



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenston

# 27th November 2022

## First Sunday of Advent Year A

**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)

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 (L)	10am Mass (L) 1pm Funeral Service <b>Paul Foran</b>
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

**L = LIVESTREAMED**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION.** Livestreamed Monday at 7pm.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.** 3.45pm-4.15pm in St Mary's and Saturday 10.30am-11am in St John's.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.** St Mary's Tuesday 9.30am. St John's Friday 10.30am-11am

**SYCAMORE PART 2.** Our last Sycamore Programme of November will take place on Tuesday in St Mary's. We meet in the Parish hall from 12.30 to 2pm.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY.** Today is Catholic Education Sunday and we welcome speakers from our schools to all our weekend masses and a special collection will also take place this weekend.

**SYNOD NEWS.** 1. The Synod Group's recent presentation to the two Parish Councils can be accessed on the website under SYNOD. 2. Father Congar, French Dominican Friar, priest and theologian, of blessed memory, once said: "*There is no need to create another Church, but to create a different Church*". That is the challenge. For a "different Church", a Church open to the newness that God wants to suggest, let us with greater fervour and frequency invoke the Holy Spirit and humbly listen to him, journeying together as he, the source of communion and mission, desires: with docility and courage. **Pope Francis.**

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES.** Monday 19th December at 7pm in St Peter's; Tuesday 20th December at 7pm in St John's and Wednesday 21st December at 2pm in St Mary's

**SCIAF.** Real Gift of Water for a village: target £1,088. To date £3,513.42 has been received which will cover the supply of water for 3 villages. After this weekend this appeal will close and a big THANK YOU for your generosity.

**WELCOME.** To the Wayside Club who visit St John's parish today.

**CEMETERY MASS.** The Annual Mass at the Cemetery will take place today (Sunday) at 2pm.

**SOUP AND A CHAT.** St John's every Monday 11.30am-1.30pm. St Mary's every Wednesday from 11.30am—1.30pm

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

**Special Intentions:** Sick and SPC Communities

**Anniversaries:** Rosemary MacAuley, Noel Hughes (1st), Francis McGinn, John Maxwell, Hannah Kirk, Elizabeth Aitken, McConnell & Wylie families, Mary Hamilton, Bert White, Finnegan family, Thomas Harbinson, Gerry Henry, John Fagan and Alan McCormack

**Recently deceased:** Andrew Coleman, Kerry White, Ralph Piacentini, Terry McConville (Ireland), Eilidh McCarroll, Peter Flynn, Grace Kelly Finnigan and Effie MacIsaac (South Uist).

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Second Sunday of Advent Year A—** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

**Special Intentions:** Sick and SPC Communities

**Those who have an anniversary:** Rosemary MacAuley, Noel Hughes (1st), Francis McGinn, John Maxwell, Hannah Kirk, Elizabeth Aitken, McConnell & Wylie families, Mary Hamilton, Bert White, Finnegan family, Thomas Harbinson, Gerry Henry, John Fagan, Alan McCormack, Cathie Pllu, Kathleen Poland, Hugh McAllister, Kathleen Fraser, Catherine (Cassie) McMullen, Jack Garland, Jim & Claire Lawler, Cyril Dorrian, Francis McGinn and Kathleen Runcie

**Those who have died recently:** Andrew Coleman, Kerry White, Ralph Piacentini, Terry McConville (Ireland), Peter Flynn, Grace Kelly Finnigan, Effie MacIsaac (South Uist), Rose Morrison, Elizabeth Cummins, Archbishop Conti, Anne McEvoy (Irvine), Mary McPherson, Eilidh McCarroll. Megan Anderson, Michael Ferguson (Irvine) and Dougal Rowan.

**ST ANTHONY'S PS FIRST RECONCILIATION.** Will take place this coming Thursday (1st) in St Mary's Church.

**ST JOHN'S FASHION SHOW.** Thank you to all who supported the M&Co Fashion Show which raised £437 for St John's.

**NEW WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES.** Are available at St John's.

**CHRISTMAS CARD FOR ST JOHN'S TWIN PARISH IN BRAZIL.** Sheet for signatures to accompany card in the porch.

**300 CLUB.** Congratulations to the winners of the November draw: No 39—J. Monaghan £30 and No 47—A. Taggart £20. The Christmas draw will take place at the Coffee Morning on Sunday 11th December.

