

LITURGY FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (10.00 am Mass)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Here I am, Lord

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GLORIA

Give glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I had a vision of the Lord. He was on his throne high above, and his robe filled the temple. Flaming creatures with six wings each were flying over him and shouted to each other, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord All-Powerful! The earth is filled with your glory." As they shouted, the door of the temple shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. Then I cried out, "I'm doomed! Everything I say in sinful, and everyone around me is sinful too. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord All-Powerful." One of the flaming creatures flew over to me with a burning coal that it had taken from the altar with a pair of metal tongs. It touched my lips with the hot coal and said, "This has touched your lips. Your sins are forgiven, and you are no longer guilty." After this, I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" I replied, "Here I am! Send me."



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord,
the God of mercy, the God who saves.
I shall not fear the dark of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day.*

He will release me from the nets of all my foes.
He will protect me from their wicked hands.
Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice,
to find a dwelling place secure.

I need not shrink before the terror of the night,
nor stand alone before the light of day.
No harm shall come to me, no arrow strike me down,
no evil settle in my soul.

Although a thousand strong have fallen at my side,
I'll not be shaken with the Lord at hand.
His faithful love is all the armour that I need
to wage my battle with the foe.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:3-8.11

Brothers and sisters: I told you the most important part of the message and you believed it. That part is: Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say. He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life, as the Scriptures say. Christ appeared to Peter, then

to the twelve. After this, he appeared to more than five hundred other followers. Most of them are still alive, but some have died. He also appeared to James, and then to all of the apostles. Finally, he appeared to me, even though I am like someone who was born at the wrong time. But it doesn't matter if I preached or they preached. All of you believed the message just the same.

GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message. Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd. When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, "Row the boat out into deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish." "Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down." They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. Then they signalled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this happen, he kneeled down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner." Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too. Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish." The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus.



PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Take me, Lord

638

HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God almighty: (2)
who was and is, and is to come. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Blessed, blessed, blest is he who comes,
blest is he who comes in the Lord's name. (2)
Hosanna in the heights of heav'n. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

He is Lord! He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

GREAT AMEN

Amen, alleluia, for ever and ever, for ever, alleluia.
For ever and ever, Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Sing my soul

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*Our Lady and St Cuthbert's has permission to reproduce hymn words
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Parish of Our Lady and St Cuthbert

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Father Stephen G McGrattan

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

Telephone: 01655 882145

Fax: 01655 882173

Email: info@olasc.org.uk

Web: www.olasc.org.uk

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil at 6.30 pm

Sunday at 10.00 am

Weekday services

Monday to Friday at 9.00 am

Mass intentions this week:

Sat: Ellen Magee (Ann)

Sun: James McCarton (Ann)

Tue: James Davidson (Ann)

Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

Sacrament of Baptism

Forms available at the back of the church

Sacrament of Marriage

At least six months notice is required

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY)

Sunday 4th February 2007

Peter's weariness and experience tell the fisherman, who knew the Sea of Galilee well, that there were no fish to be had that night, but nevertheless he obeyed Jesus. He was well rewarded, as with his characteristic generosity, Jesus fills the nets to overflowing. And the spiritual result is as astonishing as the miracle. Peter's faith takes a mighty leap and without more ado enables him to leave everything and follow Jesus.

Just a few year's ago Pope John Paul II used this phrase "Go out into the deep" to launch his message of a new evangelisation – one which would reach the depths and heights of modern culture with the truth which alone could save people. The message is the exact same as that of Jesus, but the Holy Father encouraged us to find new ways of passing it on.

He wanted us to become a holy and prayerful people, so that we would not be afraid to go out into the deep waters of modern living and face whatever challenges lay ahead - priests and laity working together to be a light for our darkening world. If we obey Jesus, then he will fill our nets too. It takes courage to stand up for Christian beliefs in today's world. Really hearing and believing Christ's words will enable us to take a mighty leap of faith, to show God's love to a world which seldom wants to hear about it.

