



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenson

# 19th February 2023

## Seventh Sunday of 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.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	6pm Reception <b>Thomas Smyth</b>	—————	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	10am Funeral Mass <b>Thomas Smyth</b>	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass (L)
Ash Wednesday	<b>11am &amp; 7pm</b> Masses with distribution of Ashes	10am Mass (L) With distribution of Ashes	10am Mass (L) with distribution of Ashes 6pm Reception <b>Peter Monaghan Jnr</b> 7pm Service with distribution of Ashes
Thursday	<b>11.30am</b> P7 Transition Mass	10am Mass (L) <b>1pm</b> Funeral Service <b>John McLaughlin</b>	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Peter Monaghan Jnr</b>
Friday	10am Eucharistic Service	<b>10.30am</b> Funeral Service <b>Jean Kane</b>	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-10am. St John's Friday 10.30am-11am

*Please remember the following deaths in your prayers*

**Thomas Smyth RIP**

**John McLaughlin RIP**

**Jean Kane RIP**

**William Potts RIP**

Thomas' Prayers of Reception will take place tomorrow (Monday) at 6pm in St John's.

Funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10am. Followed by Cremation in Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium.

John's Funeral Service will take place on Thursday at 1pm in St Mary's. Followed by Ardrossan Cemetery.

Jean's Funeral Service will take place on Friday at 10.30am in St Mary's. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery

William's Funeral Service will take place on 1st March at 1pm in St Mary's. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

**+May they rest in peace+**

**SYNOD NEWS.** "Something special happened here," Archbishop Eamon Martin, president of the Irish bishops' conference, said at the close of a continental assembly of the European Catholic Church held this month as part of Pope Francis' ongoing process to reinvigorate the Church. The leader of the Irish church said in a video statement that there had been "huge diversity, a huge range of opinions" and "a strong acceptance that the body of Christ is wounded and in need of healing in so many ways."

**Wednesday** is Ash Wednesday and a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. School Services will take place in both St Anthony's and St John's with the distribution of Ashes.

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

**RIP Birthday Intention:** Philip Reynolds.

**Anniversaries:** Harry Crawford, James (Bud) Cassidy, Margaret Kirkwood Kelly, Brendan Dorrian and Robert Ferguson (2nd).

**Recently deceased:** Gertie Turner, Mary McNulty, Betty Pellegrini, Drew Ferguson, Thomas Smyth, Jean Kane, John McLaughlin.

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: First Sunday in Lent Year**

**A:** Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

**RIP Birthday Intention: Philip Reynolds.**

**Those who have an anniversary:** Harry Crawford, James (Bud) Cassidy, Margaret Kirkwood Kelly, Brendan Dorrian, Robert Ferguson (2nd), Mary Ann & Con McGeehan, Albert Garrett, Peter Finnegan, Pat Maxwell, Anne Hughes, Patrick Joseph Hamilton, Tommy Murray, Margaret Nellis (25th) and Moira Grant.

**Those who have died recently:** Gertie Turner, Betty Pellegrini, Drew Ferguson, Thomas Smyth, Tony Natzk, Pat Quinn, Louise Paton, John McLaughlin, Roy Ferguson, Peter Monaghan and Margaret Dempsey "St James" (Glasgow), Angela Coyne, Mary McNulty, Jean Kane, Bobby Hay, Anne Kennedy, Maurice Grig, Isabel Higgins (Boylan) and Robert Wilson.

**SIGN UP SUNDAY.** Opportunity to take part in ministries in the Church and in the parish. For more information please complete the form available and return it as soon as possible.

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ABUSE.** Takes place this Friday (24th), please remember them in your prayers.

**SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA.** Consultations are currently taking place regarding the boundary for both St John's Primary School and St Anthony's Primary School with regard to new housing being built in Saltcoats. For more information please contact the schools.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/SECOND COLLECTIONS.** Will be taken up after Communion from the First Sunday in Lent.

