



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

21st December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland

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

Tel No: 01294 463225

St John's Parish website: www.stevenstonstjohns.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

and Sr Ursula and Sr Anna
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 Christmas Eve	6pm Vigil Mass	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5pm Vigil Mass (L) 8pm Vigil Mass (L)
Thursday Christmas Day	9.30am Mass (L)	11am Mass	11am Mass (L)
Friday	_____	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Mass (L)	5.30pm Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

L = LIVESTREAMED

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Will return on the 6th January 2026.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the great Feast of Christmas and also to the end of our Jubilee Year, the word that unites both things is Hope, a hope that is not an aspiration, but a sure and certain thing rooted in the presence and love of God. Pope Leo spoke of this in an Advent angelus address:

"Sisters and brothers, how much the world needs this hope! Nothing is impossible to God. Let us prepare ourselves for his Kingdom, let us welcome it. The little child, Jesus of Nazareth, will lead us! He who placed himself in our hands, from the night of his birth to the dark hour of his death on the cross, shines upon our history as the rising Sun. A new day has begun: let us arise and walk in his light!"

The message the angels give the shepherds is the same message they bring to us: Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. As I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, let our prayer be that the Light of Christ will dispel the darkness of hurt and despair in those who are struggling, and that the hope that only Christ can bring will be felt in the hearts of all people.

Bishop of Galloway

Please remember Catherine in your prayers

Catherine Reid RIP

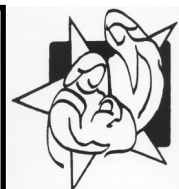
Prayers of Reception and Funeral Service will take place on Monday 29th at 10am in St Mary's

Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

+May she rest in peace+



A Happy and Blessed Christmas to all
Christmas Greetings from Canon Martin, Canon Matt,
Sr Ursula and Sr Anna



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

Christmas Remembrance: Eileen Coppola, Margaret Simpson, Peter McCourt, John Monaghan, Morag & Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, John Mitchell, James & Catherine O'Meara, Pllu Family, Derrick Whitehead, Joe & Sarah Murray, John & Janet Collins, Arthur Smyth, Deceased members of Meechan & McCafferty families.

Christmas Blessings: Soup & Chat Ladies and SPC (UK & Ireland).

Anniversaries: Annie McKernon, Catherine Lynn (1st), Jimmy Gailey, Kathleen "Kitty" Boyle, Mairi Grier, Elizabeth Turbet, Pat McCann, Dick & Sadie Bettley, Sarah Waddell, Janet & Albert Smith, Thomas Peter McCann, James Patrick Gallagher and William Meechan Snr.

Recently deceased: Catherine Reid, Rinaldo Chidichino (Italy), Ann Brophy (Ireland), Edward McGeough, Mary McCurdie, Moira Mercer (Beith), Grace McGahon, Patricia Campbell, Mary Frances Bridges and Patricia Fox.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year A; Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

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

For all the sick in our parishes.

Christmas Remembrance: Eileen Coppola, Margaret Simpson, Peter McCourt, John Monaghan, Morag & Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, John Mitchell, James & Catherine O'Meara, Pllu Family, Derrick Whitehead, Joe & Sarah Murray, John & Janet Collins, Arthur Smyth, Deceased members of Meechan & McCafferty families.

Christmas Blessings: Soup & Chat Ladies and SPC (UK & Ireland).

Those who have an anniversary: Annie McKernon, Catherine Lynn (1st), Jimmy Gailey, Kathleen "Kitty" Boyle, Mairi Grier, Elizabeth Turbet, Pat McCann, Dick & Sadie Bettley, Sarah Waddell, Janet & Albert Smith, Thomas Peter McCann, James Patrick Gallagher, William Meechan Snr, Owen Conlan, Betty Freeman, Joseph McKeever, Mary Ramsay, William Martin, Michael Joseph McCabe, Patrick Monaghan, John Conti Gilchrist, Margaret Williams, Patricia MacNamara, Ruth, Hugh and Cecilia Monaghan and Margaret McAuliffe

Those who have died recently: Catherine Reid, Rinaldo Chidichino (Italy), Ann Brophy (Ireland), Edward McGeough, Mary McCurdie, Moira Mercer (Beith), Grace McGahon, Patricia Campbell, Mary Frances Bridges and Patricia Fox William Bell, Norah Scott (Dumfries), Tony, Michael McGarvey (Donegal), Edward McGeough and Joe McAuliffe.

SCIAF—REAL GIFT OF WATER FOR A VILLAGE. Final total raised £4,778.12. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

Carols will be sung before both Christmas Vigil Masses.

QUIET DAY. Today in St Mary's from 2pm-5pm.

CALEDONIA NURSING HOME—CAROL SERVICE. Today at 2pm.

