



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

28th December 2025
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
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 Funeral Service Catherine Reid	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	_____	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday New Years Eve	10am Eucharistic Service	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday New Years Day	11am Mass	11am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	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 at 10am in St Mary's

Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

+May she rest in peace+

Happy New Year

*Canon Martin, Canon Matt, Sister Ursula and Sister Anna wish you a
very Happy New Year and every blessing in 2026.*

**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: Peter Cartwright (5th), Cathy O'Meara, Nora McCluskey, Frances & Teddy Kelly, Mary Fraser, Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, Jessie Burns (8th) and Martha Murphy

Recently deceased: Catherine Reid and James Caughey

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: Solemnity—The Epiphany of the Lord Year A; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**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: Peter Cartwright (5th), Cathy O'Meara, Nora McCluskey, Frances & Teddy Kelly, Mary Fraser, Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, Jessie Burns (8th), Martha Murphy, 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.

Those who have died recently: James Caughey, 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 and Norah Scott (Dumfries).

THANK YOU. To all who assisted with the Christmas Masses, including all who helped to prepare the churches.

THANK YOU. Canon Matt, Sister Ursula, Sister Anna join with me to thank you for your good wishes, cards and gifts we received this Christmas.

THE JUBILEE YEAR. Ends this weekend (28th December) although the Holy Doors in Rome will not close until the Feast of the Epiphany.

JUSTICE AND PEACE SUNDAY. Will take place at all masses next weekend for the work of the Justice and Peace Commission.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH. Wednesday 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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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 2:13-15, 19-23

When the Magi had departed,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream
and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt,
and remain there until I tell you,
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'
And he rose and took the child and his mother by night
and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
'Out of Egypt I called my son.' But when Herod died,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother
and go to the land of Israel,
for those who sought the child's life are dead.'
And he rose and took the child and his mother
and went to the land of Israel.
But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea
In place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there,
and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.
And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth,
so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled,
and he would be called a Nazarene.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

Our families have a huge impact on who we become as individuals.

The Holy Family continues to be a model for us all.

Formed and supported by our family, our faith challenges us to live a life of sacrificial love for the whole of creation.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for January. Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Therefore, as we fix our gaze on the Holy Family of Nazareth as they were forced to become refugees, let us think of the tragedy of those migrants and refugees who are victims of rejection and exploitation, who are victims of human trafficking and of slave labour. Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognise it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. 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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MONDAY NIGHT BROADWAY BOOGIE ENCORE CLASS

Ready to dance, sweat, and smile? Our
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perfect way to move, groove, and feel
like a star—no experience needed!
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St John's Church Hall 6.30pm-7.15pm

Contact Jacqueline on 07780090076

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