



St John the Evangelist
Stevenson

27th August 2023

Twenty First 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

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
and Sr Ursula and Sr Anna
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)
Wednesday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	1pm Wedding Service 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. Saturday 10.30am-11am in St John's. 3.45pm-4.15pm in St Mary's
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. St Mary's Tuesday 9.30am-10am. St John's Friday 10.30am-11am

SYNOD NEWS. In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us. Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first. **Pope Francis**

ST JOHN'S REFURBISHMENT. Mass in St John's will take place in the parish hall on Sunday 17th /24th September and the 1st October at 11.30am while the upgrade to St John's Church takes place in this 60th Anniversary Year of the present building. Help will be required to clear the Church on Thursday 7th September at 7pm. Help is also needed to prepare the Church hall on Saturday evenings at 5pm prior to the 11.30am Mass on the Sunday. If necessary funerals can take place in either St Mary's, Saltcoats or St Winin's, Kilwinning during the time of the upgrade. The cost of these works will come from our Building Fund but we will need to replenish the Building Fund for any future works—therefore fundraising is important and we ask you to support our Summer Fete.

Please remember the following death in your prayers

Kathleen Quinn RIP

Kathleen's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 4th September at 10am St Mary's
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery

+May she rest in peace+

RETIRED PRIESTS FUND SPECIAL COLLECTION. Will take place at all masses next weekend. Envelopes are available for those who wish to Gift Aid their donation.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

RIP Birthday Intention: Carla Marie Dickie

Anniversaries: Claire Gough, Michael McDermott, Jean Pierre Thekes and Michael Pollock

Recently deceased: Kathleen Quinn, Brian Fleming, Jackie Farrell, Peter Andrew Grant (Largs) and Joseph McAvoy (Glasgow)

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Twenty Second Sunday

Year A: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 62; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes and Special Intentions

RIP Birthday Intention: Carla Marie Dickie

Those who have an anniversary: Claire Gough, Michael McDermott, Jean Pierre Thekes, Elaina Monaghan, Anne McAuslan (1st), Philomena Wylie and John Quinn.

Those who have died recently: Kathleen Quinn, Brian Fleming, Jackie Farrell, Peter Andrew Grant (Largs), Joseph McAvoy (Glasgow), Peggy Tracey, John Breen, Mary Gibson, Ian Monan, Jim McDermott, David Preston (Oban), Margaret Clyde (Neilston), Mary Toal (Bishop Toal's Mother), Mary McAvoy, Norman Pentleton, Eddie Ford, Peter Andrew Joseph Grant and Kathleen Bennett.

CONGRATULATIONS. To Michelle Smith and Graham Alexander who are to be married in St Mary's next Saturday.

THANK YOU. Kathleen Quinn would like to thank everyone who came along and supported her recent fundraising event. A wonderful £1,130 was raised for Dementia Research.

ST JOHN'S SVDP. The members will be involved at the Summer Fete running the Wheel of Fortune and we depend very much on your generosity. We are in need to donations of bottles etc for prizes. If you can donate any prizes for the Wheel of Fortune please hand them to any SVDP member. Thank you for your generosity.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH 60TH YEAR FETE SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023. 60's theme dress up, prize for best costume. Home baking competition, prize for the best cake. Knobbly knees competition. Lucky boxes £1 each to be drawn at the Fete will be on sale from this Sunday in St John's Church Porch. Please take some home and sell to friends and family. Items required for the Fete. We would be very grateful for the following: Raffle prizes, tombola Prizes, chocolate for chocolate tombola, bottles for the bottle stall and home baking. If you can help in anyway by making donations, manning a stall, helping with teas and coffees, selling raffle tickets etc please get in touch with Lorna Walker 07833347035, Brenda Robertson 07812758415 or Michael Lafferty 07813650411. **Please note this year we will not have bric a brac, books or toys therefore we do not require any of these items. We also do not take clothes, DVDs, or videos. St John's Hall will be open on the following dates to accept any donations. Friday 1st September 6.30pm-8.30pm; Sunday 3rd September 12.30pm-1.30pm; Friday 8th September 6.30pm-8.30pm and Saturday 9th September 6.30pm-8.30pm.**

GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR. Is looking to recruit new members who enjoy singing as part of a group and are committed to the enhancement of the liturgy through music. This four-part choir has been in existence in its present form for 23 years. They lead the music at diocesan events at least two times a year, and the rehearsal period runs from September to March (with a break in December/January). Rehearsals take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm until about 8.45pm. The first rehearsal of the new season is on Wednesday 20th September at 7.15pm. When a new bishop is appointed to Galloway Diocese it will be the task of the choir to support the singing at the bishop's ordination Mass. If you are interested in joining them or would like more information please contact: David Robinson at david.robinson.mj@gmail.com or on 07714 340854.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN. To pray for peace in the world, especially in the Ukraine next Sunday (3rd). Holy Mass at 3pm with Main celebrant Bishop Hugh Gilbert —President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, followed by a Rosary Procession. All welcome.

THE 2023 NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO PRAY FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF THE VENERABLE MARGARET SINCLAIR. Will take place on Sunday 17th September from 12.30pm - 6pm at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1NA. 12.30pm-1.50pm. Refreshments and sale of candles & goods; 2pm Holy Hour with Rosary, Confession, Silence, Hymns & Benediction; 3pm Reflection & Novena Prayers; 3.30pm Break for refreshments and sale of candles & goods; 4.30pm Holy Mass.

SOUP AND CHAT. Will restart in St Mary's parish hall on Wednesday 6th September from 11.30am-1.30pm. All welcome.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CLEANERS. We currently only have 4 volunteers who clean our church. If you can spare 1-2hrs every Thursday (after Mass) we would love to hear from you. If we get enough volunteers we could have teams and this would mean only volunteering every other week. Please contact Canon Martin, the parish office or just come along on a Thursday.

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. Takes place after Sunday Masses in the parish halls.

MINISTRY. 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.

PARISH HALLS. To book any of our halls please call the Parish Office on 463461 for St Mary's and Michael Lafferty on 461234 for St John's. Please note booking form has to be completed to confirm your booking.

SVDP. Please call 07379 400 568 for St Mary's. Please call 07498 501 326 for St John's. Please call 07825 726 904 for St Peter's. **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



First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hikiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house. **The Word of the Lord**

PSALM: 137

R/ Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R/**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R/**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R/**

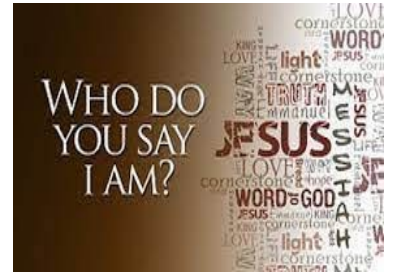
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God—how deep his wisdom and knowledge—and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him the glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven." Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Who do you say that Jesus is? Reflect on your working image of him. Which titles or characteristics stand out as prominent to you? Where might your understanding of Jesus be lacking?

Jesus tells his disciples not to share the truth that he is the Christ; there is a time and place to proclaim, and this is not it. We, too, need to exercise prudence in deciding when and where and how to take about our faith. We are charged with spreading the good news, but there are times when our delivery would do more harm than good. How do you discern the right times and places to take about Jesus.

The second reading talks about God's ways being inscrutable and unsearchable. What do you currently find most confusing about God and how God works in the world?

*Today, we hear Jesus's question directed to each one of us: "And you, who do you say I am?". To each one of us. And every one of us must give not a theoretical answer, but one that involves faith, that is, life, because faith is life! "For me you are ..." and then to confess Jesus. **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.

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.

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 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 or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at 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.