



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

14th March 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent Year B

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)



Our Lady Star of the Sea
Saltcoats

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	1.30pm Mass with St John's PS (L)	10am Mass (L)	10am Funeral Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	1.30pm Mass with St Anthony's PS (L)	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass (L)

L = LIVESTREAMED

COVID—19

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

Funeral Masses will still be able to take place but with only 20 people in attendance following Government guidelines.

We are pleased to hear that restrictions are being eased and we will be allowed to open for services with the limited number of 42 to allow for social distancing. Bookings can be made from Monday 22nd March between 10am—2.30pm for Masses taking place between Saturday 27th and Wednesday 31st March, Bookings can be made from Monday 29th March between 10am—2.30pm for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday—times will be announced next weekend.

SUNDAY. Holy Hour livestreamed at 5.30pm-6.30pm.

MONDAY. Gospel Reflection livestreamed at 7pm

WEDNESDAY. A Talk on Repentance with Fr Benjamin livestreamed at 7pm.

MOTHERS DAY. Happy Mothering Sunday to all the ladies in both parishes.

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/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.**

Please remember the following death in your prayers

Thursday (18th) - Annie Dunn Service in the Crematorium, Dreghorn at 12.30pm

Friday (19th) - John McGuire Service in the Crematorium, Dreghorn at 2030pm

+May they rest in peace+

STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Will be livestreamed during Lent—Tuesday at 9.30am from St Mary's and Friday at 7pm from St John's. More information can be found on both parish websites.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Mothers Day Remembrance: Margaret Kane and Elizabeth Murchie

Anniversaries: Sarah Crawford, William H McCann, Philip Burns (1st), Patrick Joseph Hamilton Jnr, Ellen McGarvey, Bridget MacDonald and Margaret Peacey.

Recently deceased: John McGuire, Maria Lee, Chrissie Coleman, Robert Stevenson, Annie Dunn and Alice McEvoy (Ireland)

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Fifth Sunday in Lent Year B— Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 21; I John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

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

Mothers Day Remembrance: Margaret Kane and Elizabeth Murchie

Those who have an anniversary: Sarah Crawford, William H McCann, Philip Burns (1st), Patrick Joseph Hamilton Jnr, Ellen McGarvey, Bridget MacDonald, Margaret Peacey, May & Patrick Hanlon, Helen Celendile, Mary Linney, Elizabeth Melaney, John Dunwoodie, Catherine Girvan, Fr James McHugh and Luke Gargan (20yrs).

Those who have died recently: John McGuire, Maria Lee, Robert Stevenson, Maureen Sherwin, Annie Dunn, Alice McEvoy (Ireland) Peter Finnegan, Anne O'Neill, David O'Reilly, Mary Foulds, Christina Coleman, John Baptiste Nate Kiri, Helen Maxwell (Troon), Kathleen McShane (Shotts), Robert Ferguson and Anne Hughes.

SCIAF. The SCIAF Special Collection would have been taken up this weekend, please keep this in mind for your Lenten Collection. Bishop Toal's letter will be on both websites from Monday.

GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS. The Lent digital edition is available on both parish websites.

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, 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. 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.

ST MARY'S PARISH OFFICE. Unfortunately due to the updated Government Guidelines, I am now having to work from home. I am however still available Monday-Friday 09.30am-2.30pm. You can still contact the parish on 463461, as calls will be redirected. Please note that for anything urgent outwith these hours please contact Canon Martin at St John's on 463225. Please take care and stay safe and hope to see you all soon—*Lorna*

BULLETINS. If you are able to access the bulletin online and have a printer, you might want to pass on a copy to someone who you think might like to keep up to date with all recent parish news.

SCHOENSTATT SCOTLAND. Have produced over 30 E-Retreats both small and more-lengthy, which are available through website www.schoenstatt.co.uk Also now have a significant presence on Instagram. Simply log on to Instagram and key in [schoenstattscotlanduk](https://www.instagram.com/schoenstattscotlanduk). Also our Own YouTube Channel; and will have a Lenten E-Burst going out daily till Easter Sunday available on Instagram and on our Facebook site.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for March. *Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God. (Probably thought of before the pandemic restrictions. God is infinitely merciful.)*

DRUMALIS. *A number of events are happening during Lent. More information can be found on both parish websites.*

Today's Gospel again offers us the words that Jesus addressed to Nicodemus: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16). In hearing these words, we turn our heart's gaze to Jesus Crucified and we feel within us that God loves us, truly loves us, and He loves us so much! This is the simplest expression that epitomises all of the Gospel, all of the faith, all of the theology: God loves us with a free and boundless love. Pope Francis

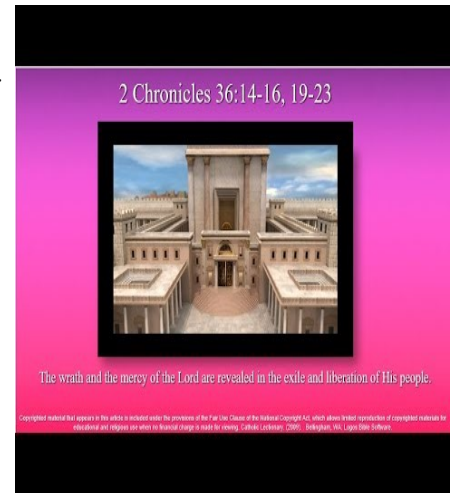
***The new terms of the Data Protection Regulation prevent us from publishing the names of the sick either in electronic form or in paper form in the bulletin.**

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: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord has consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation." And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him!' Let him go to." **The Word of the Lord**



PSALM

R/ O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R/**
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. "Sing to us," they said, "one of Zion's songs." **R/**
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither. **R/**
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R/**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ—it is through grace that you have been saved—and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by Grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

In the first reading we hear that "The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger" to call the people back to the covenant. Which saints throughout the ages have inspired your spiritual journey.

Today's psalm asks "O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?" When in your life (either physically or spiritually) have you experienced being far from home and what sustained you in that time?

St Paul writes to the Ephesians that we are God's work of art." Where do you see the work of art of god flourishing in your family and community?

In today's gospel, Jesus tell Nicodemus, that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light." Where do you perceive light encountering darkness in your community at this moment?

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.