



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

3rd January 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord— Solemnity Year B



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

Assisted by Fr Benjamin Mkeri CSSp and Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula

Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

MASS TIMES: Please remember to book

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass
Tuesday	_____	Funeral Mass (L)	_____
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	_____
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass
Saturday	5.30pm Vigil Mass	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass

L = LIVESTREAMED

To book a place at Mass in St Mary's please phone the parish office on 463461 Tuesday-Friday between 9.30am-2.30pm. To book a place for Mass in St John's please phone Teresa Thornton on 07564903401 Tuesday-Friday between 9.30am-2.30pm. You will be asked for a contact number in order that Track and Trace can be achieved if necessary. All Government requirements must be fulfilled with sanitising hands, wearing a face covering and sitting in a designated seat to enable social distancing. Most of our Masses are being livestreamed and they can be accessed on both parish websites by clicking on the Livestream option.

LEVEL 4 COVID RESTRICTIONS. Means we are restricted to 20 people per Mass. In the light of this St John's will have a Vigil Mass at 5.30pm starting next weekend as well as the 11.30am Sunday Mass. St Mary's will have an additional Sunday Mass at 11.30am as well as the 4.30pm Vigil and 10am Masses. These arrangements are able to take place because Fr Benjamin is resident with us at present, however they are also dependant on Government Guideline which can change at short notice. In order for this to happen St John's will need people to take a turn at cleaning the Church after Mass. If you can help please let us know.

GOSPEL REFLECTION. Livestreamed from St John's on Monday's at 7pm.

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 restevenston link and follow below the instructions. <https://tinyurl.com/rcsaltcoats> <https://tinyurl.com/restevenston>. 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.**

JUSTICE AND PEACE. Bishop Nolan's letter will be read at all masses this weekend. It is also available on both parish websites along with a Summary of the work Justice and Peace have done over the past year in Scotland. A Special Collection will take place from next weekend.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS? For the safety of everyone, and to prevent spread of the Covid virus, please do not attend Church if you have any unusual symptoms e.g. headache/cold or flu-like symptoms. Of course if you have any of the three classic symptoms of coronavirus – high temperature, persistent cough, loss of or change in sense of taste or smell – please self-isolate immediately and book a test. Thank you for your cooperation with all the public health measures in place.

GIFTS AT THE CRIB. Are welcome or can be handed into both parish houses.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Michael Boylan, Deceased members of the Boylan and Dillon Families, Mary Fraser, Catherine O'Meara, Nora McCluskey and Tommy Reid.

Recently deceased: Julie Farrell, Willie Henry, Peter Cartwright, Susan Ambrosini, Teresa Conlan and John Carroll (Paisley).

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: The Baptism of the Lord—Feast; Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11

MARY'S MEALS. We have incredible news! Until 31st January 2021, public donations made to our **Double The Love** appeal will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please see parish websites on ways to donate or visit Mary's Meals website.

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 they can see clients face to face at the Connexions centre in Irvine or at any office location where strict health & safety guidelines are being met. To use us the first step is for a client to call our freephone number which is 0800 328 0006. Poster on church noticeboards for more information.

ST MARY'S SVDP. Would like to thank everyone who has supported the conference in this difficult year. Many thanks to those who have given donations and goods to the Society. These have allowed us to give food, groceries, clothing, footwear and other assistance to needy families in the Parish. Many children and others have benefited from the generosity of our patrons. We wish all parishioners a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas & New Year.

ST MARY'S SVDP. Please call 07379 400 568. **ST JOHN'S SVDP:** Please call 07498 501 326.

C.L.A.S.P. Community Led Action and Support Project. For details of befriending and digital support service Telephone Liz on 07464 206 592 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.

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

WEST COAST FURNITURE BANK. This is a charity, which distributes donated household items to families in need. The contact number is 07576 232 969.

URGENT - MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION TO THE CONSULTATION ON 'DIY' HOME ABORTION. The Scottish Government's consultation on whether to make the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions to take place in Scotland permanent closes at 11:59pm on January 5, 2020. It is vital that as many people as possible make a submission to the consultation. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to make your submission. Make your submission using the tool which can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/ScotlandConsultation

DIOCESE WEB PAGE. GALLOWAYDIOCESE.ORG.UK/FUNDRAISING. GIVE AS YOU LIVE. Do you want to help the Diocese of Galloway raise even more for FREE? You can by shopping via Give as you Live Online! Please follow this link www.giveasyoulive.com/join/rc-diocese-ofgalloway-scotland.

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>. More information can be found on parish websites

***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 MARY'S PARISH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY (5TH).

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes and those with COVID-19*

Christmas Blessings: St John's & St Mary's Parishioners, SPC Communities—Dublin, Ambleside and London.

Christmas Remembrance: Margaret McGee, Thomas & Mary Garvey, Deceased members of Garvey Family, James & Mary McEvoy, Graham Kane & Family, Deceased members of the Murphy Family, Deceased members of the McCarney Family, Joe & Sarah Murray, Derrick Whitehead, Deceased Members of the Collins Family, Gerard Monaghan and Family, Arthur Smyth, Jimmy & Cathy O'Meara, James & Agnes Morrison and Cathy McGuire.

Those who have an anniversary: Michael Boylan, Deceased members of the Boylan and Dillon Families, Mary Fraser, Catherine O'Meara, Nora McCluskey, Tommy Reid, Joe Burns, Deceased members of Fitzpatrick family, James Gallagher, Jessie Burns, Elizabeth Turbet, Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan and Frances Kelly.

Those who have died recently: Julie Farrell, Susan Ambrosini, Teresa Conlan, Peter Cartwright, John Carroll (Paisley), David McIlroy, Robert Dickie, Catherine "Kitty" Brannan, Lewis McLaughlan, John Hutchinson, (Largs), Willie Henry, Michael Mark Murray (Coatbridge), Fr Paddy Walsh (Troon—retired Priest from Glasgow), Margaret Anne Gallagher, Mary Stewart (Prestwick), Phillip McLaughlan, Matt Donnelly, Margaret McAllister (Paisley), Olga Marchetti, Eileen Carroll (Paisley) and Thomas McCulloch (Wishaw).

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 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears,. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look around: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord. **The Word of the Lord**

PSALM

R/ All the nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king’s son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R/**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth’s bounds. **R/**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R/**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R/**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

You have probably heard now I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has not been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles, and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. “Where is the infant king of the Jews!” they asked. “We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. “At Bethlehem in Judaea,” they told him “for this is what the prophet wrote:



And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. “Go and find out all about the child,” he said “and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.” Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh, But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

In all three of today’s readings we hear of different nations and different faiths coming together. How does your faith community reach out to those of different religions and different nationalities?

It was challenging for the early church to navigate the inclusion of both Gentile and Jewish followers of Christ. In your own parish, what groups have difficulty interacting with each other? How might they enjoy greater unity?

The newborn King of the Jews is not found in the palace in Jerusalem but in a humble home in Bethlehem. How do you recognise Jesus in the poor and the vulnerable?

Upon encountering Jesus, the magi respond by offering him gifts from amongst their “treasures” What treasures (either material or spiritual) are you being called to place at the service of Christ?

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for January 2021. *Human Fraternity May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*

Epiphany: *this word indicates the manifestation of the Lord, who, makes himself known to all the nations, today represented by the Magi. In this way, we see the glory of a God who has come for everyone: every nation, language and people is welcomed and loved by him. It is symbolized by the light, which penetrates and illumines all things. **Pope Francis***

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.