

Our Holy Redeemer's and St Margaret's Parishes,
Clydebank



Sunday 2nd December 2012 – First Sunday of Advent

Parishes Pastoral Programme 2012-15

Introduction

This is a pastoral programme for Our Holy Redeemer's Parish and St Margaret's Parish. It is a programme that marks our response to Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to us to deepen our faith in this Year of Faith. It is a pastoral programme because we are a People of God who want to grow in our faith and in our love for God and for one another.

We are two catholic parishes in Clydebank. We are part of the Archdiocese of Glasgow and our Archbishop is the Most Rev Philip Tartaglia. We are also part of the North West Deanery which stretches from Old Kilpatrick to Bearsden and includes all the parishes in the Clydebank area.

Our pastoral team is led by Canon Gerard Tartaglia, parish priest for our parishes. He is assisted by three other dedicated and talented people: Fr Paul Gargaro, our assistant priest, Rev Frank Flynn, our permanent deacon and Sister Marie Molloy, our parish assistant. Sister Marie is a Religious Sister of Charity which runs St Margaret's Hospice which is situated in the parishes. Recently, Mrs Kathleen McNiven has been commissioned as a Parish Catechist and she will be becoming more involved in that area of parish life in the months and years to come.

At the latest census of mass attendance taken on Sunday 11th November 2012 there was a total of 658 people at the three masses in the two parishes. The population of the areas served by Our Holy Redeemer's and St Margaret's is believed to be about 7500. Of these about 3150 are Catholics which means that we can say that about 21% attended mass on that day.

There are two catholic schools associated with our parishes: Our Holy Redeemer Primary School is within the parish area (there are presently 315 pupils at the school) and St Peter the Apostle High School takes in young people from the whole of the Clydebank area (there are 1450 pupils presently at the school).

Our Holy Redeemer's was the first catholic parish to be founded in Clydebank in 1888 and we will soon celebrate the 125th anniversary of its foundation. The distinctive church, designed by Peter Paul Pugin, has been present through a lot of the history of our area. St Margaret's is a younger parish by comparison founded in 1969 and the church was designed by Gillespie, Kidd and Coia. Both churches are listed buildings. Our Holy Redeemer's church sits prominently on Glasgow Road, while St Margaret's church is tucked within the Whitecrook housing estate, close by.

Our Parishes

In this pastoral programme we want to set out what we will focus on doing in the parishes over the next three years. To do that successfully we need to be clear about what lies at the heart of our parishes.

The Person of Jesus Christ is the centre of our faith and of our parishes. We want to grow closer to Him and respond to what He is asking of us. Like the disciples, we know that He has the message of eternal life, a message that is for us today. We know that we need to stay connected to Him, like branches to the vine; if we are not connected to Jesus we cannot be fruitful. We want our parishes to be places where everyone comes together as parts of one body with one common purpose. To do this we will follow His example of leading people to believe in Him as He did for the Samaritan woman at the well. We will follow His example of service when He washed the disciples' feet. We know that we can only do this if we come together to celebrate Mass and give thanks to God, being a community that has the Holy Eucharist explicitly at its centre. We know that only by drawing strength from Him can we live out His commandment of love.

We are parishes that are part of the Catholic Church, in the Archdiocese of Glasgow, and we want to live in fidelity to our Church, drawing strength from the Tradition that we are part of and wanting to hand it on to our children.

Pastoral Meetings

In preparation for drawing up a pastoral programme we held Pastoral Meetings, held in both parishes on 17 June 2012. At the meetings we asked parishioners to tell us what was good about the parishes and to give us suggestions for action that parishioners could take to make the parishes better. Over a hundred people, young and old, took part in the meetings. They listed over a hundred things that are good about the parishes and gave over a hundred suggestions for action.

