



*Parish Bulletin of  
St Andrew's, Dumfries  
and  
St Columba's, Annan*

*Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway -  
Registered Charity No. SCO10576*

**Parish Notices**

**Week beginning 21st April, 2024**

*Mass timetable in the week ahead:*

There is a normal timetable in the week ahead. Mass on Wednesday is the Requiem Mass for Jim Hairstains. There is a Vigil reception on Tuesday at 6.30pm.

**St Andrew's: Wednesday at 10am; Friday at 10am.**

**St Columba's: Tuesday at 10am; Thursday at 7pm.**

**Weekend Masses:**

**St Andrew's: Saturday Vigil at 6pm; Sunday at 10am**

**St Columba's : Sunday at 12noon**

*NB There is Mass with exposition in St Andrew's on Saturday, 27th April at 10am.*

**NB All Sunday 10am and Wednesday 10am Masses from St Andrew's are live-streamed.**

*Vocations Sunday*

This Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. A second collection will be taken up for the Ecclesiastical Students' Fund.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

There is an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the period of Exposition on alternate Saturdays and also before the Vigil Mass on each weekend.

*Meeting Dates*

**St Andrew's Conference of St Vincent de Paul** will meet at 7pm in the house on Tuesday 23rd April.

**St Columba's PPC**-after morning Mass on Tuesday 14th May.

**St Andrew's PPC**- on Thursday 28th May at 7pm in the house.

*St Andrew's Church Library*

Please let Fr Gerald know if you can help with this.

*Collections*

**St Andrew's** collection was £690.60 with £37 at Sunday Coffee. SCIAF donations in "Wee Boxes" amounted to £950 with Giftaid still to add to this marvellous total. **SSVP** donations amounted to £173. **St Columba's** collection was £166.30 with £24.49 for SCIAF Thank you very much.

**Firstbase...** continue to be grateful for all donations.

*Rest in Peace*

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Jim Hairstains and of Fr Martin Chambers** who have died recently. We pray for the comforting of all who are mourning them.

*Rest in Peace*

We pray also for the repose of the soul of **Jan Sturgeon** who died through the week. Jan's funeral is on Monday 13th May. We pray for the comforting of Jan's family and friends.

**Pope Francis' prayer intention for April: For the role of women.** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**Parish Priest**

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**21st April, 2024**

**4th Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

Acts 4: 8-12

1 John 3: 1-2

John 10:11-18

*Psalm Response*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

**Today's Liturgy:** Eucharistic Prayer II

**Next Sunday :**

5th Sunday of Easter (Year B)

**4th Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. As we gather as his little flock, the Lord greets us with the incredible news that he has not only died for us: he has also risen in glory in order to bind us to himself for ever. He invites us to join all of those throughout the world who are making this Sunday a day of prayer for vocations..

*Fr Gerald's Mass Intentions for this week:*

Tuesday: Anne McKenzie

Wednesday: Jim Hairstains

Thursday: Sandra Carroll

Friday: Jim Hairstains

Saturday: Nichola Tremble

Sunday: For the Parish

**Please remember in your prayers**

*those who are sick, everyone on the family prayer  
ministry requests and all those whose needs are not  
known to us.*

Libby McLaughlin

Anne Murdy

Eric Sherman

Ted & Jean Machin

Cathy O'Neill

Michael O'Regan

*Sick and Housebound*

I am available for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. If any parishioner requires assistance or needs to talk, please call me on the Parish number.

[www.virc.at](http://www.virc.at) This website provides the readings for the Mass in many languages, eg English.

Please convey information and updates to anyone you know who is sick or housebound.

### Year of Prayer

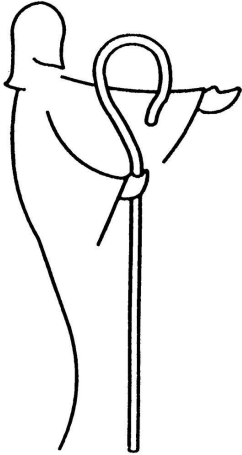
Pope Francis has designated this year a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025.

There is a Holy Year Facebook page at "Holy Year Scotland 2025" for those who would like to access updates and resources. This can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/holyyearsotland2025>.

