



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenston

# 19th December 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

**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)

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	10am Mass Livestreamed to Primary Schools	10am Mass	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Rebecca Rourke</b>
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	—————	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday Christmas Eve	5pm (L) & 7pm Vigil Masses	5pm & 7pm (L) Vigil Masses	5pm Vigil Mass (L) 8pm Mass of Holy Night
Saturday Christmas Day	10am Mass (L)	11am Mass <b>No 4.30pm Vigil Mass</b>	11am Mass (L)
Sunday Boxing Day	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

**L = LIVESTREAMED**

**MONDAY.** Gospel Reflection livestreamed at 7pm. Why not join us ?

**NEW YEAR'S DAY.** There will be 11am Masses in both churches next Saturday. **There will be no 4.30pm Vigil Mass**

**SYNOD TOPIC SIX - DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY:** Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding. *To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? How can we improve dialogue between our own communities, i.e. between parishes/deaneries and with lay ministries? What particular issues (in the Church or in society) do we need to pay more attention to? How well do we dialogue with and learn from other areas of society, such as politics, culture, diverse groups; how can we improve?* Fr. Stephen Latham has created a short video reflection, which is available on the diocesan webpage [gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news](http://gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news), and at <https://youtu.be/XvPSqfqgLMY> to help you consider these questions. The diocesan team will be pleased to receive all feedback on these questions at [synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk), which will also be addressed during parish synod encounters in the coming weeks.

The Synod Co-ordinators for our parishes are Danny Murray and Mary Theresa Russell for St John's and Peter Timmons and Margaret Millar for St Mary's. Details of the consultations will be provided soon.

**COVID-19.** In line with recent Government advice, parishioners are encouraged to take a lateral flow test before attending Mass. Please also be aware of social distancing.

*Please remember the following death in your prayers*

**John Conti Gilchrist RIP**—Funeral Service will take place on Friday (24th) at 12 Noon in Clyde Coast & Garnock Valley Crematorium, Largs.  
+May he rest in peace+



*A Happy and Blessed Christmas to all*  
*Christmas Greetings from Canon Martin, Fr Benjamin, Canon Matt,*  
*Sr Ursula and Sr Marie Monique*



Parishes of the RC Diocese of Galloway Charity Registration No: SCO10576

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

**Special Intention:** Alex & Betty Allan (Diamond Wedding Ann) and Sp Int.

**Anniversaries:** William Martin, William Meechan Snr & Deceased family members, Rosario & Francesca Rafferenti, Patrick Monaghan, Laura Cambridge, Annie McKernon, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Tom McKay, John Dolan, Jimmy Gailey, Sr Anne Delahunt, Mairi Grier and Bessie Delahunt.

**Christmas Remembrance:** Lewis & Morag McLaughlin, John Monaghan, Joe & Sarah Murray, John & Janet Collins & deceased family members, Derrick Whitehead, Kane & Murchie family, Fr James McHugh, Gerard Monaghan and Arthur Smyth

**Recently deceased:** Bried Carr (England), Nora McMutrie (Oxfordshire), Frances Dougan (Carlisle), Noel Hughes and Allan Coyle.

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6.12-14; Psalm 127; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

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

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

**Special Intention:** Alex & Betty Allan (Diamond Wedding Ann), Sp Int, SPC Communities—London, Preston & Dublin

**Those who have an anniversary:** William Martin, William Meechan Snr & Deceased family members, Rosario & Francesca Rafferenti, Patrick Monaghan, Annie McKernon, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Tom McKay, John Dolan, Jimmy Gailey, Sr Anne Delahunt, Mairi Grier, Bessie Delahunt, Willie Henry (1st), Jean Martin, Mary Dunn, Owen Conlan, Betty Freeman, Mary Ramsay, Patricia MacNamara and Laura Cambridge.

**Christmas Remembrance:** Lewis & Morag McLaughlin, John Monaghan, Joe & Sarah Murray, John & Janet Collins & deceased family members, Derrick Whitehead, Kane & Murchie family, Fr James McHugh, Gerard Monaghan and Arthur Smyth.

**Those who have died recently:** Bried Carr (England), Nora McMutrie (Oxfordshire), Frances Dougan (Carlisle), Bishop John Cunningham, Brian Molloy, Mary Gallagher (Airdrie), Sarah McLaughlin, Frank Slaven (Wishaw), Karen Lee, Allan Coyle, Edward Divers, Sheila McLellan, Catherine Tomelty, Jean White, Noel Hughes, Dougie Scott, Alan McCormack, Mary Curran (Donegal), John Mullen (Irvine) and Marjorie Jane Gallagher (Milton of Campsie).

**QUIET DAY.** Will take place today (Sunday) in St Mary's 1pm-4pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation available.

**CONGRATULATIONS.** To Alex and Betty Allan who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this week.

**300 CLUB.** Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Draw. No 11—K. Littlemore (£100); No 172—A. Hughes (£50) and No 16—M.T. Russell (£25). If you would like to join the 300 Club please contact David Hume or phone 465843.

**THANK YOU.** The family of the late Rosemary Duncan would like to thank everyone who donated to the special collection taken at her funeral. A wonderful £816 was sent to the Wayside Club, who have acknowledged this donation with thanks.

**NEW WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES.** Are still available at St John's. If you wish to pay your collection through the bank or gift aid your donation (if you pay tax) there are forms available in the Church.

**CRIB.** As usual gifts and items left at the crib in each Church at Christmas will be forwarded from St Mary's to the Cardinal Winning Initiative and from St John's to Hillhouse Care, Kilmarnock.

**MONEY COLLECTED AT CRIB.** Will be forwarded to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society.

**WAYSIDE CLUB.** In addition to clothing items over £700 has been forwarded to the Wayside Club—thank you.

**MISSIO—CHRISTMAS CARDS.** Are available to buy at the back of both churches, donations can be left in the blue container

**GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS.** Advent edition available from both church porches or diocesan website.

**52ND AYRSHIRE / 1ST SALTCOATS SCOUT GROUP—A PLEA FOR HELP.** We find ourselves in a position where we need YOUR help desperately so that Scouting can continue here in Saltcoats. We need people to work with the young people in the Beavers (aged 6 – 8), the Cubs (aged 8 – 10 ½) and the Scouts (aged 10 ½ - 14). We also need someone to manage the group, someone who would support the leaders. If you think you can help in any way please get in touch with Pat Campbell 01563 526325 or Margaret Craik 07747770687. Please see poster in church and parish hall noticeboard and parish website for more information.

**CHANA.** The Lunch Club meets in the Kirkgate every Friday.

**2022 PARISH DIARIES.** £1 from both church stalls.

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN.** Christmas Cards available from their online store.

**“IN GOD'S IMAGE VERSION 2.** The Safeguarding instruction of the Scottish Catholic Church has been revised and is now available for download, either by visiting [bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2](https://bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2), or by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of the church. It is important that everyone with Safeguarding responsibilities in our parish communities has a copy of IGlv2. If you are unable to download a copy, please contact the diocesan office who will be able to assist.

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

**FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** St John's Hall from 4pm to 5pm on Wednesdays.

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



### First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, (Bethlehem) Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the Land. He himself will be peace. **The Word of the Lord**

### PSALM

**R/ God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help  
**R/**
2. God of host, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R/**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R/**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, "God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will." Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ. **The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made by he by the Lord would be fulfilled."



### PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

*When was the last time you were so filled with joy and delight that you yelled about it, loudly?*

*How do you express sudden joy? How do you greet people you haven't seen in a while? What kind of greeting makes you feel most comfortable and loved?*

*Do you contemplate God in your personal devotion with more feminine or masculine imagery? How does this imagery inform your prayer?*

*What is the face of God? Do you see the face of God in your own life and work? Who shows the face of God to you?*

**Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for December.** "Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit. (We need creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways" the Pope said.)

**The Bible in a Year Podcast.** This podcast can be found on YouTube or on your podcast app.

**"Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself."** Bill McKibben

**The Secret is Humility.** The secret of Mary's success is precisely that she recognises her lowliness, that she recognises her need. With God, only those who recognise themselves as nothing can receive all. Only the one who empties him or herself can be filled by Him. And Mary is "full of grace" precisely because of her humility. For us as well, humility is always the point of departure, always, it is the beginning of our having faith. It is fundamental to be poor in spirit, that is in need of God. Those who are filled with themselves have no space for God. And many times, we are full of ourselves, and the one who is filled with him or herself gives no space to God, but those who remain humble allow the Lord to accomplish great things. **Pope Francis**

**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 will see clients face to face at the Connexions centre, Irvine or at any office location. Please call our freephone number which is 0800 328 0006.

**\*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**

### Neighbouring Parishes:

Father Duncan McVicar, St Peter's, Ardrossan 464063. Father Gerard Magee, St Winin's, Kilwinning 552276.

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.

Fr Stephen McGrattan is hospital chaplain for Crosshouse, assisted by IHM sisters

Rev Robert Mackie is chaplain for Ayr hospital.

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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.