**CALEDONIA AND ARRAN VIEW NURSING HOMES CAROL SERVICES.** Sunday 4th (Caledonia), and 18th (Arran View) December; Carol Services for the residents. There will be a sign up sheet for parishioners, of all ages, who would like to come along at 2pm on the above dates to lead the well known carols. Everyone welcome, no rehearsals required.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION.** St Anthony's After School Club this Thursday 3-4pm.

**MARY'S MEAL NEWS.** Once again we would like to thank everyone who has given money donations to us for Mary's Meals over the past few weeks. The donations totalled £518. A very special Thank You to this year's First Holy Communion children of St Anthony's and St John's who gave some of their money gifts to us. Between the 2 schools this came to an amazing £366.20. Therefore we have sent off a grand total of £884.20. BUT - Due to some very generous friends of Mary's Meals all donations from now until the end of January will be doubled. Therefore our donation will now be worth £1,768.40. AMAZING !!!

**HOGMANAY CEILIDH IN AID OF UKRAINE APPEAL.** Will take place in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 31st December 7.30pm - 1am. Bar available but please bring your own snacks. Tickets are £15 (including supper, raffle and Irish bingo ticket) they must be paid for when ordering as tickets are limited. To order please contact Michael Lafferty 07813650411 or Lisa Lafferty 07988609078

**ST JOHNS HALL COMMITTEE.** Sunday 4th—Christmas Fete / Craft stalls; more information will be made available. If you have any questions or would like to book a table etc please speak with any member of the hall committee.

**ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE.** The Parent Council are holding a Christmas Fayre at the school this coming Friday (2nd) at 3pm. Donations of chocolate, bottles, bric-a-brac or baking can be handed in the school office. Stalls available to rent please call Stuart on 07576 405 091. Please come along and join in the fun.

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF ADVENT READINGS AND CAROLS.** In St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 21st December at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE. Youth for Lourdes 2023.** Are recruiting for young people aged 4th year to 23 years to join the diocesan Youth for Lourdes team. The pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 3rd-10th July 2023 and the approximate cost is £650 per person. The YfL group will fly with the diocesan pilgrimage this time. **World Youth Day 2023.** Are recruiting to join us in preparing and participating in the next international World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from 26th July - 9th August 2023. The approximate cost £750 per person. Open to young people aged 16-25 years by time of departure. For more information please see poster on noticeboards, visit the parish website or contact Youth for Lourdes directly.

**SVDP.** Please call 07379 400 568 for St Mary's. Please call 07498 501 326 for St John's.

**FOODBANK COLLECTION (TESCO) SALTCOATS.** This takes place on 1st to 3rd December. If you can spare a couple of hours giving out leaflets and encouraging people to donate, please contact Danny on 0797 954 2319.

**FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

**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: Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem." He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. **The Word of the Lord**

### PSALM: 121

**R/ I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house." And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
**R/**
2. Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. **R/**
3. For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!" For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.  
**R/**

### Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

You know "the time" has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon—let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ; forget about satisfying your bodies with all their cravings.

**The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."



### PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

*Both of the first and second reading contain light imagery. Where in your life do you need God's illumining light?*

*The psalm calls us to joy in liturgy and in God's presence. Is anything keeping you from this joy?*

*How do you feel reading the gospel's description of Jesus's coming? How could you invite God into any anxiety you may be feeling?*

**COST OF LIVING CRISIS.** Funds currently available to assist St Mary's parishioners who need help to cope with rising energy and food costs. Need assistance, please phone 07379 400 568. All contacts will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**This is staying awake!** The slumber from which we must awaken is constituted of indifference, of vanity, of the inability to establish genuinely human relationships, of the inability to take charge of our brother who is alone, abandoned or ill. **Pope Francis**

**R.C.I.A.** Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or joining the Church should contact the parish office or Canon Martin.

**DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD.** 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)

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

**\*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.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:** The hospital chaplains of Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals are pleased to visit patients on request. For general visiting in Crosshouse Hospital please contact Fr Stephen McGrattan at [stephenmcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephenmcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at [benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or on 01655 882145. For the urgent or emergency assistance of a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

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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.