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing to David Kiltie
(882644 or david.kiltie@virgin.net)

Last week's collection £570.
Thank you.

CARDINAL'S FEARS FOR A 'NEW MORALITY'

The head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales has branded the decision of Prime Minister Tony Blair to give Catholic adoption agencies a two-year deadline to come into line with the Equality Act as the first move in the Government's attempt to remove religious people from public life.

A statement from Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said the Church was disappointed with the decision, saying that it was changing the boundaries of normality.

"This debate has raised crucial issues for the common good of our society," he said. "We believe there is an urgent task to reach a new consensus on how

best the public role of religious organisations can be safeguarded and their rights upheld."

Speaking on BBC radio the cardinal went further. He said: "Some legislation, however well intended, in fact does create a new kind of morality, a new kind of norm - as this does.

"Here the Catholic Church and its adoption services are wishing to act according to its principles and conscience and the government is saying: 'No, we won't allow you to... you have no space, you have no place in the public life of this country'.

"Now that seems to me to be just one step and there will be further ones."

150 CLUB ANNUAL DANCE

The 150 Club annual dance will take place on Friday 23rd February in the Speakers' Club from 8.00 pm until 12.30 am. Music will be provided by the band 'Something Else'. The ticket price is £2.50 for 150 Club members and £7.50 for non-members. Tickets are available from Jim McDermott, Dennis McCaffery and Kate Sprott, Irene Hewitt, Joan Robb and Elizabeth Meek.

The Arts and Crafts group will meet in the hall after the Children's Mass today. All children are welcome.

It is Our Lady and St Cuthbert's turn to lead the service at Fairknowe Nursing Home on Sunday 18th February at 3.00 pm. If you would be able to come along and read, sing or play an instrument please let Fr Stephen know. All are welcome to come and join in the service which is much appreciated by the residents.

BIBLE ALIVE

Bible alive is published every month and offers us a daily reflection on the Mass readings. It is a great help if you find it hard to focus on prayer. This magazine can be bought at the back of the church for £1.95.

Did you know our parish has a website? Visit us online at www.olasc.org.uk

A REQUEST OF ALL PARISHIONERS

Shortly the parish will publish a directory and yearbook explaining something of the life of the parish and giving details of the people who are responsible for carrying out the many ministries and tasks that keep our parish alive.



Since the parish is the people who are in it, I'd like to take a photo of as many people as possible in the parish after 10.00 am Mass today (4th February), and put it on the front cover of our directory.

Please don't be camera shy. You are part of the parish. Please wait behind for a few moments around the statue of the Virgin and we'll take a couple of photos for the new parish directory. Thanks. Fr Stephen.



The Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes will join Bishop Taylor to celebrate Mass for the World Day of the Sick at St Quivox' Church, Prestwick on Sunday 18th February at 3.00 pm. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be available during Mass. All, sick and healthy, are warmly invited to this Mass.

HALL DIARY

Thu 8th Feb, 6-8pm
Residents Association Youth Club

THIS IS CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK (4th-10th February): All pupils, parents, family members, teachers and others involved in Catholic education are invited to come and join in the celebration of Mass in Queen Margaret Academy on Tuesday 6th February at 7.00 pm. After Mass, tea and coffee will be available and there will be a disco for the pupils. Please make a special effort to come along and strengthen the links between families, parishes and school communities. Together this triangle spoils us with blessings and a sense of community: let's celebrate this. Please also read the Newsletter.

DIOCESAN STUDENTS' FOR THE PRIESTHOOD FUND: our annual collection for this Fund will be taken up on the weekend of February 17-18th. Could I urge those of you who are taxpayers to please use the yellow gift aid envelopes provided for this special collection — by doing so you will enable the Diocese to reclaim from the Inland Revenue 28p for every £1.00 you place within the envelope — at no extra cost to yourself. To reclaim the tax your name and address must be on the envelope.

