

Putting faith into action

- ✚ Justice and Peace Scotland invites you to *A Day of Reflection on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'*. Saturday 21st September 2019, Renfield St Stephens Centre, 260 Bath Street, G2 4JP Glasgow. See Marian.
- ✚ Read Justice & Peace Scotland's weekly blog: <https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/Blog.aspx>
- ✚ Like, share and act! <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeandpeaceArgyllandIsles/>
- ✚ Listen to **Radio Alba** – Christian radio with regular contributions from Justice & Peace: <http://radioalba.org.uk/>
- ✚ MO-MA has an on-going need for toiletries, household cleaning products & **dried food**. Box in the church porch.
- ✚ <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/> - Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. £50,000 has already been sent to SCIAF's partners in Mozambique, Malawi & Zimbabwe to assist with the cyclone emergency. Your Wee Box & 4th Sunday collection helps the year-round bread & butter work. SCIAF says 'Thank you'.
- ✚ **LiturgyWorks Argyll and the Isles**: <https://www.facebook.com/argyllandtheisles/?fref=hovercard> . Sign up with Denise for the two 2019 weekends at the Conforti Institute (May 3-5 & September 6-8).

Parish life (everyone's welcome – it's OUR parish!)

St Margaret's Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 7pm at St Margaret's.

St Margaret's Justice & Peace Group: First Tuesday of the month, parish house.

LiturgyWorks
for Argyll & the Isles



April 2019 – June 2019 Rotas

Relief Eucharistic Minister: Cecelia Rees.

Please arrange alternative if you are unable to meet the rotas

Date	Eucharist Ministers		Readers	Date	Cleaners
March 31	I Salmon	C Rees	B Robins	April 6	A McCartan
April 7	C McFadden	J McFadden	M Kennedy	13	T Sinclair
14	D Berndt	M Mc Call	T Jones	?	Easter clean
21	P Connor	P Singal	M Mc Call	26	J Malcolm
28	I Salmon	C Rees	R Ranger	27	K Welsh
May 5	C McFadden	J McFadden	A McCartan	May 4	A Cumming
12	D Berndt	M Mc Call	C Reese	11	K Goodchild
19	P Connor	P Singal	E Salmon	18	A Martin
26	I Salmon	C Reese	M Pallister	25	D Mc Lean
June 2	J Mc Fadden	C Mc Fadden	J Green	June 9	A McCartan
9	D Berndt	M McCall	J M c Fadden	16	T Sinclair
16	P Connor	P Singal	B Robins	23	E Salmon
23	I Salmon	C Reese	M Kennedy	30	K Welsh
30	C McFadden	J McFadden	T Jones		



Unity³⁴

Lochgilphead / Inveraray

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Choosing darkness – or light?

As we all know, one of the main themes of Lent in preparation for the celebration of Easter is turning back to the Lord, and changing, becoming a new creation. One of the Gospel readings that we always have in Lent is the Transfiguration, and I think this can help us to understand a little better just what Jesus means when he talks about being 'transfigured'.

The transfiguration is not some one-off event in our lives, or in Christ's. Transfiguration happens to every single human being, at different times, and in different situations throughout our journey of life. The best description for transfiguration is, when we look at an object or a person or situation and see the object, the person or that situation for what they really are.

Let's think of two examples. When we first fall in love, we see the person that we have fallen in love with in a totally different way. We see what other people don't see - in fact, that's why we often hear people saying 'I don't know what he/she sees in her/him'. When a child is born, the parents see the child in a new light - the child is transfigured. They see their child with eyes that no one else in the world can see.

The point I am hoping to make is that the eyes that see their first love, the eyes of parents on their child, these are the eyes that see as Christ sees. Our vision may most of the time be hazy and dim, but when we get a small glimpse of the light and love Jesus has for all of us, and all of creation, we begin to realise that the world is heaving with God.

In an image that lies at the very heart of Lent and Holy Week, we can choose to live in the darkness of the tomb, or to come out of the darkness into a world that is transfigured by the light of the resurrection. That is the choice facing us this Easter: Light or darkness? Hope or despair? So which one are you choosing?

May the joy of the Risen Lord enlighten your hearts and your homes this Easter.