GIFTS AT THE CRIB. Will be welcomed as usual. St Mary's will go to the Cardinal Winning Initiative and St John's to Hillhouse Care, Kilmarnock. Money will go to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society.

300 CLUB. Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Draw. No 76—P. Farrell £100, No 254—J. Hume £50 and No 58—B. Boylan £25. If anyone would like to join or take another number contact David Hume.

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY IN STEVENSTON. Are looking for old wellington boots and waterproof clothes for children (aged 4-12) and any shoe size up to a 4 or 5. Items can be dropped off at either Church or the school.

MARY'S MEALS. The team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. In the past 6 months we have sent £730 of your donations to help feed over 3 million children in 16 of the poorest countries in the world. It costs just £19.15 to feed one child for a whole school year. During this season any donations sent will be doubled which means that £19.15 will feed 2 hungry children. Thank you for your continued support.

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. Takes place after Sunday Masses today. **St Mary's Sunday Teas will take a break today and return in the New Year**

SOUP AND CHAT. Have closed for a well earned break and will return in the New Year.

SVDP. Please call 07379400568 for St Mary's. Please call 07498501326 for St John's. Please call 07825726904 for St Peter's.

ST JOHN'S SVDP. Are collecting non perishable food for the Crisis Bags. **FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

PARISH HALLS. To book any of our halls please call the Parish Office on 463461 for St Mary's and Michael Lafferty on 07813650411 for St John's. Please note a booking form has to be completed to confirm your booking. St Mary's are looking for a hall keeper—is you are interested please contact Canon Martin.

ST JOHN'S HALL COMMITTEE EVENT—New Year's Eve Ceilidh

Wednesday 31st December, 7:30pm-12:30am. Our Annual Ceilidh will be held in the church hall to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal. Tickets: £15 each includes tea and coffee – (Please bring your own snacks) For tickets or more info, contact: Michael – 07813650411

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

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

YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENINGS. The next monthly Cluster Youth Evening for young people in P6-S4 takes place in St Peter's tonight (Sunday). The evening will reflect on 'Advent & Christmas: Preparing to welcome Christ'. The evening runs from 5–7pm, beginning with Mass at 5pm. See you there!

GALLOWAY YOUTH ADULTS— CHRISTMAS DINNER. Sunday 11th January 2026 at 3.30pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, see poster on noticeboard to book and for more info.

GALLOWAY CHRISTMAS YOUTH DAY. Saturday 10th January 2026 11am–4pm for all P6-S4 in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, see poster on noticeboard to book and for more info.

GALLOWAY YOUTH CALENDER 2026. Is available on their online shop —youth.rcdg.org.uk/shop.

200 CLUB. Are you passionate about supporting youth and young adults ministry in Galloway? The Youth Office runs events across the Diocese to help young people grow in faith and friendship to come to know and love God through like minded groups. For £5 a month you can help support their work and win cash prizes. For details, and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame,
resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,
'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife,
for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' -
which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

Where have you noticed God this Advent?

Where might God have been present in ways you failed to recognise?

What hopes for your faith journey do you bring into the Christmas season?

How will you receive hospitality during the upcoming holidays? How could you practice hospitality?

Pope Leo's prayer intention for December: for Christians in areas of war or conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. Pope Video - thepopevideo.org/december-for-christians-in-areas-of-conflict

*Joseph was a man who always listened to the voice of God, he was deeply sensitive to his secret will, he was a man attentive to the messages that came to him from the depths of his heart and from on high. He did not persist in following his own plan for his life, he did not allow bitterness to poison his soul; rather, he was ready to make himself available to the news that, in such a bewildering way, was being presented to him. And thus, he was a good man. **Pope Francis***

Dear brothers and sisters,** the Nativity scene and the tree are signs of faith and hope; while we contemplate them in our homes, parishes and squares, let us ask the Lord to renew in us the gift of peace and fraternity. Let us pray for those who suffer as a result of war and violence; in particular, today I wish to entrust to the Lord the victims of yesterday's terrorist attack on the Jewish community in Sydney. Enough with these forms of anti-Semitic violence! We must eliminate hatred from our hearts. **Pope Leo.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS. Funds currently available to assist St Mary's parishioners who need help to cope with rising energy and food costs. Need assistance, please phone 07379 400 568. All contacts will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

MONEY SMART. Welfare Rights Advice—North Ayrshire Council 01294 310000 (Option 1) or email moneysmart@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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 Parish: Fr Duncan McVicar, St Peter's, Ardrossan 464063. Fr Jim Hayes, St Winin's, Kilwinning 552276
Going into Hospital? Ask Canon Poland for the Anointing of the Sick before you are admitted.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: The hospital chaplains of Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals are pleased to visit patients on request. For general visiting in Crosshouse Hospital please contact Fr Stephen McGrattan at stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01655 882145. For the urgent or emergency assistance of a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

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.

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Mr Tony Fisher 01292 266750



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