CONGRATULATIONS to James Aaron McDill and his family as he is baptised this weekend and becomes a member of the parish community. Please pray for him to grow strong and to be content in life.

PLANNING AHEAD: It will soon be the season of Lent and then Easter and many things have to be prepared to celebrate these liturgies well. Would the following people please meet to help us prepare for this holy time of year at 11.20 am today, Sunday 4th February in the parish hall. Thank you. Eileen Hamilton, Ellen Hawkes, Nicola Lawrence (or a representative from the choir), Alex Kelly, Laura Kiltie, Denise McCaffery, Donna McKay, Robert Malone.

YOUTH EVENINGS: Fr Jim Hayes will host the next evening for the young people of the Diocese in St Mary's, Saltcoats on Sunday 11th February. The evening begins with Mass at 6.30 pm followed by time together in the hall until 9.30 pm. **All young people are welcome.** A bus will leave Our Lady and St Cuthbert's at 5.15 pm. Please phone Denise McCaffery (882760) if you'd like to book a place.

MUSIC MINISTRY EVENING: A Music Ministry event will be held on Wednesday 7 February at Smithstone House, Kilwinning from 6.45 pm for a 7.00 pm start to 9.30 pm. The main part of the evening will consist of music ideas for Lent and Holy Week. For further information contact Nicola Lawrence.

FEBRUARY'S BUILDING FUND collection will be taken up at Masses this weekend. Thank you for your continuing support.

150 CLUB WINNERS: £25 Sharon McDill; £15 Ellen Mackie; £10 Rosemary Bone

CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS are on sale at the back of the church. There is a lovely selection of quality birthday, for wedding and wedding anniversary, get well soon, thinking of you, baptism, communion, Mother's Day, sympathy and Mass cards. Please have a look.

MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Please contact Alex Kelly (882970) if you are unable to minister at a Saturday Mass and Nancy Flanagan (882458) if you are unable to minister at a Sunday Mass. All ministers are asked to gather in the sacristy five minutes before Mass for a moment of prayer together.

5th Sunday in Ord Time	READER	BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	PROCESSION OF GIFTS	SERVERS
27th Jan	Alex Meek	Stuart Green	John Malone Angela Kirkpatrick	Alex Kelly Jim Campbell	By invitation	Patrick & Roisin McCallum Simone McCahill
28th Jan	Paige Campbell	Rhiain Collins	Margaret Kiltie Ellen Hawkes	Dennis McCaffery Tony Kerrigan	By invitation	Justin McQuillan, Liam Menzies, Chloe Brownlee, Ross Malone
6th Sunday in Ord Time	READER	BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	PROCESSION OF GIFTS	SERVERS
11th Feb	Margaret Boyce	Alex Meek	Jim Hawkes Maureen Hay	Robin Donald Kate Sprott	By invitation	Amy & Paul Strang Owen & Phoebe McDowall
12th Feb	Gillian Thomson	Jim McDermott	Elizabeth Meek Eileen Hamilton	Jim Campbell Chic McDermott	By invitation	Jonathan Lewis, Ross Malone, Liam Menzies, Justin McQuillan



Father Andrew McKenzie, the national director of *Priests for Scotland*, is arranging an Enquirer's Retreat from 16th to 18th March. This is a weekend of prayer and reflection and has been arranged to assist anyone who may be considering applying to serve as a priest in Scotland. This weekend is not part of the application process but simply an offer to men of 'time-out' to consider whether God is calling them to consider serving as a priest. The enquirer's retreat will begin on Friday 16th March at 6.30 pm and finish on Sunday 18th March at 2.00 pm. If you know of anyone whom you think would like to take part please contact the Priests for Scotland office either by telephone 0141 554 6936 or by email amckenzie@pfs.org.uk. You can also speak to Father Stephen for more details. Enquirers must be over seventeen years of age.



Members of the British Legion and community gathered on Saturday 27th January for a service of commemoration of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The service was led by Rev Dave Whitemann and Fr Stephen McGrattan.

