



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenston

# 12th July 2020

## Fifteenth Sunday of 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](http://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](http://www.rcsaltcoats.com)

Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula: Pastoral Assistants to the Three Towns  
Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

### LIVESTREAMING MASSES CAN BE FOUND AT THE CHURCHES BELOW.

St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr  
St Joseph's, Kilmarnock

St Teresa's, Dumfries  
St Matthew's, Kilmarnock

St John's, Cumnock  
St Mary's, Largs

St Peter's Ardrossan

**COVID-19.** The Scottish Government has announced Phase 3 of the lockdown and the resumption of communal worship in Catholic Parishes from Wednesday 15th July so long as we fulfil the necessary requirements. Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's on Thursday at 10am and St John's on Friday at 10am and the weekend Masses at the usual times. In order to fulfil all the requirements people will need to sanitise their hands, wear a facemask and sit in designated seats which they have booked beforehand. To enable social distancing both churches will have a maximum capacity of 40 people-hence the need to book a place beforehand for all masses. **To book a place in St Mary's Church please phone the parish office on 463461 between Monday and Friday 9.30am-2.30pm. To book a place in St John's please phone Teresa Thornton on 07564903401 between Monday and Friday 10am-4.30pm and you will be asked for a contact number in order that track and trace can be achieved if necessary. Please do not attend either church unless you have made a booking beforehand.** You can only book a maximum of 4 places unless more come from the one household. At present a funeral Mass is still restricted to 15 people and this would take precedence over a weekday Mass. To enable our churches to open for Mass we require welcomers, stewards and cleaners as the church requires to be cleaned after every Mass. If you can assist please let us know using these contact numbers provided. In the church we ask you to follow the directions of the stewards to enable social distancing and follow the one-way system as indicated. We look forward to welcoming you back into the church building but if you are nervous about attending (eg shielding at present) Bishop Gilbert reminds us that the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended and those who return fulfil all the infection control measures in force in each parish, mindful always of the need to protect themselves and others. We will be livestreaming all our Masses in both churches from Thursday 16th July and you can access this by following this link - <https://tinyurl.com/rcstevenstonsaltcoats>. And thanks to Kevin Rennie (Student for the Priesthood) who has installed the cameras in each church and also installed wifi in both church halls.

**ONLINE SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.** Don't worry if you are not able to support your parish financially at this time. Maybe you are having to get by on a reduced income, maybe you are anxious about losing your job. Many people are. In these difficult circumstances you should not feel obliged to give what you do not have. The diocese, though, has set up a facility online for those who are able to give and who are not already contributing by standing order. Use the link below, or scan the QR code, to access the page on the diocesan website where you can contribute to your parish by credit/debit card. You can also gift aid your donation. The most important thing at the moment is not for us to give in the collection but to pray for one another, particularly for all those who are suffering and whose lives have been badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. May we support each other by our prayers. Kind regards, +William Nolan. The link for the diocese page is: <http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/parish-collections>. Our specific links for St Mary's and John's can be found on either rcsaltcoats or restevenston link and follow below the instructions. <https://tinyurl.com/rcsaltcoats> <https://tinyurl.com/rcstevenston>. You can also use the QR codes in the same way as web links, which can be found on both websites.

**ANOINTING 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.

**ARDROSSAN/WEST KILBRIDE PARISHES.** St Peter's will be serving St Bride's, West Kilbride when public Mass resumes. Mass times will be : **St Peter's—5pm Vigil and 11am Sunday. St Brides 9am Sunday.**

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

**Anniversaries:** James Martin Taylor, Margaret McAteer and Agnes Gailey (1st)

**Recently Deceased:** Tony Cassidy

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.** 19th July 2020; Sixteenth Sunday of Year A; Wisdom 12:13. 16-19; Psalm 85; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

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



**For all the sick in our parishes\***

**Those who have an anniversary:** James Martin Taylor, Margaret McAteer, Agnes Gailey (1st), Peter Reilly, Alisdair Burnett, Betty McConnell, Dr Jimmy Gallagher and Patrick Moran.

**Those who have died recently:** Tony Cassidy, Mary McCauley (Kilwinning), Margaret Taylor, Winifred Murray, Joe Martin, Brian Murray, Maria (Tortolano) McGranahan, John Higgins (Kilwinning), Billy Cannon (Greenock), Margaret Meikle, Elizabeth Dallas, Allan Beattie (Galston) and Betty Creelman

**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.

**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](mailto: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

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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>.

**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.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION.** We meet every Monday at 6pm via Zoom which is online. We reflect on the Mass Readings for the following Sunday. If you have access to Zoom and want to join the group please phone Danny on 0797 954 2319.

**Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for July.** *The family ought to be protected. It faces many dangers: the fast pace of life, stress. Sometimes, parents forget to play with their children. The Church needs to encourage families and stay at their side, helping them to discover ways that allow them to overcome all of these difficulties. Let us pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance, and especially, that they may be protected by the State.*

**SPAM EMAIL.** We have been informed that some parishioners are receiving spam emails from Canon Martin. If you receive an email from Canon please check the email address attached to it, if it's not the Diocesan email address please don't open any attachments and block the contact.

**\*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](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr)

### **First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11**

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do'.

#### **The Word of the Lord**

### **PSALM**

#### **R/ Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop**

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches, your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.  
**R/**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows; you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. **R/**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R/**
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R/**

### **Second Reading Romans 8:18-23**

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel Matthew 13:1-23**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand see and see again, but not perceive.

### **PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

Through the prophet Isaiah, God announces '(T)he word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do'. How do you make room for God's word to form your life?

In his letter to the Romans, St Pauls uses the image of 'giving birth' to describe the suffering or hardship that disciples must undergo leading to redemption. When have you suffered or undergone hardship for a goal or relationship?

Looking back on your life through the lens of today's parable, have you experienced environments that have been like rocky ground, thorny ground, or rich soil?

How can you cultivate rich soil within your life now so as to grow in faith?

#### **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.