



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

14th December 2025 Third 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	_____	5.30pm Prayers of Reception Joe McAuliffe	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	_____	10am Funeral Mass (L) Joe McAuliffe	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass with St John's PS	_____	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

NO EXPOSITION THIS WEEK.

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

RECONCILIATION: St. John's—Saturday 10.30am-11am. St. Mary's— Saturday 3.45pm-4.15pm.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday at 7pm in St Peter's
Tuesday at 2pm in St Mary's
Thursday at 7pm in St John's.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

St Mary's: 4.30pm Vigil Mass and 11am Christmas Day Mass.
St John's: 6pm Vigil Mass and 9.30am Christmas Day Mass.

Carols will be sung before both Vigil Masses.

QUIET DAY

St John's—Saturday 20th from 12 Noon-3pm.
St Mary's—Sunday 21st from 2pm-5pm.

Please remember Joe in your prayers

Joe McAuliffe RIP

Prayers of Reception will take place on Monday at 5.30pm in St Mary's
Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday at 10am. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

+May he rest in peace+

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

Special Intention: For those who are sick

Anniversaries: Owen Conlan, Betty Freeman, Joseph McKeever, Mary Ramsay, William Martin, Michael Joseph McCabe, Patrick Monaghan, John Conti Gilchrist, Margaret Williams, Patricia MacNamara and Ruth, Hugh and Cecilia Monaghan and Margaret McAuliffe

Recently deceased: William Bell, Norah Scott (Dumfries), Tony, Michael McGarvey (Donegal) and Joe McAuliffe.

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: *Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A; Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-17; Matthew 1:18-24*

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

Special Intentions

For all the sick in our parishes.

Those who have an anniversary: 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, Margaret McAuliffe, John McNamara, Laura Cambridge, Wullie Henry, Francis Shields (2nd), Tom Kerrigan, Jim Crawford, George Forbes, Larry Poland, Mary Dunn and Jean Martin.

Those who have died recently: William Bell, Norah Scott (Dumfries), Tony, Michael McGarvey (Donegal), Edward McGeough, Joe McAuliffe, Mrs W McMullen (East Kilbride), Michael (Mickey) McCafferty (Wishaw), Fr John Kinsler, Anne Ivison, Alice Burns and Margaret Brennan.

SCIAF—REAL GIFT OF WATER FOR A VILLAGE. Once again we are taking donations to help raise funds for Water for a Village. Each village will cost £1,200. £3,819.68 raised so far from both parishes.

THANK YOU. To Mrs Isabel Garrett who has served as a Minister of the Eucharist to Arran View Nursing Home for 31 years and is now retiring from this ministry. Thanks also to Mr Stephen McLaughlin who is taking on this role.

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.

CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS. A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral this coming Wednesday 7pm, accompanied by the Diocesan Choir. The service provides an opportunity to come together as a diocesan community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

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.

CALEDONIA NURSING HOME—CAROL SERVICE. On Sunday 21st December at 2pm. Please add your name to the sign up sheet available in the church porch if you are able to attend.

"CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE" Newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life - latest version can be found at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

CHANA (CHURCHES HOMELESS ACTION NORTH AYRSHIRE). Thank you to those who donated to the Night Before Christmas. Your gift has been passed on.

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. Takes place after Sunday Masses.

SOUP AND CHAT. St John's every Monday at 11.30am-1.30pm and St Mary's every Wednesday 11.30am-1.30pm.

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.

YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENINGS. The next monthly Cluster Youth Evening for young people in P6-S4 takes place in St Peter's next Sunday (21st). The evening will reflect on 'Advent & Christmas: Preparing to welcome Christ'. The evening runs from 5-7pm, beginning with Mass at 5.00 pm. See you there!

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

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

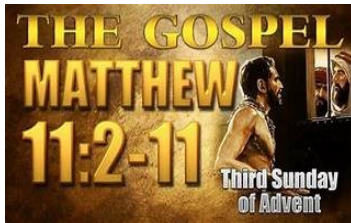
Wednesday 31st December, 7:30pm-12:30am. Our Annual Ceilidh will be held in the church hall to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal. Tickets: £15 each includes tea and coffee – (Please bring your own snacks) For tickets or more info, contact: Michael – 07813650411

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

SUPPORTING YOUTH MINISTRY. Check out the Youth Office's new online store – youth.rcdg.org.uk/shop.

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.



GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

At that time:

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

Jesus tells John's followers to witness to Jesus's work; if you were asked to give an account of what you have seen, what would you say? Where in your life have you witnessed God's healing work?

The second reading is all about patience, where do you need patience in your life?

How can we train our eyes to see God at work in the ordinary things of our lives?

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

THE HAYOCKS—ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT—A Book by Alex McLatchie. Is available at Stevenston library—cost £12 and includes sections on St John's Church and St John's Primary School.

In Jesus Christ, God's saving love is tangible: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are purified, the deaf hear, the dead rise, and the Gospel is announced to the poor". These are the signs that accompany the realisation of the Kingdom of God. Not trumpet blasts or military triumphs, not judgments and condemnations of sinners, but liberation from evil and an announcement of mercy and peace. Pope Francis

Afternoon appointment in Piazza di Spagna. On Monday, after having greeted various groups present in St Peter's Square, the Pope reminded the faithful that during the afternoon, he would pay homage to the Virgin Mary at the feet of the Spanish Steps in Rome, where a statue of Our Lady stands. Every year, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Pope crosses the city bringing a basket of flowers that he lays at the base of the column..... **Vatican News**

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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Contact Jacqueline on 07780090076

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