A Holy year is celebrated every 25 years. In this year of prayer we examine our own lives of prayer and look to ways in which we can deepen our relationship with Christ.



### Good Shepherd Sunday



This fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday". We pray for vocations to the priesthood and we pray especially for our own Diocese of Galloway in this respect.

The Gospel today tells us that Jesus calls himself a "good shepherd" because he freely lays down his life for his sheep because he "knows" his sheep in the rich scriptural sense of living in close union with them and because he shares his life with them as the Son shares life with the Father.

### From Bishop Frank Dougan:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
As with many of you, I am mourning the loss of our own Fr Martin Chambers. This is a personal loss to so many across the Diocese and beyond (right across the Atlantic to Ecuador).

We think in particular of his family whom he loved so much.

He was a man of great love, enthusiasm and faith. He gave everything for the People of God, and so many have been touched by him. We only learn to love if we have been loved first: Fr Martin was one of the finest teachers in how to love, and so was a true instrument of God.

As he looked forward to his new role as Bishop, he spoke often as being a missionary disciple and he certainly was that. Can I ask that in a special way, you take care of your priests more than ever in the days that follow? They have lost a brother and need your love.

We continue to pray for each other, for his family and for the repose of his soul.

+Frank Dougan  
Bishop of Galloway"

### Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary!



Many congratulations to Kate and Peter Sherman as they celebrate their golden wedding!

### Pro-Life Amendment Update



"The Report Stage of the Criminal Justice Bill and a vote on Caroline Ansell's 22-week amendment will likely be happening in late April. Thanks to you and your parishioners, we recently delivered a petition with 102,573 signatures to the Prime Minister at number 10! This is one of the largest petitions to be delivered to the Prime Minister over the last year and demonstrates the overwhelming support for this important pro-life change to the law. To oppose the abortion up to birth amendment, you can email your MP via this link: [www.righttolife.org.uk/johnsonabortionamendment](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/johnsonabortionamendment)"

 FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND  
GIVING HOPE TO VULNERABLE CHRISTIANS



Brendan Metcalfe from "Friends of the Holy Land" was in touch to say:

"Dear Fr. Gerald and Parish,

Thanks to your generosity we have raised over £140 000 during the Lent and Easter period...The current need is so great and we cannot be more thankful for the support you have shown our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land...

As the war shows no signs of stopping and injustices towards Palestinian Christians continue,... the need is still great and your donations help us to address the emergency and build towards a better future.

Thank you..."

### Children's Liturgy of the Word (St Andrew's)



The next Children's Liturgy date will be advertised soon. Any children are welcome then to go to the hall with the two leaders when Fr Gerald gives the signal after the start of Mass and they will be accompanied back into the Church before Communion. Please speak with Fr Gerald or call into the office if you would be willing to have the PVG checks done with a view to helping out with the Children's Liturgy.

### St Columba's Appeal

**Help needed:** Are there any handy people who can help to repair the wall on the left side of the entrance to the Church car park? We also need volunteers to help upkeep the gardens and grounds around the Church. Please speak with Fr Gerald or any member of the PPC. Any help is much needed and will be much appreciated. Thank you.



### Cost of living crisis:

In response to the cost of living crisis and especially in response to the rise in energy bills, some limited funds are available to parishioners who are particularly struggling. If this applies to you, please speak in confidence with Fr Gerald.

NB There is a First Aid box in the Church Sacristy should anyone need it at any time.



### MOOL



The MOOL charity which is based in the hall basement at St Andrew's does a tremendous amount of good work with refugees in the region. They have asked for specific donations of training shoes for young men, walking boots and toiletries as well as all other general items of clothing. Please help if you can.

### St Andrew's Coffees/Teas on Sunday



All are welcome for Sunday teas/coffees in the hall after Mass on Sunday. There are tasty treats and an opportunity to meet up with family and friends for a catch-up. Please donate at least £1.50 for a hot drink and £2 for a drink and cake/biscuit if you can. All proceeds are for the Church apart from those from one team which are donated to St Andrew's Primary School.

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.

