



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenston

# 13th September 2020

## Twenty Fourth Sunday of Year A



Our Lady Star of the Sea  
Saltcoats

**Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland**

St John's, Hayocks Road, Stevenston, KA20 4DE

Tel No: 01294 463225

St John's Parish website: [www.stevenstonjohns.com](http://www.stevenstonjohns.com)

**Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland**

St Mary's, 10 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats KA21 5BW

Tel No: 01294 463461

St Mary's Parish website: [www.rcsaltcoats.com](http://www.rcsaltcoats.com)

Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula: Pastoral Assistants to the Three Towns

Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

**MASS TIMES: Please remember to book**

	<b>St John's</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass
Tuesday	_____	10am Mass	_____
Wednesday	10am Mass	_____	10am Mass
Thursday	_____	10am Mass	_____
Friday	10am Mass	_____	10am Mass
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass	5.30pm Vigil Mass

### Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only

**COVID-19.** In order to fulfil all the Government requirements for people to attend Mass you will need to sanitise your hands, wear a face covering and sit in the designated seat which you have booked. **To book a place in St Mary's Church please phone the parish office on 463461 between Monday and Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm. To book a place in St John's please phone Teresa Thornton on 07564 903 401 between Monday and Friday 9.30am and 2.30pm. To book a place in St. Peter's please call the Parish Office, Monday to Friday between 9am and 11am; and you will be asked for a contact number in order that track and trace can be achieved if necessary. This register/data will be kept for 3 weeks and then destroyed. Please do not attend either church unless you have made a booking beforehand. Please allow time before Mass for the steward to show you to your place and remember livestreaming starts 5 minutes before Mass.** At present a funeral Mass is still restricted to 20 people and this would take precedence over a weekday Mass. To enable our churches to open for Mass we require welcomers, stewards and cleaners as the church requires to be cleaned after every Mass. If you can assist please let us know using these contact numbers provided. We will be livestreaming all our Masses in both churches you can

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.** Thank you to those who pay by Standing Order, in order to do so details are available from the parish office. The Diocese also has a facility online where you can contribute to your parish by debit card. The Link for the Diocese page is : <http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/parish-collections>. Our specific links for St Mary's and St John's can be found on either rcsaltcoats or rcstevenston link and follow below the instructions. <https://tinyurl.com/rcsaltcoats> <https://tinyurl.com/rcstevenston>. You can also use the QR codes in the same way as web links, which can be found on both websites.

Because of Covid-19 our parish/hall income has fallen dramatically so your support is especially appreciated.

**BULLETINS.** A few bulletins will be left in both Churches at the exit door, please help yourself or pass them to someone who would appreciate a newsletter or ask the parish office to send you one out.

**DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY NEWSLETTER.** Digital copies are available on both parish websites, or if you wish a paper copy please contact the parish office.

**RETIRED PRIESTS SPECIAL COLLECTION.** This collection is overdue. Contributions can be made between now and the end of the month either in the basket in Church or left at both parish houses. Gift Aid envelopes are available for this collection.

**THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:**

**Anniversaries:** Margaret McGee, Tracey Lafferty Fitzsimmons, David Dunbar, Jean Tortolano, Frances Young and Charlotte Mitchell

**Recently deceased:** Monica Murray and Tommy McAteer

*Masses are celebrated also by Fr Gerard McCabe plus Retired Priests, Missio Scotland (Pontifical Mission Societies).*

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** 20th September 2020; 25th Sunday of Year A; Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 1:20-24.27; Matthew 20:1-6

**\*The new terms of the Data Protection Regulation prevent us from publishing the names of the sick either in electronic form or in paper form in the bulletin.**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH/HOUSE/HALL.** Following a spate of vandalism and unruly behaviour affecting our property I will be grateful if people be vigilant of any unwanted activity and if you witness anything please contact Police Scotland on 101. Remember that all damage and repairs have to be paid from parish funds.

**FIRST EUCHARIST.** The celebration of First Eucharist in St Mary's will take place during October divided between five masses and St John's will take place on 26th September at 10am and 1.30pm.

**C.L.A.S.P. Community Led Action and Support Project.** For details of befriending and digital support service Telephone Liz on 07464206592 or email [liz@clasps.org.uk](mailto:liz@clasps.org.uk). You will then be allocated a Telephone Befriender or a Digital Befriender to give you support during this crisis. Keep Safe.

**SCIAF.** The Government has extended their match-funding arrangement with SCIAF until the end of September. If you have a SCIAF box to return or wish to make a donation please ensure we have it by the end of this week.

