



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenson

# 25th December 2022 The Nativity of the Lord— Solemnity Year A

**Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland**  
St John's, Hayocks Road, Stevenson, 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)



Our Lady Star of the Sea  
Saltcoats

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	_____	11am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	11am Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Donnie McMillan</b>	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	11am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	11am Mass	_____	10am Mass (L)
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	6pm Vigil Mass	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass (L)
<b>New Year's Day</b>	10.30am Mass	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

**L = LIVESTREAMED**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION.** Livestreamed Monday at 4pm.  
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.** On request  
**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.** No exposition for 2 weeks.

**SYNOD NEWS.** The wounds of the Church are intimately connected to those of the world. The reports speak of the challenges of tribalism, sectarianism, racism, poverty, and gender inequality within the life of the Church, as well as the world. Uganda echoes many other countries in noting that in the structures of the Church "the rich and the educated are listened to more than others". The Philippines report notes that "many of the underprivileged and those who were marginalised in society felt that they are also left out in the Church". **The Synod Synopsis from each continent.**

*Please remember the following death in your prayers*

**Donnie McMillan RIP**

**Anna Wilson RIP**

**Patrick Joseph McEvoy RIP**

Donnie's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday at 10am in St Mary's.

Followed by Cremation in Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium.

Anna's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 4th January at 10am in St Mary's.

Followed by Burial in Hawkhill Cemetery.

Patrick's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Friday 6th January at 10am in St Mary's.

Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

*+May they rest in peace+*



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



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

**Special Intention:** Kathleen McGuirk (RIP Birthday Intention) and Christmas Blessings.

**Christmas Remembrance:** Deceased members of the Durning, Robert Ferguson, Francis & Doris Haugh, Thomas Oliver, John Monaghan, Mr & Mrs Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, John & Janet Collins and deceased family members, John Murphy and Murphy and McCarney family members, Gerard Monaghan, Cathy McGuire, Ann Hughes, Pllu family, O'Meara family, Meechan & McCafferty families, Kane, Murchie and McHugh families, Joe & Sarah Murray, Derrick Whitehead, John Whitehead, Arthur Smyth and deceased members of Smyth and Coleman families.

**Anniversaries:** James Monan, Peter Cartwright (2nd), Isa Kearney, Mairi Grier, Patrick McCann, Tom McKay, John Dolan, Elizabeth Turbet, Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle and Jessie Burns (5th),

**Recently deceased:** Betty Paterson, Patricia Gallagher, Thomas Carolan (County Meath), Mary Giffney, Rose Cushnan, Irene Crozier, Anna Wilson, Agnes Devine, Donnie McMillan, Mary Donnelly, Brendan Clarke (Norwich), Patricia Power (Giffnock), Allan Peter MacIsaac (South Uist), John Harkins (Wishaw) and Patrick Joseph McEvoy.

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Mary, The Holy Mother of God—Solemnity Year A:** Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

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

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

**Special Intentions:** Christmas Blessings and all parishioners and Clergy

**Christmas Remembrance:** Deceased members of the Durning family, Robert Ferguson, Francis & Doris Haugh, Thomas Oliver, John Monaghan, Mr & Mrs Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, John & Janet Collins and deceased family members, John Murphy and Murphy and McCarney family members, Gerard Monaghan, Cathy McGuire, Ann Hughes, Pllu family, O'Meara family, Meechan & McCafferty families, Kane, Murchie and McHugh families, Joe & Sarah Murray, Derrick Whitehead, John Whitehead, Arthur Smyth and deceased members of Smyth and Coleman families.

**Those who have an anniversary:** James Monan, Peter Cartwright (2nd), Isa Kearney, Mairi Grier, Patrick McCann, Tom McKay, John Dolan, Elizabeth Turbet, Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, Jessie Burns (5th), William Meechan Snr, John Conti Gilchrist, Mary Ramsay, Annie McKernon, Agnes (Cameron) McCaffery, William Martin, Patricia MacNamara, Jimmy Gailey and Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle.

**Those who have died recently:** Betty Paterson, Patricia Gallagher, Allan Peter MacIsaac (South Uist), John Harkins (Wishaw), Patrick Joseph McEvoy. Thomas Carolan (County Meath), Mary Giffney, Rose Cushnan, Irene Crozier, Anna Wilson, Agnes Devine, Mary Donnelly (Fr Gerard Donnelly's Mum), Margaret Williams, Donnie McMillan. Patricia (Pat) Power (Giffnock), Brendan Clarke (Norwich), Adam King, Peggie Duffy, Margaret Austin, Alice Kane (Castlemilk), Betty Drysdale (Paisley), Andrew Coleman, Kerry White, Ralph Piacentini, Terry McConville (Ireland), Peter Flynn, Grace Kelly Finnigan, Effie MacIsaac (South Uist) and Hugh Conway

**SOUP AND A CHAT.** St John's will reopen again on Monday 9th January and St Mary's Wednesday 11th January.

**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.

**CHANA.** Thank you so much for the donations to CHANA's Christmas appeal for the Night Before Christmas Charity (NB4CC). NB4CC will provide gifts for 10 babies, 76 children, 36 teenagers and 60 adults who are in Supported Accommodation in North Ayrshire this Christmas.

**SAFEGUARDING MATTERS NEWSLETTER.** December 2022 issue is available on the parish website. Or copies available from the parish office.

**CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE—ST MARY'S.** A total of £315 was raised for the Guyana Mission. Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously. The winners were: Christmas Cake—Tommy McCann; Wine—Maria Dorrian; Wine—Mary McCluskey\*; Victoria Biscuits—Agnes Millar\*; Fox's Biscuits—Irene McMenamin; Cadbury's Roses—Angela Dunbar; Thornton's Chocolates—Peter McLaughlin; Chocolate Chip Cookies—Kathleen Quinn (Kilwinning). \* Please phone 469625 to arrange delivery of prize.

**HOGMANAY CEILIDH IN AID OF UKRAINE APPEAL.** Hogmanay Ceilidh next Saturday (31st) 7.30pm - 1am. There are a few tickets left if anyone still interested. If so phone Michael 07813650411 or Lisa 07988609078

**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. Next years pilgrimage is from 3rd-10th July 2023 costing £650. **World Youth Day 2023.** Are recruiting for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from 26th July - 9th August 2023. The approximate cost £750 per person. 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 STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

**ONLINE PRAYER EVENT FOR YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS AGED 20-40.** Join us for a post-Christmas rosary and reflection via Zoom this coming Tuesday (27th) at 8pm-8:30pm. Our events are a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other young adults. For more info and tickets email: [2040network@gmail.com](mailto:2040network@gmail.com).

**SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR AUGUST 2023.** Is an online process and will take place during the period Monday 9th January till Sunday 22nd January.

**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 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion. "Your God is King!" Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**The Word of the Lord**

### PSALM: 97

**R/ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

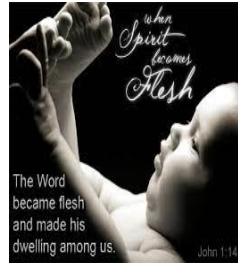
1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R/**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R/**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R/**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **R/**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and how that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far about the angels and the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him. **The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God, His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that every one might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men, and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: "This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me". Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received—yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who had made him known.



### FOR REFLECTION

*Jesus, the Word of God, entered fully into human life. Do you find this hard to believe? What parts of your life feel distant from how you understand Jesus's earthly experience?*

*Are you feeling the joy of Christmas this season? Why or why not? How can your church community offer support if you are not in a place to share the joy of the season?*

**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.

**Pope Francis; Prayer Intentions for December - for Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations.** We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**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

**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.