“Christ is risen. Let the people of the third millennium not be afraid to open their hearts to him. His Gospel totally quenches the thirst for peace and happiness that is found in every human heart. Christ is now alive and he walks with us. What an immense mystery of love!”

Benedict XVI
Easter 2006

Teachers are:
agents of transformation;
inspirers of wonder;
encouragers of potential;
messengers of meaning;
nurturers of witnesses;
healers of fear;
prophets to the nation;
co-creators with God.

“... the educational task of the family and that of the school complement one another in many concrete areas...”

Congregation for Catholic Education

COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Learning in the 21st century is about being able to access and communicate knowledge and understanding from many different sources, some of which we could barely have imagined a generation ago.

The way schools provide resources and opportunities for the sophisticated learning of this century is changing.

It is in this context that South Ayrshire Council are preparing to assess future educational needs. Such an assessment will take into account falling school rolls and school buildings that are deteriorating faster than they can be improved.

As the Council takes stock, it first wants to explore all possibilities open to it. Parents, staff, students, school boards and anyone else interested in the schools estate are invited to share their views on the subject.

The kind of issues that parents and communities will be invited to consider include: Are school catchment areas correctly designated? Are the locations of schools suitable? Do we have the appropriate number of schools in the area? What should be done about under occupancy in some schools? Are the present arrangements for school transport acceptable? How should school provision be linked to the availability of other Council facilities in the area?

South Ayrshire Council is hosting public meetings in local areas to provide more information to help people share their views. Bishop Cunningham will submit his own view based on discussion at public meetings already taken place in each of the parishes. He favours an all-through campus providing nursery, primary and secondary education for all Catholic primary and secondary age pupils in Ayr on the site of Queen Margaret Academy.

Please take seriously the invitation of the Council to share your own views. You can use the form inserted in this newsletter to do this. More information is available at <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/2006/educationfuture.htm>

SCHOOLS SCOTLAND (PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT) ACT 2006

The Act strengthens the framework for supporting parental involvement in school education. It aims to help schools, education authorities and others to engage parents meaningfully in the education of their children and in the wider school community. It requires Scottish Ministers and education authorities to promote the involvement of parents in children's education at publicly funded schools. It aims to help parents to be:

- involved with their child's education and learning
- welcomed as active participants in the life of the school and
- encouraged to express their views on school education generally and work in partnership with the school.

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of education.

The active involvement of parents in the life of the school can help promote a learning community in which pupils can engage positively with school staff and their peers. Schools can benefit from developing positive partnerships with parents by involving them in all decisions affecting their children's education and learning.



From the Chaplain...

I count my Catholic education among the greatest gifts given me in life. Although I probably took it for granted when at St Peter's Primary School in Ardrossan, I remember a real sense of belonging not just to a school community but to a school community that was a lively part of the parish and wider community. I was very fortunate that my parents took me to church and encouraged me to be involved in parish life. I went to the Youth Club, I served at the altar, I read at Mass, I was part of the music group: all experiences that helped me better understand my faith.

That sense of belonging grew wider at St Andrew's Academy, Saltcoats. There, priests and parishioners from all the parishes were involved in school life. In school, integrated with our learning, we'd focus on justice and pro-life issues, fundraise for those in need, prepare and celebrate Masses, take part in Caring Church Week and residential retreats. At no time was our faith disconnected from the many aspects of school life.

Faith support continued during my years at Glasgow University: through an active Chaplaincy I was able to meet with others who shared the Catholic faith and it was there I explored a vocation to priesthood. From Glasgow I went to Salamanca in Spain to study at the Pontifical University.

Now ordained a priest, I look back and thank God for all those seeds of faith planted throughout my learning years, in the home, in school, in the parish at University, in seminary. God makes them bear fruits every day as I minister to and work with people. It is now time for me, with teachers, parents and others, to work to plant the seeds of faith in a new generation of young people and offer them some of the many great opportunities given to us.

