St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

20th September 2020
Twenty Fifth 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

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)

MASS TIMES: Please remember to book

	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass
Tuesday	_____	10am Mass	_____
Wednesday	10am Mass	_____	10am Mass
Thursday	_____	10am Mass	_____
Friday	Funeral Mass	_____	10am Mass
Saturday	First Holy Communion Masses	4.30pm Vigil Mass	5.30pm Vigil Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only

COVID-19. In order to fulfil all the Government requirements for people to attend Mass you will need to sanitise your hands, wear a face covering and sit in the designated seat which you have booked. **To book a place in St Mary's Church please phone the parish office on 463461 between Monday and Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm. To book a place in St John's please phone Teresa Thornton on 07564 903 401 between Monday and Friday 9.30am and 2.30pm. To book a place in St. Peter's please call the Parish Office, Monday to Friday between 9am and 11am; and you will be asked for a contact number in order that track and trace can be achieved if necessary. This register/data will be kept for 3 weeks and then destroyed. Please do not attend either church unless you have made a booking beforehand. Please allow time before Mass for the steward to show you to your place and remember livestreaming starts 5 minutes before Mass.** At present a funeral Mass is still restricted to 20 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. We will be livestreaming all our Masses in both churches you can access this by following this link https://tinyurl.com/rcstevenstonsaltcoats

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS. Thank you to those who pay by Standing Order, in order to do so details are available from the parish office. The Diocese also has a facility online where you can contribute to your parish by debit card. The Link for the Diocese page is : http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/parish-collections. Our specific links for St Mary's and St John's can be found on either rcsaltcoats or rcstevenston 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. **Because of Covid-19 our parish/hall income has fallen dramatically so your support is especially appreciated.**

BULLETINS. A few bulletins will be left in both Churches at the exit door, please help yourself or pass them to someone who would appreciate a newsletter or ask the parish office to send you one out.

RETIRED PRIESTS SPECIAL COLLECTION. This collection is overdue. Contributions can be made between now and the end of the month either in the basket in Church or left at both parish houses. Gift Aid envelopes are also available.

AMAZON SMILE. The Diocese has registered with Amazon Smile. The prices on amazon smile are the same as on the regular Amazon site. However Amazon donates 0.5% of spending to the nominated charity. This is a good way for those who use Amazon to support diocesan finances at no extra cost. Please follow this link https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC010576

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Teresa Ham, Kate & Harry Nellis, Margaret Higgins, Betty Ross, Ina Kelly, Agnes Dickie, Enrique & Raquel Rangal and Philip Burns (6months mind)

Recently deceased: Reg Byers (Lockerbie), Paddy Smyth (Portaferry) and Monica Murray.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: 27th September 2020; 26th Sunday of Year A; Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes*

Those who have an anniversary: Teresa Ham, Kate & Harry Nellis, Margaret Higgins, Betty Ross, Ina Kelly, Agnes Dickie, Enrique & Raquel Rangal, Philip Burns (6months mind), Margaret McGee, Tracey Lafferty Fitzsimmons, David Dunbar, Jean Tortolano, Frances Young and Charlotte Mitchell.

Those who have died recently: Reg Byers (Lockerbie), Paddy Smyth (Portaferry), Monica Murray, Tommy McAteer, Michael McGarrigle, Danny McGoogan (Snr), James Havlin, John (Jake) Alcroft, Catherine McFadden (Fr McFadden's Mother), Marellen McEvoy, John McLaughlan and Margaret Timmons (Dunfermline).

***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.**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH/HOUSE/HALL. Following a spate of vandalism and unruly behaviour affecting our property I will be grateful if people be vigilant of any unwanted activity and if you witness anything please contact Police Scotland on 101. Remember that all damage and repairs have to be paid from parish funds.

FIRST EUCHARIST. The celebration of First Eucharist in St John's will take place next Saturday at 10.30am and 1.30pm and St Mary's will take place during October divided between five masses.

C.L.A.S.P. Community Led Action and Support Project. For details of befriending and digital support service 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.

SCIAF. The Government has extended their match-funding arrangement with SCIAF until the end of September. If you have a SCIAF box to return or wish to make a donation please ensure we have it by the end of this week.

DRUMALIS. The closure of the house will be until the Spring of 2021. Courses will be held through Zoom until November 2020. For more information and payment details please phone 028 28272196/28276455.

CAN YOU HELP? Can you help with stewarding people to their seats, helping to clean the church (a requirement after every Mass and takes about 20 minutes), or willing to help with live-streaming Mass? Without people helping to steward or clean our churches they will not be open as frequently. Call the numbers already given if you can assist.

ST MARY'S SVDP. Please call 07379400568. **ST JOHN'S SVDP.** Please call 07498501326.

FOOD BANK, STEVENSTON AND SALTCOATS. Phone the Three Towns Hub on **310000** from 9am to 1pm. 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 07576 232 969.

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION. We meet on Monday evenings at 7pm. If you would like to participate please phone Danny on 0797 954 2319.

SEASON OF CREATION. For a programme of events please see both Church noticeboards and on the websites or follow link: www.seasonofcreation.org/catholic/

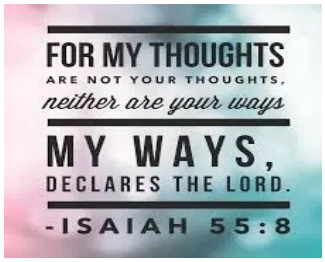
ST MARY'S SCAFFOLDING. A section is missing and is required for works if you know where it is can you please inform the parish office.

Go out onto the streets. *It is true that going out onto the street implies the risk of accidents happening, as they would to any ordinary man or woman. But if the church stays wrapped up in itself, it will age. And if I had to choose between a wounded church that goes out on to the streets and a sick, withdrawn church, I would definitely choose the first one.* ***Pope Francis***

DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY NEWSLETTER. Digital copies are available on both parish websites, or if you wish a paper copy please contact the parish office.

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: Isaiah 55:6-9
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways—it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.
The Word of the Lord

PSALM
R/ The Lord is close to all who call him

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **R/**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R/**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **R/**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Christ will be glorified in my body whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results—I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a
Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Today's psalm proclaims, 'The Lord is close to all who call him'. In your life of faith, when have you needed to call upon the Lord the most fervently?

St Paul writes to the Philippians, 'Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more'. Do you identify with this statement? Why or why not?

How do you feel about God's justice as portrayed in the parable of the labourers in the vineyard?

In what ways do you try and live out Jesus' proverb 'The last will be first, and the first, last'?

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER. Respect for the Planet's Resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

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.
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.