



Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St, Tayport



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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

22nd January 2023

Sunday of the Word of God Year: A(I). Psalm week: 3. Liturgical Colour: Green.

First reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3 The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26(27) The Lord is my light and my help.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Be united in your belief and practice.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men".

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5pm

Eucharistic Services: Monday and Friday at 10am.

ST FILLAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10:15am

Eucharistic Services: Wednesday and Thursday at 10am.

Mgr. Pat's Corner

Jesus begins his Ministry in Galilee

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus withdrew to Galilee and made his home in Capernaum by the lake. Anyone who has been to the Holy Land will have visited Capernaum, and will know that it is a beautiful place. In Jesus' time it was a thriving fishing village.

We are told that Jesus began his preaching with the message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. To 'repent' literally means 'to turn around'. We are called to transformation, to turn away from what is not life giving and embrace life to the full.

It is hard to imagine behaving in the same way as Simon Peter and Andrew, leaving everything behind them and following Jesus. There must have been something very attractive about Jesus.

It takes courage to rip everything and follow something new. Obviously, they were ready for it; it was the right moment and they had no hesitation in saying 'Yes' to Jesus' call.

Today, perhaps, you can reflect on moments when you were called to follow a new path, even though it meant leaving something behind. At the time you just knew it was the right choice. You were at peace with your decision despite the challenges it might bring.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18 to 25 January. This year's theme is taken from the prophet Isaiah: "**Do good, seek justice**" (1:17). In light of this, Pope Francis asked that we each one of us give thanks to the Lord "*who faithfully and patiently guides His people towards full communion, and let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten and sustain us with His gifts*". Pope Francis went on to note that **the path to Christian unity and the Church's synodal conversion are linked**. For this reason, he announced an **Ecumenical Prayer Vigil**, set to take place in St Peter's Square **on Saturday 30 September**. At the Vigil, he explained, "*we will entrust to God the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. I invite brothers and sisters of all Christian denominations to participate in this gathering of the People of God*".

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-01/pope-francis-announces-prayer-vigil-synod-ecumenism-angelus.html>

Christian Unity Service: St Margaret's Church, Tayport. Sunday 22 January at 6:20pm. All welcome.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewportTayportCatholic/

Parish WhatsApp: 07484 170812.

Hospital Chaplaincy: Ninewells, Victoria and Roxburghe House. Please call the duty chaplain on 07821 624124

Special Prayers: We pray for those who have died recently, especially John Murphy; for those whose anniversaries fall at this time, especially Jeanne Gentleman and Claudia Labanda. We pray for those who are sick or struggling to cope with difficulties in their lives. We pray especially for peace, for the victims of war or natural disasters and for persecuted Christians throughout the world. **To request prayers in the Newsletter please contact Mgr. Pat or Fr Jude.**

Saints & Feastdays

Tues 24th **St Francis de Sales**, Bishop, Doctor
Wed. 25th **The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle** FEAST
Thurs. 26th **St Timothy** and **St Titus**, Bishops
Sat 28th **St Thomas Aquinas**, Priest, Doctor

St Francis de Sales (1567-1622) became Bishop of Geneva when this city had become a strong centre of the Protestant Reformation. He won back many to the Faith by his gentle and patient nature which even won the respect of his opponents. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win. He was known for his love and moderation as he said: "Whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love".

The Conversion of St Paul is recorded in great detail in the Acts of the Apostles (chapters 9 and 22). Saul, the young man who looked after the cloaks of the men who were stoning St Stephen, grew into a dedicated and efficient persecutor of Christians. This feast celebrates the day that Christ appeared to him in a vision as he was on the way to Damascus, reproached him for his persecutions and converted him to the true faith.

St Timothy and St Titus were converted to Christianity by St Paul and became his companions and helpers. Paul sent Timothy to Ephesus and Titus to Crete, to look after the Christians there. He wrote them the so-called "pastoral" epistles, giving advice for pastors and people alike.

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) abandoned his aristocratic upbringing to join the Dominican Order. He was a man of prayer which bore fruit in extensive writings on spiritual subjects. St Thomas approached the philosophical and religious controversies of his time with a simple, straightforward sense: "Truth cannot contradict Truth". His theological works, especially his *Summa Theologica*, have been the standard texts for many centuries and are still an irreplaceable resource today. Out of his depth of learning came also the dazzling poetry of the liturgy for Corpus Christi. And out of his sanctity came the day when, celebrating Mass, he had a vision that, he said, made all his writings seem like straw, and so he wrote no more.

SCOTLAND'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS URGE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO REJECT 'EXPERT' REPORT. Responding to the publication of the Scottish Government's 'expert' advisory group on "Ending Conversion Practices", Scotland's Catholic Bishops have issued the following statement (excerpts): "The Church supports legislation which protects people from physical and verbal abuse. The advice of the expert committee, however, seeks to extend the scope of such legislation in a way that can restrict freedom of religion and expression. If their conclusions were accepted, they would criminalise mainstream religious pastoral care, parental guidance, and medical or other professional intervention relating to sexual orientation, unless it was deemed by the state to constitute 'affirmative care'. They could criminalise the Church's teaching about God's creation of the human person as male and female and the meaning of sex as within marriage. This would apply even if the person with these issues wanted help to follow Church teaching since this law would say they cannot consent to this teaching. Priests could be banned from working in Scotland, the Church could lose its charitable status, and classroom and pastoral teachers could lose their jobs. Moreover, the 'expert' advisory group is unclear what is meant by the term 'conversion practices' and this will create a chilling effect and may criminalise advice or opinion given in good faith".

In urging the Scottish Government to reject this report, we are drawn to the recent words of Pope Francis who has pointed out: "There is a risk of drifting into what more and more appears as an ideological totalitarianism that promotes intolerance towards those who dissent from certain positions claimed to represent "progress", but in fact would appear to lead to an overall regression of humanity, with the violation of freedom of thought and freedom of conscience."

Full statement at <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/scotlands-catholic-bishops-urge-scottish-government-to-reject-expert-report/>

Parish Pilgrimage in September. We are planning a Parish Trip to Toledo and Segovia from **18th-26th September**. It will include Mass at the tomb of St. John of the Cross, followed by lunch at the San Marcos Restaurant and day trips to La Granja and Avila, with Mass in the Convent of St. Teresa. There will be a meeting in **St. Columba's on Sunday 22nd January around 12 noon** to gauge interest and to discuss arrangements. Monsignor Pat McNally

THE SUNDAY CAFÉ. All welcome to stay after Sunday Mass for coffee/tea and a chance to chat with fellow parishioners. **DONATIONS TO COVER COSTS ARE APPRECIATED.** If you would like to help occasionally, please let us know at the Sunday Café.

Prayer: Almighty Father, direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory or keep us from the peace you have promised.