With love and prayers,

Fr David



The power of prayer

Earlier this year, Pope Francis said that he thinks of '...many Christians who believe that praying is to talk to God like a parrot.' He cautioned us 'No! Praying is done from the heart, from inside.' "He does not need anything, our God: in prayer he asks only that we keep open a channel of communication with him to always discover ourselves [to be] his beloved children and [that] he loves us so much.'

He reminded us that Jesus distanced Himself from the 'babble' of the pagans and that God knows our needs before we say them.

And he said that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus's words on how to pray are said in the middle of his Sermon on the Mount, when he 'summarizes fundamental aspects of His message.' In that sermon, Pope Francis reminded us, Jesus began with the Beatitudes, crowning 'with happiness' people who are often forgotten or ignored: the poor, the meek, the merciful, and the humble.

For Pope Francis, 'This is the revolution of the Gospel.'

He stressed, 'The Gospel does not leave [us] quiet, it pushes us.'

During this Lenten period, Pope Francis tweeted 'When we pray, let us recall that we do so with Jesus. Jesus is our courage. Jesus is our security, who in this moment intercedes for us.' And in another tweet he said 'Through prayer we learn to renounce the idolatry and self-sufficiency of our ego, and to admit we need the Lord and His mercy.'

Continuing his exploration of prayer, in his homily on April 4 during his morning Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis said, 'In common parlance, people use an expression that I really like when they have a goal: "I put it all on the line." In intercessory prayers, this also applies: "I put it all on the line". It is the courage to go forward.'

He added, 'But perhaps the doubt may arise: "I do this, but how do I know the Lord listens to me?" We have a certainty: Jesus. He is the great intercessor.'

The Bible, Pope Francis said, is full of examples of holy men and women who prayed fervently to God, almost as if 'they were arm-wrestling' with him. They did so, he explained, because they 'had faith that the Lord would give them grace.'

Jesus, too, His Holiness said, '...prays for us at this moment' and no matter what way Christians pray, it is Christ 'who takes my prayer and presents it to the father.'

Fr David ends his Easter letter to us on Unity's first page 'with love and prayers'. Each week at St Margaret's, our prayer group meets at 7pm and prayers are shared for individuals, for families, for the parish, for the wider community – and for the world.

It's a time when we can 'put it all on the line' and keep the channel of communication with God open. Everyone is welcome.

St Margaret's Easter round-up



An email from Jan Hrdlicka:



Dear Friends,
Warm greetings from spring-like Czech Republic. On some days temperature reached 15 degrees. Early flowers are out. Birds are singing early in the morning. So it really feels very much like a spring already.

I will come to Lochgilphead the first weekend in May. Sat 4th May, Sunday 5th May. Hope to see you then. :-)))

I wish you great, sunny and green spring time.
Lots of joy!
JH

MO-MA: St Margaret's Christmas donations were welcomed and over 25 boxes were distributed to people in need. There is a continued need for dried and tinned food, household cleaning materials, toiletries and items such as sets of cutlery, mugs, pans, and microwave-safe dishes.

St Margaret's Justice and Peace Group:

- Deacon Tom Wynne says he always has a need for woolly hats, gloves and socks for his Apostleship of the Sea work. It helps interaction with mariners away from home.
- **Alister Bull of Hope for Justice spoke in January at the MS Centre about trafficking and modern slavery. A big turn out heard how to watch out for signs of people who may have been trafficked and how to seek help.**
- **There was also a good turn out in February to hear Philippa Bonella speak about her peace activism in Israel.**
- **Stephen Curran of Eco-Congregation Scotland spoke at the beginning of April about the contribution we can all make towards halting climate change, and will take our concerns to the Scottish Parliament to seek more robust legislation.**
- To take forward the group's concerns about support for children with mental health problems, we hope to welcome an expert to speak to us in May. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information.

SCI AF and climate change:

Please don't forget to complete the SCI AF climate campaign postcards (in your Lent Wee Box pack). They go freepost to SCI AF (so no stamp) and SCI AF will deliver what is expected to be thousands of these to the Westminster Government in the manner of a petition. This is an effective way of lobbying for tougher climate change legislation and SCI AF's voice is respected. Brendan O'Hara MP is already on board.