



St John the Evangelist
Stevenson

5th December 2021 Second Sunday of Advent Year C



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.stevensonstjohns.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)

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	6pm Reception Sheila McLellan	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	_____	10am Funeral Mass Sheila McLellan	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Mass (L) 6pm Reception Catherine Tomelty	10am Mass	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	10am Funeral Mass Catherine Tomelty	10am Mass	7pm Reception Sarah McLaughlin
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Funeral Mass (L) Sarah McLaughlin
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

L = LIVESTREAMED

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

SYNOD TOPIC FOUR - CELEBRATION: The celebration of the Eucharist - i.e. Mass - is at the centre of our Catholic communities, and forms the basis for our 'walking together'. *How well do communal prayer and liturgical celebrations inspire and guide our sense of community? How well do we allow and enable every member of the faithful to participate?* Fr. Stephen Latham has created a short video reflection, which is available on the diocesan webpage gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news, and at <https://youtu.be/dt5LXQ2ZJAc>, to help you consider these questions. The diocesan team will be pleased to receive all feedback on these questions at synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk, which will also be addressed during parish synod encounters in the coming weeks. **SAVE the DATE** - Soup and Sandwich in St Mary's - Saturday 22nd January. Afternoon Tea - St John's Sunday 23rd January. *Next week: Synod topic five - Sharing Responsibility for our Common Mission*

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES. St John's: 5pm and 7pm Vigil Masses and 10am Christmas Day Mass. St Mary's: 5pm & 7pm Vigil Masses and 11am Christmas Day Mass. **No 4.30pm Vigil Mass on 25th December. Sunday (Boxing Day) 10am Mass in St Mary's and 11.30am in St John's.**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES. Monday 13th December at 7pm in St Peter's Ardrossan; Tuesday 14th December at 7pm in St John's Stevenston and Wednesday 15th December at **2pm** in St Mary's Saltcoats

Please remember the following deaths in your prayers

Sheila McLellan RIP—Reception will take place tomorrow (Monday) in St Mary's at 6pm.
Funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10am followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

Catherine Tomelty RIP—Reception will take place on Wednesday at 6pm in St John's.
Funeral Mass on Thursday at 10am followed by burial in Hawkhill Cemetery.

+May they rest in peace+

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Joseph McKeever, Jim Crawford, Jim Delahunt, Willie & Maureen McKenna, George Forbes, Larry Poland and Margaret McAuliffe.

Recently deceased: Bishop John Cunningham, Edward Divers, Sheila McLellan, Catherine Tomelty, Jean White, Noel Hughes, Dougie Scott and Alan McCormack.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Third Sunday of Advent Year C: Zephaniah 3:14-18; Psalm 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

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

Special Intentions: Birthday Int and Sick.

Those who have an anniversary: Joseph McKeever, Jim Crawford, Jim Delahunt, Willie & Maureen McKenna, George Forbes, Larry Poland, Margaret McAuliffe, Tom Gordon (10th), McConnell & Wylie families, Mary Hamilton, Bert White and Finnegan Family.

Those who have died recently: Bishop John Cunningham, Edward Divers, Sheila McLellan, Catherine Tomelty, Jean White, Noel Hughes, Dougie Scott, Alan McCormack, Mary Curran (Donegal), John Mullen (Irvine), Marjorie Jane Gallagher (Milton of Campsie), Michael McGrail, Peter Butterly, Madge McGuire and Mr T. Ross.

QUIET DAY. Will take place on Saturday 18th December in St John's 12pm-3pm and Sunday 19th December St Mary's 1pm-4pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation available.

BISHOP JOHN CUNNINGHAM—RIP. Please remember Bishop John in your prayers who has died.

300 CLUB. The Christmas Draw will take place at the Coffee Morning on 12th December.

CONGRATULATIONS. To those who celebrated First Reconciliation from both parishes.

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.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE. St John's hall committee are grateful for donations for the bottle stall, tombola stall and home baking. The Fayre takes place after the 11.30am Mass today (Sunday). All welcome.

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.

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 1 HR PER WEEK. MCR Pathways are looking for volunteer mentors to work with some of our young people from 1st to 6th years in our secondary schools for just 1hr per week. This has been shown to make a big difference in helping these young people towards positive pathways, College, employment or University. If you would like more information please contact Katie Brown 07801554990 or Michael Lafferty 07385426661 or come along to St John's Christmas Fayre where there will be an information stall. The MCR website is <https://mcrpathways.org/>

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

THE WAYSIDE CLUB. Are unable to visit this year but we hope to send items to them next week. As usual hats, scarves, etc will be welcome but must be unused and financial donations are welcome.

SPRED. Mass will be celebrated on 12th December at 2pm in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. All welcome.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL. Will be holding a Christmas Fayre this coming Friday (10th) in St Peter's Church from 3:30pm -5:30pm. All welcome.

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, 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 IGIv2. 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

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head; since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, "Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness." Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort. **The Word of the Lord**

PSALM 125

R/ What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R/**
2. The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord worked for them!" What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R/**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R/**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R/**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Have you taken a course or attended a workshop on biblical history? Are there clues in the week's readings that you are able to pick out because of the time you've spent studying the context of the writers? What can you share with your fellow ministers?

Who was a great coach or mentor who helped you develop? What activities or words did this person use to encourage you to grow?

Paul's prayer for us is, "that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ." How does this make you feel? How would you change if you knew this prayer was being said for you constantly?

In light of Paul's words, what is your prayer for your own community?

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.)

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK. Has not been possible this year but if anyone would like the Sacrament of the Sick please let a member of the St Vincent de Paul, the parish office or one of the priests have your name and contact number.

SCIAF REAL GIFTS. Please keep in mind their Real Gifts Appeal as a Christmas present this year. Please see parish websites or visit SCIAF's website for more information.

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.