For more information about chaplaincy contact Fr Stephen McGrattan on 01655 882145 or at info@olasc.org.uk.



4th - 10th February 2007

Catholic Education Week

St Margaret's Deanery

FROM MOIRA GRAY, THE NEW HEAD TEACHER OF QUEEN MARGARET ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Guardians/Parishioners,

My name is Moira Gray and I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of Head Teacher of Queen Margaret Academy.

A school does not exist in isolation. Queen Margaret Academy is very much a partnership between pupil, parent, staff and Church. Clearly this is a very successful partnership in the case of our school and I am privileged to be part of it.

I have been teaching for more years than I care to remember. I began teaching in Glasgow in 1975, in the English and History departments of All Saints' Secondary School in the north of the city. I moved to Linwood in Renfrewshire, the following year when I married.

Following the birth of the first of my three sons, Ewan in 1979, I became a house mum for one year only and thereafter worked part-time in adult education and schools, in a variety of capacities including Support for Learning, for several years. During this time Gregor came along in 1981 and Colin in 1989.

I began working full time again in 1989 and was promoted as Senior Teacher English to St Andrew's Academy in 1991.

Three years later I became Principal teacher of English in St Andrew's and two years later I was invited to take up a twenty-three months secondment as staff tutor in English, Social Subjects and Support for Learning. I was also link officer for a 'cluster' and for several schools for children with moderate to severe learning difficulties, and hearing and visual impairment. From that time on I have maintained a great interest in children with learning difficulties.



On my return to St Andrew's Academy I became Assistant Head Teacher and subsequently Depute Head Teacher and I worked closely with Primary and Secondary pupils and the school 'cluster'. I also was in charge of pupils with special educational needs and behavioural needs. I particularly love this aspect of my job.

As I stated previously I feel extremely privileged to have become a member of your community. Catholic education is very blessed and very special. I would urge you to promote it and to cherish it and I look forward to working with you to that end. I will come to visit the parishes in the very near future. I look forward to meeting you then.

Best wishes,
Moira (Gray)

Catholic Education Week 2007: Partnership in Faith

What is Catholic Education Week? In short it is a celebration of the distinct and life-giving identity of our Catholic schools. What gives us that identity? It is given by honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Our identity is characterised by a commitment to the formation of the whole child in partnership with parents or carers as the first educators of their children. Because each child is made in God's image, the people in our schools work to honour the life, dignity and

voice of each young person. Religious education, celebration of Mass, daily prayer, sharing of the faith tradition, sacramental life and social teaching of the Church all contribute to an understanding and living out of Gospel values. This helps to build a culture of respect for all those we meet in our day-to-day lives.



The particular focus of Catholic Education Week 2007 is on the role of parents

and carers as partners in the education and formation of their children in faith.

They should be the first teachers who introduce their children to Jesus and sustain them in a Christian life within their family. They undertake this role in the context of a society that does not always understand or value the Christian lifestyle today.

The Church has a responsibility to support and guide parents and families who can have difficulty in explaining Christian beliefs and Church teaching with sufficient confidence.

Catholic Education Week 2007: A journey around our schools featuring the representatives of the Pupil Councils

St Ann's Primary, Mossblown



Here at St Ann's Primary the children are busy learning about 20th Century Scots. As it is also soon the anniversary of Robert Burns, our local bard, the pupils are once again learning Scottish poetry and songs. The Primary 5-7 class are busy making arrangements too for our annual Burns Supper, which will be held in the school on Friday afternoon. The children make the supper, and this year Primary 6 will also be cooking a German recipe "Westphalian Potato Soup" as our starter, as part of their European project. This will be followed by our usual "Haggis Pies", irn-bru and shortbread. Entertainment will be provided for our guests with the usual toasts, Scottish poetry and songs, and some musical accompaniment.