**DRUMALIS.** The closure of the house will be until the Spring of 2021. Courses will be held through Zoom until November 2020. For more information and payment details please phone 028 28272196/28276455.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Can you help with stewarding people to their seats, helping to clean the church (a requirement after every Mass and takes about 20 minutes), or willing to help with live-streaming Mass? Without people helping to steward or clean our churches they will not be open as frequently. Call the numbers already given if you can assist.

**ST MARY'S SVDP.** Please call 07379400568. **ST JOHN'S SVDP.** Please call 07498501326.

**FOOD BANK, STEVENSTON AND SALTCOATS.** Phone the Three Towns Hub on **310000** from 9am to 1pm. Groceries will be delivered to your house.

**WEST COAST FURNITURE BANK.** This is a charity which distributes donated household items to families in need. An estimated 40% of the donations have come from readers of this bulletin. George would like to thank everyone for their generosity. The contact number is 07576 232 969.

**EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME.** North Ayrshire Council is assisting EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to apply for Settled Status which will allow you to stay in the UK after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Full details on how to apply can be found at the back of both churches or at: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/eu-settlement-scheme.aspx>.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION.** We meet on Monday evenings at 7pm. If you would like to participate please phone Danny on 0797 954 2319.

**SEASON OF CREATION.** For a programme of events please see both Church noticeboards and on the websites or follow link: [www.seasonofcreation.org/catholic/](http://www.seasonofcreation.org/catholic/)

**POPE FRANCIS** explains the importance of forgiveness. *God forgets the terrible stories of so many sinners, of our sins. He forgives us and keeps going. He asks only this, "Do the same: learn to forgive, do not carry this cross of hatred, rancour, of 'you are going to pay for this.'" These words are neither Christian nor human.*

*The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. Mahatma Gandhi*

**POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.** *Respect for the Planet's Resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.*

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:**



**For all the sick in our parishes\***

**Wedding Anniversary:** Tommy & Beatrice McCann (46th)

**Special Intention:** Thanksgiving

**Those who have an anniversary:** Margaret McGee, Tracey Lafferty Fitzsimmons, David Dunbar, Jean Tortolano, Frances Young, Charlotte Mitchell, May Rourke, Catherine Bannerman, Tommy Kirk and Emily McCarney.

**Those who have died recently:** Monica Murray, Tommy McAteer, Michael McGarrigle, Danny McGoogan (Snr), James Havlin, John (Jake) Alcroft, Catherine McFadden (Fr McFadden's Mother), Marellen McEvoy, John McLaughlan, Margaret Timmons (Dunfermline), Fr Con Botter, Stephen Slavin, Nicolas Grein (Luxembourg), Carol Clarke (Norwich), John Kelly and Lorraine Steele (Fr Jim Hayes' Sister).

**GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

The Regulation came into force on Friday 25th May 2018, and gives individuals greater rights and control over the use of their personal information. Your privacy is important to the Parish Communities of St. John's and St. Mary's. We use the personal data, provided by you for Pastoral support and the administration of weekly collections. The information is held securely and confidentially in electronic or paper format. We will not share this information with third parties without your prior consent. A fuller Privacy Notice is now available on the Diocesan website. [www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr)



**First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence. **The Word of the Lord**

**PSALM**

**R/ The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R/**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R/**
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R/**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R/**

**Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. **The Word of the Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-25**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. ‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And this is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’



**PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

The first reading from Ecclesiasticus begins, ‘Resentment and anger, these are foul things, /and both are found with the sinner’. Is there resentment or anger you have been hanging onto that you’re ready to let go of with God’s help?

Ecclesiasticus also prompts us to ‘remember the last things, and stop hating’. Where is there a relationship in your life that you would like to heal or strengthen.

Jesus ends the parable today, ‘that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you,/unless you each forgive your brother from your heart’. How do you understand Jesus’ words, to forgive ‘from your heart’?

What has helped you when you found it difficult to forgive others for the harm they had done?

**Neighbouring Parishes:**  
**Father Duncan McVicar, St Peter’s, Ardrossan 464063. Father Gerard Magee, St Winin’s, Kilwinning 552276.**  
**RC Chaplain at Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals is Deacon Bill Corbett 01292 521208**  
**Going into Hospital? Ask Canon Poland for the Anointing of the Sick before you are admitted.**  
**Ask the ward Sister to let Deacon Corbett know you are admitted and would appreciate a routine visit.**  
**In an emergency situation ask the nurse on duty for the priest-on-call to be paged.**

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### **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS - MISSION STATEMENT**

The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. As a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us, ordained, professed, paid and voluntary members, to work together to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and vulnerable adults.