There are many things already happening in our parishes –there is a list of current groups in the parishes at the end. At the pastoral meetings in June we heard that our parishes are places where people feel they belong and where they come together to support each other. Parishioners really value that the parishes:

- are good communities - “knowing people care”, “community spirit”
- provide daily mass - “daily mass is important”
- involve young people - “youth involvement is great and the people who help”
- provide Sunday teas - “Sunday teas brilliant”
- have a good pastoral team - “Great priests! + Sister! + Deacon!”
- have a good music group - “folk group excellent”

The Parishes’ Pastoral Council, which was elected by parishioners and confirmed by the parish priest, reflected on the suggestions for action. They prayed and discussed a programme of action that will help the parishes over the coming years. This pastoral programme is the result of their prayer and discussion. This pastoral programme is for each and every parishioner in our parishes – it is not a programme for the Pastoral Team or the Pastoral Council. It will only be successful if parishioners see the need to do more and put their time, talents and skills to use in our parishes.

Pastoral Programme

There are two main objectives for the programme for now:

- to build up the parishes as vibrant and supportive communities
- to reach out to others, especially those who are baptised as Catholics and do not practise their faith

These two objectives go hand in hand and we cannot have one without the other. While we need to take action that builds us up as communities of faith, our view is not inward looking, but we look outwards to those who live in here in this part of Clydebank and beyond. Only if we make our parishes places of welcome and love will we support each other and give the sort of witness that will draw others in. Both of these objectives fit with what the Bishops across the world have been discussing at the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome – the New Evangelisation. We are conscious that this year is a Year of Faith, a year when Pope Benedict XVI is inviting us to deepen our faith in a very real way. Our programme reflects this and the actions set out for 2012-13 will have the Year of Faith as a common theme.

This is an outline programme. It does not set out everything that we will do as parishes over the next three years. We will try some things that will not succeed as we wish. The important thing is that we will keep on trying together to build up the parishes and reach out to others.

In the table on the next page we set out the programme for action for each of the next three years. For many of the areas of the programme we will be taking action over each of the three years. For some areas, though, we will either spend time to prepare (like the parish mission planned for 2014-15) or else we will take forward action in 2012-13 / 2013-14 and then learn from this before taking forward further action.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
	The Year of Faith		
Spiritual Life			
Additional prayer services <i>providing different opportunities for</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retreats	Yes	Yes	
Parish mission		preparation	Yes
Youth Liturgies		Yes	
Faith awareness <i>using as many opportunities as possible to deepen our understanding and</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community / Social			
Support existing groups	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support older people <i>try different ways to provide addition-</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full parish social events	Yes (1)	Yes (2)	
Youth clubs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parish trips <i>Including day trips / pilgrimages, trip</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deepening Faith			
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults <i>for adults who want to become full</i>	preparation	Yes	
Talks <i>to help us understand different as-</i>	Yes	Yes	
Faith awareness <i>using as many opportunities as possible to deepen our understanding and</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Preparation for Sacraments	Yes	Yes	Yes
Caritas	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reaching Out			
Website / e-mail	Yes	Yes	Yes
Volunteer opportunities <i>encouraging as many as possible to use their talents and skills for the</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parish meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distribute newsletter / card	Yes	Yes	Yes

Putting the Programme into Action

This programme is achievable. This programme sets out what parishioners suggested at the parish meetings we held in June this year. However, the programme will not be put into action unless all parishioners are willing to do more to build up the parishes and to reach out to others. We have many dedicated and talented people in our parishes who are able to put their time, talents and skills to use in new ways. This programme will be nothing unless parishioners are prepared to lend a hand and do more. So in the weeks and months ahead everyone in the parishes will be called upon to do their bit to put the programme into action.

The Parishes' Pastoral Council will use this programme as a basis for the work that it will do in supporting the Pastoral team and the parishes.

This pastoral programme is a programme for our two parishes. It is your programme. If you want comment on this programme or make a suggestion, please speak to Canon Tartaglia, Fr Gargaro, Deacon Frank or Sister Marie.

Some of our Parishes' Groups

Pastoral Council
Finance Committee
Music Ministry
200 Club
Church Carers
Church Flowers
Parish Catechesis
Pre-Baptism Programme
Social Committee
Mission Group

Children's Liturgy
St Vincent de Paul
Readers
Sunday Teas (5 groups)
Eucharistic Ministers
Younger Youth Group
Core Youth Group
Older Youth Group
Altar Servers
Sacristans

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