**THE RITE OF ELECTION.** In St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr next Sunday at 3pm for those joining the Church at Easter.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023.** This year's service has been written by the World Day of Prayer committee of Taiwan with the theme "I Have Heard About Your Faith" based on the letter to the Ephesians. The Baptist Church in Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats will host this year's service on FRIDAY 3rd MARCH at 2 p.m. to which everyone is invited. Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

**FAMILY BINGO.** Will take place on Friday 24th March at 7pm for 7.30pm in St Mary's hall to raise funds for Youth for Lourdes. Tickets £2/adult and £1/child and will be available from Teresa Burns (07983228457), St Mary's parish office or at the door on the night. Donations for prizes would be appreciated and can be handed into the parish office or contact Teresa.

**SOUP AND A CHAT.** St John's Monday's at 11.30am till 1.30pm in St John's Hall and St Mary's on Wednesday's at 11.30am till 1.30pm in St Mary's Hall.

**SPRED GALLOWAY. Pancake Day** in St Margaret's Church Hall from 11am - 2pm. (donations gratefully received). For further information contact: Annie Steven on 01292 738068; website: [www.spredgalloway.org.uk](http://www.spredgalloway.org.uk).

**GALLOWAY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023.** 3rd July 2023, 7 nights flying from Glasgow Prestwick Airport for £949/person. For bookings and more information please see posters on church noticeboards or contact Joe Walsh Tours 0808 1890468 or email [info@joewalstours.co.uk](mailto:info@joewalstours.co.uk).

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE – OCTOBER 2023.** Fr David Borland is putting together a small group Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, flying with British Airways from Glasgow to Tel Aviv via London Heathrow. The cost of the Pilgrimage is approximately £1,850 per pilgrim (exact fare will depend on the price of the airfare at your time of booking) based on two people sharing a twin room for 7 nights on a half-board basis in three star hotels. Single rooms are limited in number and unfortunately carry a supplement of £440. For more information on how to book please visit [www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage](http://www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage) or email Fr. David on [david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) The earlier you book then the lower the price as airfares only increase as we get nearer the departure date!

**YOUTH PILGRIMAGES.** The diocesan Youth Ministry Office is delighted to offer opportunities for the young people across the parishes to participate in the Youth for Lourdes group, travelling with the diocesan pilgrimage 3rd-10th July 2023 or the World Youth Day event in Lisbon, Portugal 30th July till 8th August 2023. Open to young people aged from 4th year upwards. For more information contact Fr Jim on: [youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or telephone 01387 252603.

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

**FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

**OVER 50'S DISCOVERY AWARDS.** See posters in both church porches.

**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: Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18**

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: "Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.' You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of this offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord." **The Word of the Lord**

**PSALM: 102**

**R/ The Lord is compassion and love.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R/**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R/**
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R/**
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R/**

**Second Reading: I Corinthians 3:16-23**

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you think of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God. **The Word of the Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

**PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

*Where in your life could you extend forgiveness? Knowing that forgiveness doesn't always mean offering a blank slate to one with a pattern of hurting you, what would forgiveness look like in your situation?*

*The first reading instructs us to love others as ourselves, but sometimes we struggle to love ourselves! In prayer, ask God to reveal to you how to appear through God's eyes and reflect on the experience here.*

*How have you experienced God's mercy? Where do you still need it?*

**ENEMIES** When we speak of "enemies", we should not think about people who are different or far removed from us; let us also talk about ourselves, as we may come into conflict with our neighbour, at times with our relatives. How many hostilities exist within families — how many! Let us think about this. Enemies are also those who speak ill of us, who defame us and do us harm. It is not easy to digest this. We are called to respond to each of them with good, which also has strategies inspired by love. **Pope Francis**

**The Ignatian Spirituality Centre** are delighted again this year to run an online Lent retreat and to provide a free App and free booklets to those that would like them. Retreat details and how to get the booklets can be seen here: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>. (You can view the retreat on [www.onlineprayer.net/saints](http://www.onlineprayer.net/saints))

**Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for February 2023.** We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

**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.

**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.

**The Bible and Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz.** 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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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.