



St John the Evangelist
Stevenson

28th November 2021 First Sunday of Advent Year C

Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland

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

Tel No: 01294 463225

St John's Parish website: www.stevensonstjohns.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

Assisted by Fr Benjamin Mkeri CSSp

and Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula

Canon Matt McManus (Retired)



Our Lady Star of the Sea
Saltcoats

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	—————	—————	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	—————	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	—————	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	—————	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

L = LIVESTREAMED

MONDAY. Gospel Reflection livestreamed at 7pm. Why not join us ?

SYNOD TOPIC THREE - SPEAKING OUT: We are invited to speak out boldly and responsibly. *What helps us to do this? What prevents us from doing this? How does the relationship with local media work (not only Catholic media)? How well do we choose the people who speak on our behalf to the wider community?* Fr. Stephen Latham has created a short video reflection, which is available on the diocesan webpage gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news, and at <https://youtu.be/pSHHnlns15U>, to help you consider these questions. The diocesan team will be pleased to receive all feedback on these questions at synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk, which will also be addressed during parish synod encounters in the coming weeks.

Next week: Synod topic four - Celebration

The Synod Co-ordinators for our parishes will be Danny Murray and Mary Theresa Russell for St John's and Peter Timmons and Margaret Millar for St Mary's. Details of the consultations will be provided soon.

CHRISTMAS MASSES. St John's: 5pm and 7pm Vigil Masses and 10am Christmas Day Mass. St Mary's: 5pm & 7pm Vigil Masses and 11am Christmas Day Mass.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES. Monday 13th December at 7pm in St Peter's Ardrossan; Tuesday 14th December at 7pm in St John's Stevenston and Wednesday 15th December at **2pm** in St Mary's Saltcoats

CATHOLIC EDUCATION. This weekend we welcome speakers from St Matthew's Academy and St Anthony's PS to our 4.30am Vigil and 10am Mass and speakers from St John's PS to our 11.30am Mass

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION. Is now being collected and for the next few weeks.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Special Intentions: Birthday Int and Sick.

Anniversaries: Tom Gordon (10th), McConnell & Wylie families, Mary Hamilton, Bert White and Finnegan Family.

Recently deceased: Mary Curran (Donegal), John Mullen (Irvine), Marjorie Jane Gallagher (Milton of Campsie) and Sheila McLellan

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Second Sunday of Advent Year C: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes and those with COVID-19*

Special Intentions: Birthday Int and Sick.

Those who have an anniversary: Tom Gordon (10th), McConnell & Wylie families, Mary Hamilton, Bert White and Finnegan Family. Burns family, Fitzpatrick family, Catherine Pllu, Kathleen Poland, John Maxwell and Hannah Kirk.

Those who have died recently: Mary Curran (Donegal), John Mullen (Irvine), Marjorie Jane Gallagher (Milton of Campsie) and Sheila McLellan, Michael McGrail, Peter Butterly, Madge McGuire, Mr T. Ross and Alison Reid.

NEW WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES. Are still available at St John's. If you wish to pay your collection through the bank or gift aid your donation (if you pay tax) there are forms available in the Church.

ARDROSSAN CEMETERY MASS. Today at 2pm.

300 CLUB. Congratulations to the winners of the November draw. No 92—B. Robertson £30 and No 64—C. McGinn £20.

ST JOHNS CHRISTMAS FAYRE—5TH DECEMBER. St John's hall committee are still looking for donations for our bottle stall, new items for tombola stall and some home baking for our teas and coffees. Any bottles will do from lemonade, sauce, shampoo, wine or spirits. All items can be handed into the back of the church and the church hall will also be opened next Saturday (4th) from 6.30pm to 7.30pm for any donations for any of our stalls. If you need items picked up or some more information you can contact Brenda Robertson 07812758415, Lorna Walker 07833347035 or Michael Lafferty 07813650411.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 1 HR PER WEEK. MCR Pathways are looking for volunteer mentors to work with some of our young people from 1st to 6th years in our secondary schools for just 1hr per week. This has been shown to make a big difference in helping these young people towards positive pathways, College, employment or University. If you would like more information please contact Katie Brown 07801 554990 or Michael Lafferty 07385426661 or come along to St John's Christmas Fayre where there will be an information stall. The MCR website is <https://mcrpathways.org/>

THE WAYSIDE CLUB. Are unable to visit this year but we hope to send items to them at the beginning of December. As usual hats, scarves, etc will be welcome but must be unused and financial donations are welcome. Please hand donations into St John's house or the parish office.

