



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

3rd May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.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

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

Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

COVID—19. THERE IS A DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING SUNDAY MASS THIS YEAR.

I wish to remind you that I say private Mass each day for people of our parishes and their intentions. I hope to use bulletin/information sheet to provide the Sunday readings that people can sit quietly and reflect on them.

Funeral Masses have now been suspended.

LIVESTREAMING MASSES CAN BE FOUND AT THE CHURCHES BELOW.

St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr

St Teresa's, Dumfries

St John's, Cumnock

St Joseph's, Kilmarnock

St Matthew's, Kilmarnock

St Mary, Star of the Sea, Largs

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS. In these difficult financial times, there is no obligation to give to the Sunday Collection. If, however, you feel able to, you can donate by text message to an account set up by the Diocese of Galloway. It is not possible to nominate a particular parish so all text-giving donations will be shared among parishes. To donate, text to 70085 the word SUNDAY followed by the number of pounds, from 1 to 20. For example, SUNDAY 5 to 70085 gives £5. This message would cost £5 plus one standard rate message charge. Thank you for all your commitment and support.

ANOIDTING OF THE SICK OR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. The diocese have published Emergency Norms for those who are critically ill or dying during the Covid-19 Pandemic. These norms include what members of the faithful should do in the case of Anointing of the Sick or The Sacrament of Reconciliation. Links are available on both St Mary's and Diocese of Galloway websites.

CARE HOMES/CARERS. In these difficult times please remember the residents and staff in our Nursing Homes and sheltered accommodation as well as all who serve as home carers

PRAYER BOOK. The Vatican has released a free online prayer book to help Catholics seeking divine assistance amid the coronavirus crisis. This is the link <https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation-20042020.pdf>. It can also be found on St Mary's Website.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY 2020. To mark Vocations Sunday this year, Fr. Martin Chambers, our Diocesan Vocations Director, will lead a Holy Hour at 4pm on Sunday 3rd May. Please join in that prayer by clicking: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTax4U-0XnRvKDWbByv4QIQ>

ROSARY DURING MAY. Rosary will be said at 7pm in St John's every Tuesday evening during May for anyone wishing to join in private. A letter from Pope Francis for Prayers During May can be found on St Mary's website.

Your WEE BOXES. Thank you to everyone who has been collecting money in your SCIAF WEE BOXES for victims of violence in DR Congo. Whilst we cannot collect in your boxes now, you can donate via our website (www.sciaf.org.uk), over the phone (0141 354 5555), or via post in an envelope marked FREEPOST SCIAF (please mention you are donating to our WEE BOX appeal to ensure your gift is Aid-Matched). Donations received by 20th May will be doubled by the UK government. Thank you and God Bless from all at SCIAF.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Recently Deceased: Philomena Tulloch, Jimmy Hawkes (Maybole), Joe McIver and Cathie McCreadie.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK. 10th May 2020; Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A; Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 32; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS. BOTH PARISHES HAVE NO INCOME AT THE PRESENT TIME EXCEPT STANDING ORDERS. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND. IF YOU WISH TO PAY THROUGH STANDING ORDER PLEASE CONTACT CANON MARTIN OR ST MARY'S PARISH OFFICE.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:



For all the sick in our parishes*

Special Intentions: Deceased Birthday Intention.

Those who have an anniversary: Fergie Dorrian, Graham Kane, Jane Monan, Jean Monan, Hugh Donald and Joe Coleman.

Those who have died recently: Philomena Tulloch, Jimmy Hawkes (Maybole), Joe McIver, Cathie McCreadie, Elizabeth (Lily) McCartney, Susan McMahon, Eleanor Chapman, Jan Meldrum, John McLaughlin, John Harrison, John McKinlay, Mary (Moir) Gowrie, Vincent Murray (Cumbernauld), Michael McLean, Seamus Reilly, Andrew Carmichael, Patrick Lawler, Joseph Murray, Tommy Murray, Philip Burns and Margaret Peacey (Oxford).

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB. The monthly draws will be suspended until the Church reopens. Envelopes can be posted through the parish house letterbox or handed in when public Mass resumes.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH. Has been repainted during the closure.

LOCKDOWN. Several people have offered their services to get shopping etc for anyone who is self-isolating. Contact the parish phone numbers if you need help.

C.L.A.S.P. Community Led Action and Support Project. DON'T FEEL ALONE, GIVE US A PHONE. CLASP via the HOPE and CLASP Digital Projects are now providing a telephone befriending and digital support service of older people residing in North Ayrshire, during this pandemic. If you are in isolation and could benefit from a daily/regular call for a chat, we have trained befrienders who can be a listening ear, help boost morale and offer guidance and signposting assistance if you require other support services during this difficult time. We also have a team of Digital Tutors and Digital Buddies who can support you with any digital queries you might have or we can contact you via WhatsApp, Skype, Facetime, etc. so you can see us rather than just hear us. If you think you could benefit from our services, give us a phone but please don't feel alone—we are here to help and are all in this together. Telephone Liz on 07464206592 or email 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

PARISH HALLS. Closed until further notice.

ST MARY'S SVDP. Please call 07379400568

FOOD BANK, STEVENSTON AND SALTCOATS. Phone the Three Towns Hub 9am-1pm 01294 475900. 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 07576232969.

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 31st 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>. Information leaflets are available.

Only 33 days as Pope. Pope Francis has instituted a Vatican foundation to promote the thought and teachings of Venerable John Paul I, who was pope for 33 days in 1978. The foundation's purpose "is to promote and disseminate awareness of the thought, works, and example of Pope John Paul I." Often called "the smiling pope," John Paul I died unexpectedly on Sept. 28, 1978 after just 33 days in office. A priority of his short pontificate was carrying forward the work of the Second Vatican Council. But even before he was elected Pope John Paul I, Albino Luciani was known for his humility, his emphasis on spiritual poverty, and his dedication to teaching the faith in an understandable manner. **Catholic News Agency**

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - Pope John Paul II

POPE FRANCIS. Has set up an emergency fund to help those affected by the coronavirus throughout the world. Please use the link below from Missio promoting the fund. <https://www.missioscotland.com/single-post/2020/04/07/pope-sets-up-emergency-fund-to-support-missionary-work>

***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. A new folder containing the names of the sick will be brought through the Church in the offertory procession each week so that these people are included in our prayers. Please inform the parish office in writing of any names to be either included or taken out of this list.**

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 Acts 2:14.36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: "The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ." Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, "What must we do brothers?" "You must repent," Peter answered, "and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself." He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation." They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three hundred were added to their number.

The word of the Lord

PSALM

R/ The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit **R/**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort **R/**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing **R/**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R/**

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus said to the Jews: "I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gate-keeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him; they do not recognise this voice of strangers." Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: "I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them, I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

The psalmist sings, 'The Lord is my shepherd Near restful waters he leads me,/to revive my drooping spirit'. In what areas of your life are you in need of refreshment?

The second reading from the first letter of St Peter reminds us that Jesus 'was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats'. How do you follow Jesus' path of nonviolence?

In the Gospel acclamation we hear the title for Jesus as 'the good shepherd' who knows and is known by his sheep. How do you experience Jesus' shepherding care in your life?

Jesus tells the Pharisees that his sheep will not follow a stranger; 'they do not recognise the voice of strangers'. What spiritual practices help you attune your ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd?

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.