitation of our Lady on 31st May has been designated the Day for Life 2017. Postcards with a beautiful prayer to Mary, mother of the Life Within are at the back of the Church.



First Base Agency Food Bank



There is a basket to accept your donations of non-perishable foodstuffs for the Food Bank run by The First Base Agency (www.first-base.org). One item each every week will make a huge contribution to this project. Please make a special effort during the summer months.

Saint Andrew's

Church Shop

The church shop has lots of cards and gifts for First Communion. It is open before and after Mass at weekends.

Meetings

The Ladies Circle meets on Tuesday 30th May for the AGM.

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the Parish Annual General Meeting last Thursday - a number of things were discussed and a full report will appear in the bulletin next week. The minutes and all of the reports will be on the notice board and the web site by the end of this week. (I hope!)

Found at the Easter Vigil

Sorry this is so long in being reported: after the Easter vigil a gold coloured bracelet with green stones was found in the church. It is a very pretty thing and someone must be missing it. If you think it may be yours please see Mary Hairstains in the shop.

Friday Soup Lunches

St John's & St Michael's & South invites you to the Friday Soup Lunches in St John's Church Hall Lovers Walk, on Friday 9th June 12noon to 1.30pm. Come and enjoy a bowl of home-made soup and a friendly chat whilst helping to raise much needed funds for the Food Bank Project run by The First Base Agency

Commemorative Cards

Celebrating 400 years of Vincentian Spirituality: the first Vincentian organisations dedicated to service of the poor were conceived or established in 1617 and laid the foundations for all the other Vincentian organisations to come, including the St Vincent de Paul Society. A commemorative card has been produced and is available for you to take from the back of the Church.

Weekly Collection

Last week's collection came to £994.83. Parishioners gave £115.84 to the St Vincent de Paul. The Jars of Hope fund increased by £13 to £421. Thank you.

Mary's Meals Rags to Riches Campaign

Advance notice - the Rags to Riches clothing and textile collection van will come to both churches on the weekend of 9/10th September.

Nairn Caravan

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society have a caravan in Nairn which can now be booked for slots in 2017. Priority is given to families with children during the school holidays. If you would like further information contact Steve Cotter on Dumfries 252193

Saint Columba's

Christian Aid Sponsored Walk



Sponsored Walk

Colette will be taking part in a Sponsored walk for Christian Aid on Saturday 10th June. Donations of Sponsorship would be greatly appreciated. A form is available at the back of the Church for anyone wishing to make a donation to the continuing work of Christian Aid.

Meeting for First Communion

There will be a meeting next Sunday after Mass for the parents of children making their First Communion in June.

Attention all who use Envelopes

Some of you are putting money into orange gift aid envelopes without a number on them. If you intend your contribution to be counted as gift aid could you please contact either Linda Jardine or Margaret Galbraith. If you do not require GA envelopes, there are white ones available.

Weekly Collection

Last week's collection came to £273.21 and the door collection for SCIAF raised £43.88. The Jars of Hope fund stands at £226. Thank you.

Thank you from Anne Murdy

Many thanks to everyone who came along to support The Lambholm Lassies in Concert earlier this month... the magnificent sum of £320 was raised. We have now reached our target, to support five people travelling to Lourdes with the diocesan pilgrimage in July this year. Two are working in the hospital, one youth helper, one lady helper, and an altar server.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us

St Joseph's College presents

**Little Shop of Horrors
20-23rd June**

Tickets are going fast.
Get them from the Midsteeple Box Office,
theatreroyaldumfries.co.uk,
Ticketmaster and Ticketweb

Please take a copy of the bulletin home to remind you of the times of services and events during the coming week, and please take a copy to anyone you know who is sick or housebound.

General Election 2017—a Letter from the Bishops of Scotland

This General Election presents us with an opportunity to reflect on Catholic social teaching. As Christians, we have a civic and moral duty to engage with our democracy. As Catholics, we believe that the primary goal of society should be the common good; that is the good of all people and of the whole person. Indeed, the common good is the very reason political authority exists.

This election provides an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and goodness of Church teaching and to keep that teaching at the forefront of our minds as we engage with candidates across all parties. During elections, a range of issues compete for your attention; we highlight some of them here in the hope that you will reflect on them and raise them with your candidates.

Human Life

Human life at every stage of development is precious and must be protected. Any laws which permit the wilful ending of life must always be rejected as reprehensible and unjust. We must create a culture of life where the most vulnerable are valued and their dignity respected. The undeniable value of human life, created in the image and likeness of God, is fundamental to the Catholic faith. We should remind our politicians that abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are always morally unacceptable.

Marriage and the Family

Society relies on the building block of the family to exist. The love of man and woman in marriage and their openness to new life is the very basic cell upon which society is built. The well-being of society depends on the flourishing and health of family life and those in authority should respond to this with policies that create economic and other advantages for families with children.

Poverty

Sadly, poverty continues to be a scourge for many at home and abroad. Too many people still struggle to make ends meet. This sad reality cannot and should not endure in our country in the twenty-first century. Our concerns should also extend to providing international assistance, while ensuring that aid is not used to support immoral practices such as those which compromise the basic right to life.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

The United Kingdom should be a place where the most vulnerable are welcomed and given the resources necessary to rebuild their lives. At the same time, we should provide for those people living in and around conflict zones, and commit to working towards the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Living in Europe

There are millions of EU citizens living in the UK and millions of UK citizens living across the EU. Mindful of the uncertainty affecting them, candidates should commit to working towards delivering stability and security for them in future. Our politicians should forge and renew international partnerships and establish rights for those who wish to work in the UK, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Freedom of Religion and Conscience

Millions of people worldwide are persecuted for their beliefs. People of faith, including Christians, should be able to freely practise their faith and bear witness to it in their lives, without fear of prejudice, intolerance, abuse or violence. Candidates should be committed to the right of people not to be forced to act against their conscience.

Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Trade

The use of any weapon that causes more than individual and proportionate harm to civilians is immoral and, thus, rejected by the Church. The use of weapons of mass destruction is a serious crime against God and against humanity. While states are entitled to possess the means required for legitimate defence, this must not become an excuse for an excessive accumulation of weaponry which becomes a considerable threat to stability and freedom.

Respectful Politics

Often, politicians are tempted to score points or resort to insults. We need politicians who are willing to change this and to take politics in a new direction, where dialogue is respectful, and where different points of view, including those of a religious nature, are tolerated.

As we cast our votes this election, let us bear in mind the words of Pope Francis when he said, “The greatness of any nation is revealed in its effective care of society’s most vulnerable members.” Our nation, our Parliament, and our Government will be judged on how it treats its poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

Yours devotedly in Christ

signed by all the Bishops of Scotland

*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick
and all those whose needs are not known to us, especially...*

Amalia Tamburrini
Gavin Russell
May Pratt

Gavin Russell
Elspeth McIvor
Michael Clark

Norah MacDonald
Joan Jeavons
Sandra Dobie

Eileen Rome
Rosa Maria Santos

Andrew Monteith
Anne Johnstone

and everyone on the family prayer ministry prayer requests. If you wish yourself or a loved one to be prayed for please let Fr Gerald know and please also let him know if anyone can be taken off the list because they are better.