SPRED. Mass will be celebrated on 12th December at 2pm in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. All welcome. We would like you to be involved in our upcoming Mass as much as you feel able. If you have any special memories of your time in SPRED, and would like to share them, then please send them into the SPRED office before 25th November or email Annie.Stevens@spredgalloway.org.uk. This could be a picture, or a photograph, a song, or a piece of writing. It doesn't have to be big, just something that describes what SPRED means to you, or a special memory. These can then be collected together and displayed on 12th December.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL. Will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 10th December 2021 at St Peter's Church from 3:30pm - 5:30pm. All welcome.

52ND AYRSHIRE / 1ST SALTCOATS SCOUT GROUP—A PLEA FOR HELP. We find ourselves in a position where we need YOUR help desperately so that Scouting can continue here in Saltcoats. We need people to work with the young people in the Beavers (aged 6 - 8), the Cubs (aged 8 - 10 ½) and the Scouts (aged 10 ½ - 14). We also need someone to manage the group, someone who would support the leaders. If you think you can help in any way please get in touch with Pat Campbell 01563 526325 or Margaret Craik 07747770687. Please see poster in church and parish hall noticeboard and parish website for more information.

CHANA—Donations of Christmas Gifts. Are teaming up with the charity Night before Christmas (NB4CC) to provide those who are homeless and being supported by North Ayrshire Council a Christmas present. Last year we donated £790, not counting the direct donations. We would be delighted if anyone would contribute to this charity. This can be done by visiting NB4CC's "Justgiving" page <https://www.justgiving.com/nb4cc> or putting your donation in an envelope marked "NB4CC" in the church collection". **The Lunch Club meets in the Kirkgate every Friday.**

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN. Support us by buying Christmas Cards from our online store.

"IN GOD'S IMAGE VERSION 2. The Safeguarding instruction of the Scottish Catholic Church has been revised and is now available for download, either by visiting bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2, or by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of the church. It is important that everyone with Safeguarding responsibilities in our parish communities has a copy of IGIv2. If you are unable to download a copy, please contact the diocesan office who will be able to assist.

ST MARY'S SVDP. Please call 07379 400 568. **ST JOHN'S SVDP.** Please call 07498 501 326.

FOODBANK STEVENSTON. St John's Hall from 4pm to 5pm on Wednesdays.

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



First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming—it is the Lord who speaks—when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: “In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.” **The Word of the Lord**

PSALM 24

R/ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R/**
2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R/**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. **R/**

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.”



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

What are a few sources of anxiety in your life? Have you experienced anxiety that causes you to become “drowsy” with distraction?

What are ways in which you seek out “drunkenness”? Do you seek a form of escape that goes beyond self-care?

If we view “justice” as safety and security, how is it present in your own family and wider community? Is your parish a “just” place for parishioners?

How does putting a priority on love contribute to a nation of safety and security?

Advent Invites Us..... *To be mindful and to pray: this is how to live the time between now and Christmas. To be mindful and to pray. Inner listlessness comes from always turning around ourselves and being blocked by our own life, with its problems, its joy, and suffering, but always turning around ourselves. And this is wearying; this is dull, this closes us off to hope.....Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world. It is the desire of many people tormented by hunger, by injustice and by war. It is the desire of the poor, the weak, the abandoned. This is a favourable time to open our hearts, to ask ourselves concrete questions about how and for whom we expend our lives. **Pope Francis***

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK. *Has not been possible this year but if anyone would like the Sacrament of the Sick please let a member of the St Vincent de Paul, the parish office or one of the priests have your name and contact number.*

2022 PARISH DIARIES. *Are now available for £1 from both church stalls.*

SCIAF REAL GIFTS. *Please keep in mind their Real Gifts Appeal as a Christmas present this year. Please see parish websites or visit SCIAF’s website for more information.*

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY - IRVINE AND THREE TOWNS DEBT CENTRE. *Are a Christian Organisation that helps people struggling with personal debt issues to begin a journey out of debt. This service is free and will see clients face to face at the Connexions centre, Irvine or at any office location. Please call our freephone number which is 0800 328 0006.*

***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**

Neighbouring Parishes:

Father Duncan McVicar, St Peter’s, Ardrossan 464063. Father Gerard Magee, St Winin’s, Kilwinning 552276.

Going into Hospital? Ask Canon Poland for the Anointing of the Sick before you are admitted.

In an emergency situation ask the nurse on duty for the priest-on-call to be paged.

Fr Stephen McGrattan is hospital chaplain for Crosshouse, assisted by IHM sisters

Rev Robert Mackie is chaplain for Ayr hospital.

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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.