St Cuthbert's Primary, Maybole



The pupils and staff of St. Cuthbert's Primary are getting in training to take part in our sponsored Skip Off in aid of the British Heart Foundation on Thursday 8th February. During the course of the week the children will also be finding out about the things we can do to help maintain a healthy heart.

Peter Minting from the Ayrshire Rivers Trust is coming to talk to the Primary 6-7 pupils about the "Salmon in the Classroom" Project to discuss threats to wildlife such as pollution, habitat loss and over-fishing. The project will also involve the children on field trips to help release fish back into a local stream or river.

St John's Primary, Ayr

A new year started with the community of St John's school welcoming Good Shepherd Primary School into its building. Apart from a few technical issues, all children and staff are working to-

gether to build a future for all our children.

On Friday we come together for a Scottish Day, sharing out talents, our songs and musical abilities with each other – tartan is the order of the day.



Recently parents and pupils debated much over the values of our school, which are all embedded in a Catholic Ethos.

- We are enthusiastic about the way we learn
- We respect every person, school property and the Golden Rules.
- We are responsible for our own actions.
- We are motivated about all our lessons and we try to do our best work.
- We tell the truth, we give anything we find to a teacher.
- We treat others as our equals.

The theme this year of Catholic Education Week is Partnership in Faith, a mission in St John's we take seriously. Thank you parents and community for your continued support in sending your child to a Catholic school.

Saint Patrick's Primary, Troon



We welcomed new Depute Headteacher, Mrs Maltby, in August. St Patrick's Primary School enjoyed notable successes in the past year. Our football squad won the Ayrshire Small Schools' Cup Final in June and were also runners-up in the South Ayrshire Craigue Cup Final, losing only on penalties. This January our quiz team won the South Ayrshire heat of the Euroquiz competition and will go to the national final next June in Edinburgh. Fantastic sums continue to be raised for charity including: Advent, £1800.00 for the Wayside for the homeless in Glasgow and last Lent, £1500.00 for Father Leopold in Mali.

Sacred Heart Primary, Girvan



Daniel, Emma, Natalie and Edward of our Pupil Council successfully gained the funding for an eco-friendly proposal. The upper primary playground will soon have new recycling/waste bins to help our school environment.

On Friday 26th January we held a very special assembly to commemorate the poet Rabbin Burns. The winners of each class competition recited their poems to the audience and received a Burns Federation Certificate of Merit. Two specially invited guests from Carrick Burns Club piped in The Haggis and made the address to the haggis.

Congratulations go to Celese McGarvie and Josh Sloan of Primary 6. Following completion of successful application forms they have been chosen to become the first Junior Road Safety Officers for Sacred Heart Primary.

St Ninian's Primary, Prestwick



Throughout December our Primary 5 and 6 classes did some choral entertainment, raising funds for Hansel Village, at the Biggart Hospital, the Kyle Centre, Ayr and at Prestwick Airport. In September Primary 7 with the help of the School staff raised over £800 at The Macmillan Coffee Morning. Primary 1 invited their parents to join them in a Prayer Service. Having learned some prayers they were able to show how they had settled into St Ninian's. Primary 2 have for several years had "Granny Day". They invite their granny to school for afternoon tea, the pupils entertain them with songs that they have learned especially for them and they find out what life was like for their grannies at school and what games they played. Primary 4 have made their Reconciliation and are preparing for First Communion and Confirmation. At Christmas the whole school entertained their parents but Primary 3 and 4 performed "The Stable Story" which was a reminder to us all the true meaning of Christmas.

Good Shepherd Primary, Ayr



All the staff and children are settling into their new rooms in St John's School and are making lots of new friends in the playground. Everyone is helping us to find our way round the school and feel at home. The children who are receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion have a big part to play at the Education Sunday Mass in the Cathedral. They will be welcome, read the intercessions and bring the gifts to the altar. We are all looking forward to visiting the Science Centre in Glasgow next month as part of our Science Topics.

Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr

Queen Margaret Academy welcomes our new Head Teacher Mrs Gray who joins us from St Andrew's in Paisley, following the retirement of Mr McEwan. Mr McEwan was Head Teacher in the school for more than ten years. We thank him and wish him a happy retirement.



Queen Margaret Academy also welcomes a number of Polish pupils who are pictured above.

On St Margaret's Day a special Mass is celebrated for the whole school by the school chaplain, Fr Stephen McGrattan, and the other priests of the Deanery. In the afternoon, the pupils enjoy a number of recreational activities such as swimming and skating.

Pictured below are some of the members of our school council.



FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW ON THE EDUCATION ESTATE INFORMATION SHEET



What are we trying to achieve?

Our overall objective is reflected in the National document Better Buildings, Better Learning and Better Futures. To achieve this South Ayrshire Council has to ensure the best use of resources available and where possible seek to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The Council has not yet used the opportunity offered by falling school rolls to rationalise provision and to improve the quality of the buildings and our school building stock is generally in a poor condition and is deteriorating faster than it can be improved. Basically, efforts to maintain quantity are compromising the long term quality of the provision.

In order to address this issue the Council is assessing its future education needs on an area basis and is inviting parents, staff, students, school boards, and anyone else directly or indirectly interested in the Council's school education estate, to participate by playing a major role in deciding how best the Council should configure the educational provision within each area.

The kind of issues that parents and communities will be invited to consider include: Are school catchment areas correctly designated? Are the locations of schools suitable? Do we have the appropriate number of schools in the area? What should be done about under occupancy in some schools? Are the present arrangements for school transport acceptable? How should school provision be linked to the availability of other Council facilities in the area?

Attached is area information on the education estate, libraries and leisure, which should assist you in deciding how we might proceed.

What is the process?

During the next six months, the Council will be engaging in discussion on the education provision in a total of five individual geographical areas within South Ayrshire: Ayr area, Troon area, Girvan area, Prestwick area and the Maybole area. Meetings have been arranged for each area to give individuals and groups the opportunity to engage with the Council in discussing the future of the education estate. The individual meetings will provide an opportunity for officers to give information about the aim of the exercise, the data available and the details on how comments/suggestions can be submitted. It is important to point out that at this time there are no specific proposals being offered for consideration.

All the suggestions that we receive will be given careful consideration and will assist the Council in developing a strategic plan for the educational estate.

How can I make a submission?

If you would like to make a suggestion or comment on how the education provision within South Ayrshire or within your local area can be improved please write to the Director of Education, Culture and Lifelong Learning, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA19 7DN or e-mail one of the addresses overleaf. Please feel free to use the pro-forma printed overleaf to submit any comments. Submissions can be made at anytime during the six month discussion period up until the end of April 2007. Due to the large scale of this exercise it will not be possible to enter into individual correspondence in any detail and therefore all submissions will be acknowledged only.

When will I know the outcome of the exercise?

The outcome of the discussion exercise will be reported to the Elected Members' of South Ayrshire Council in June 2007. This will be in the form of a report reflecting on the information gathered and containing recommendations on how the Council should proceed. The report will be made available to the public. Thank you for your help in this important exercise.

FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW ON THE EDUCATION ESTATE - RESPONSE PRO-FORMA

Name of Person/Group making the submission		Area:	
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Address:		Post Code:	
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Category of individual/group *(please tick as appropriate)*

Parent School Board Church/Religious Group Community Group

School Trade Union/Professional Association Parents Association

NHS Police Fire Brigade Voluntary Organisation Pupil

Other individual/Group *(please state)* _____

Comments

Please continue on a separate sheet in necessary.

Your response can be sent to the Director of Education, Culture and Lifelong Learning at County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR or e-mailed to:

Ayr Area - ayrareaconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
 Troon Area - troonareaconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
 Girvan Area - girvanareaconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
 Prestwick Area - prestwickareaconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
 Maybole Area - mayboleareaconsultation@south-ayrshire.gov.uk