

Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St. Drostan

73 Commerce Street
Fraserburgh AB43 9LR

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Murphy
Tel: 01346 518215 email: peterfraser@rcda.scot

Parish Pastoral Council Chairpersons:
Peterhead: Currently Vacant
Fraserburgh: Bob Watson, Tel: 07423060608
Web Site: <https://peterfraserparish.rcda.scot>

St. Mary's

64 St Peter Street
Peterhead
AB42 1QB

PETERHEAD

Stewards

Sunday 23rd Jan: Terry Moran & Juliet Grant
Sunday 30th Jan: Kasia & Marcia & Nicola Noga

Readers

Vigil Mass 22nd Jan: Cheryl Murray
Sunday 23rd Jan: Juliet Grant
Vigil Mass 29th Jan: Helen Noble
Sunday 30th Jan: Margaret Wyness

Monthly Income from Standing Orders: £390.00
Offertory Collection Sunday 9th Jan: £264.19

The Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator is Mrs Majella Morrison: 01771 278126; stmarypeterheadPSC@rcd-abdn.org

FRASERBURGH

Stewards

Sunday 23rd January: Norma Bisset & Dannie Tom
Sunday 30th January: Gwen Craigie & Cirila Webster

Readers

Sunday 23rd Jan: Bob Watson
Sunday 30th Jan: Jolanta Katiniene

Monthly Income from Standing Orders: £470.00
Offertory Collection Sunday 9th Jan: £85.73

The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is Mrs Anne Reilly: 01771 623029; fraserburghPSC@rcd-abdn.org

OTHER NOTICES

Covid closures. Apologies for the cancellation of Masses last week and in the week to come. As you know, this is because Fr. Bruno tested positive last weekend and unfortunately was still testing positive after a week of (mild) illness. Our sincere gratitude goes to Bishop Hugh for standing in at the last minute on Sunday 9th. Unfortunately, there are no priests available to cover Masses this weekend or during the coming week, but **things should be back to normal by Saturday 22nd**. Thanks for your patience.

Our main feature this week is a Pastoral Letter from our Bishop, Hugh Gilbert OSB:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you have been refreshed by the celebrations of Christmas and New Year.

As you know, Pope Francis has invited the whole Church to embark on a "synodal journey", one that

will climax at the next Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

This is new language for us. What is it about? The English words "synod", "synodal", "synodality" have roots in the ancient languages. There, they suggest "travelling together" and "meeting together". The early Church used them.

At the organisational level, "Synods", meetings of bishops and others, have been a feature of Church life ever since. They were called to discuss major issues and come to good decisions. At a deeper level though, these words can help us see what the Church is. According to St John Chrysostom, "Church" is "a name for travelling together" – being synodal. The Church is the community of believers, an organic whole, the People of God, the Body of Christ, a "sacrament of unity". The Church is all of us who believe, and she and we are on a common journey through time to eternity, through the ups and downs of history, to the heavenly Jerusalem God will show us. She "presses forwards", as St Augustine says, "between the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God". Through her missionary activity, she works to draw the whole of humanity with her. The Lord appointed the apostles to lead and guide her in his name, a role passed on to the bishops and their helpers in the priesthood and diaconate. The Church is hierarchical in structure. At the same time, though, she can be called "synodal". We "are all companions on the way", wrote St Ignatius of Antioch, "God-bearers and temple-bearers, Christ-bearers, bearers of holy things". We are all responsible for one another, fellow-travellers, bearing one another's burdens. "A single Christian is no Christian", wrote St Cyprian. "In the one Spirit, says St Paul, we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit". And St John: "you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge". So, whatever the variety of vocations and graces, offices and ministries among us, all Christians "are called, each according to his or her particular condition, to exercise the mission which God entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world". Before and after all the distinctions, there is what we have in common: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all". We are members of one Body moved by the one Holy Spirit. And generation after generation we make our way, side by side, from this world to the Father.

The Holy Father wants this self-awareness to revive in us. He is echoing the Second Vatican Council and its teaching. He wants the Church to fire on all cylinders, to mobilise its full potential. He is hoping for a new culture among us: not passivity but

engagement, not isolation but participation, with clericalism and sectarianism left in the past. Like all humanity, the Church is not enjoying an easy passage at present. There have been self-inflicted wounds, internal divisions, pressures from a de-Christianised society and all the rest. The pandemic has not helped. There is general uncertainty about the future. In simple practical terms, the Pope wants us to respond by drawing closer together: to meet together in order to journey together better: to meet, listen and discern. A first stage in this will be meetings within the parishes and the different communities and associations in the diocese. These are now ready to begin. I do encourage you to take part. Our Diocesan Synodal Team has been working hard to find facilitators to guide discussions and has met with an enthusiastic response. Thank you to them! We are to ask ourselves what our experience of being a "synodal" Church is, how it falls short and how we might better it. The Pope calls for a process of discernment "that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God." So, it's good to begin with shared Bible reading and / or Eucharistic adoration. It's not about pressing our own agendas, but discovering the Lord's with the help of each other. In the Gospels, we see how our Lord interacted with his disciples, and in the Acts of the Apostles we see how the early Church responded to the challenges it faced. By means of these discussions, and further deanery and diocesan meetings, it is hoped that by mid-August we can arrive at some insights and decisions, and share these with other dioceses and finally with the whole Church.

And let's not forget: we are most "synodal" when, Sunday after Sunday, we meet together to celebrate the Eucharist!

We need be neither cynical nor in illusion about this process. Let us, rather, be realistic and hopeful. It is not about changing the essential nature of the Church or of submitting everything to majority votes. But neither is it about endorsing the status quo. It is about sharing what is in our hearts as members of the Church, and with the help of the Holy Spirit seeing more clearly what the Lord is inviting us to do at this time. It's to increase our joy in being members of the Church, heal wounds and rekindle our missionary zeal. Hidden in the language of synodality is the Greek word for "way" (hodos). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life". If we bring our water, he will turn it into his wine. May our efforts be blessed by God and bring us together along the way of Christ!

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+Hugh OSB

Sun 16 th Jan	No Mass	Fraserburgh 9.30am	Peterhead 11.30am
Note: There will also be no weekday Masses, Monday to Friday, 17th to 21st January			
Sat 22 nd Jan	Mass: Saturday in the 2 nd Week in Ordinary Time (Green)	Fraserburgh 9.30am	–
	Confessions:	F'burgh 11.30am - 12.15pm	P'head 5.45 - 6.15pm
	Vigil Mass: 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)	–	Peterhead 6.30pm
Sun 23 rd Jan	Mass: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)	Fraserburgh 9.30am	Peterhead 11.30am



"Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet"