



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenson

## 23rd January 2022 Third Sunday of 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](http://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](http://www.rcsaltcoats.com)

and Sr Marie Monique & Sr Ursula

Canon Matt McManus (Retired)

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	—————	—————	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Bert McMahon</b>	—————	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Francis Fitzpatrick</b>	10am Mass (L)
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.

**SYNOD ON SYNODALITY:** The diocesan team would like to thank all the people who have already responded to the ten themes which have been published over the past couple of months. Omicron unfortunately postponed the first wave of synod encounters in parishes, however these are now starting to be rescheduled and we look forward to receiving the responses. In the meantime, there are two options to participate in the Synod. If you would like to attend an online encounter, please email [synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) and indicate what days and times are suitable for you. There is also an online questionnaire which can be completed either by individuals or small groups, e.g. family members. It is available for download at <https://form.jotform.com/213292942112954> or by visiting [gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod](http://gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod).

**SAVE the DATE** - Soup and Sandwich in St Mary's - Saturday 19th February from 11am-2pm . Afternoon Tea - St John's Saturday 26th February from 12.30pm-3.30pm.

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.

**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 deaths in your prayers*

**Bert McMahon RIP**—Prayers of Reception and funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday (26th) at 10am in St John's  
Followed by cremation in Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium.

**Francis Fitzpatrick RIP**—Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Friday (28th) at 10am in St Mary's  
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

*+May they rest in peace+*

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION.** To attend Mass has been postponed to a later date.

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

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

**Anniversaries:** Thomas Slimmon (1st), Marie Ramsay, Annie Monan, David McGowan, Eileen Fairlie and David Hume

**Recently deceased:** Mark Tulloch, Angela Dorrian Gallacher, Bert McMahon, and Frank Fitzpatrick. Hugh Doherty, Alice Hainey, Bernadette McGeoch, Anne Haveron (East Kilbride)

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Fourth Sunday in Year C; Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; Psalm 70; I Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-30

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.** Will be celebrated in St John's on Thursday 3rd February at 7pm for both parishes. Parents meeting this Tuesday at 6pm on zoom.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS.** Please support our catholic primary schools (St John's and St Anthony's) when registering your child for school placement. School details if required are on the back of this bulletin.

**DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD.** Are you thinking about being a Priest in 2022? The Diocese of Galloway is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr. Martin Chambers at: [martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

**MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN.** Issue 9—January 2022 can be found on the parish website or paper copies available from the parish office.

**NEW SAFEGUARDING AGENCY BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE.** Former Judge the Hon. Lady Rae has taken up the reins as Board Chair of the new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA) that is now being established as an independent body to oversee the Church's safeguarding practice. The latest issue of the Safeguarding Matters newsletter (available: <https://bit.ly/3tyeInn>) provides details of what the agency will do, who it will work with and how it will be governed. Lady Rae is looking to recruit people who can bring relevant expertise to act as Board Directors who will support the important work of the new agency. More details are available on the website of this recruitment agency: <https://asppeople.co.uk/microsite/scssa/>

**SUNDAY TEAS.** Why not pop into the parish halls after Mass for a cuppa and a chat. Current restrictions are still in place, ie, track and trace and face coverings will need to be worn inside hall when moving around.

**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 from 12 Noon—2pm.

**“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 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.

**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*

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

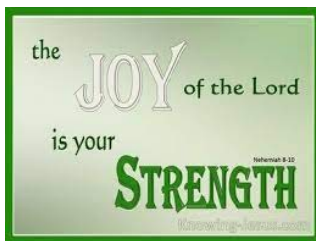
**For all the sick in our parishes and those with COVID-19\***  
For the parents of Baby Hannah Walker

**Those who have an anniversary:** Thomas Slimmon (1st), Marie Ramsay, Annie Monan, David McGowan, Eileen Fairlie, David Hume, Billy Hand, Deceased members of Donnelly family (Elizabeth, Augustine, Mary and Gus), Jane Cairns, Robert Cairns, Bernard Walsh, Jennifer Ford, Gretta Taylor, James Whiston, Mary Whiston, Sabina Monan, Mary Garvey, Tom Garvey and Deceased members of Garvey family..

**Those who have died recently:** Mark Tulloch, Angela Dorrian Gallacher, Hugh Doherty, Alice Hainey, Bernadette McGeoch, Anne Haveron (East Kilbride), James Taylor, Gordon Burns, Charlotte Donnelly (Largs), Bert McMahon, Bobby Badger (100yrs old), Frank Fitzpatrick, Harry Robertson, John Michael Mooney, Isobel Hackett (Sheffield), Seamus Martin (Newry), Andrew McLaughlin, Melissa Campbell, Frances Lennox, Alice Farrell (USA) and Isa Kearney.

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



**First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10**

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people—since he stood higher than all the people—Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, “Amen! Amen!”; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the

Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then (Nehemiah—His Excellency—and) Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, “This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.” For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, “Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.”

**The Word of the Lord**

**PSALM 18**

**R/ Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R/**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R/**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth my rescuer, my rock! **R/**
4. May the spoken words of the mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **R/**

**Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-30**

Just as a human body, thought it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. **The Word of the Lord**

**Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.



He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news of the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, “This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.”

**PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

*If someone were writing the story of your life, what sources would you want them to look at? Journals? Interviews with family members? Social media? Why or why not?*

*If you were sitting in the synagogue when your neighbour Jesus stood up and read this passage from Isaiah, how do you think you would react?*

*If you had to name the “part of the body” that you are in your parish, what would it be?*

*Ezra’s words tell us, “For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad.” Is there a situation in your life that can be reframed by this command?*

**Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for January** - We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**Christ’s Plan.** Let us ask ourselves: today, in our parish communities, in our associations, in our movements, are we faithful to Christ’s plan? Is the priority evangelising the poor, bringing them the joyful Good News? Pay heed: it does not only involve doing social assistance, much less political activity. **It involves offering the strength of the Gospel of God, who converts hearts, heals wounds, transforms human and social relationships according to the logic of love. The poor are indeed at the centre of the Gospel.** Pope Francis

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

**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.