



St John the Evangelist

# 17th September 2023

## Twenty Fourth 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.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 Ursula and Sr Anna



Our Lady Star of the Sea

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's (L)
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass 6pm Reception of Margaret Helen McAuliffe
Tuesday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Requiem Mass Margaret Helen McAuliffe
Wednesday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass
Friday	_____	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	11.30am Mass In Church Hall	10am Mass	10.30am Mass

**L = LIVESTREAMED**

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

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.** On request.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.** St Mary's on Tuesday 9.30am—10am.

**SYNOD NEWS.** "The path to Christian unity and the path of synodal conversion of the Church are linked. I would like to take this opportunity to announce that on Saturday, 30th September, an ecumenical prayer vigil will be held on St. Peter's Square, with which we will entrust the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. For the young people coming to the vigil, there will be a special programme throughout that weekend, entrusted to the Taizé community. As of now, I invite brothers and sisters of all Christian denominations to participate in this 'Gathering of the People of God'". **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 is 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.

*Please remember the following death in your prayers:*

**Frances Donnelly RIP**

Funeral Service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium on Tuesday 26th September at 3.30pm.

+ May she rest in peace +

**ST JOHN'S LIVESTREAM.** Masses will not be livestreamed at the moment and will recommence after refurbishment works have been completed.

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

**Anniversaries:** Helen McCall; David Dunbar; Ina Kelly; Bobby & Esther Gaston; Charlotte Mitchell.

**Recently deceased:** Frances Donnelly; Peter Higgins.

**Birthday remembrance:** Peter Cartwright.

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Twenty Fifth Sunday Year A:** Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145:2-3; 3-9; 17-18; Philippians 1:20-24; 27; Matthew 20:1-16.

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

**For all the sick in our parishes and Special Intentions**

**Those who have an anniversary:**

Helen McCall; David Dunbar, Margaret Higgins; Ian Kelly; Bobby & Esther Gaston and Charlotte Mitchell.

**Those who have died recently:** Frances Donnelly; Peter Higgins; Mary McAvoy; Ronnie McGurk; Robert Wright (Kilmarnock) and Cathie Wilson (Kilwinning).

**POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: For People living on the margins:** We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance. **Pope Francis**

**THE GRACE TO UNDERSTAND:** "Let us ask the Lord today for the grace to understand this 'seventy times seven'. After all, if the Lord has given me so much, who am I not to forgive?" **Pope Francis.**

**READERS FROM ST. JOHN'S:** On Wednesday and Friday readers from St. John's at weekday Mass.

**HELP TO PREPARE CHURCH HALL:** Next Saturday 5pm—help needed to prepare St. John's Church Hall for Mass.

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH 60TH YEAR FETE:** Thank you to all who supported St. John's fete last Sunday including local businesses and those who worked before, during and after the event. Thank you to those who gave donations and all who attended. The total of £4,931 was raised on the day and a later donation has brought the amount to £5,000—thanks everyone. The members of St. John's Conference St. Vincent De Paul, wish to thank everyone who donated prizes for the Wheel of Fortune to the success of the Garden Fete.

**HELPERS REQUIRED FOR PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS:** Helpers will be required soon for Primary 4 children preparing to the Sacraments: **(a)** for the After School Club at St. Mary's and **(b)** Saturday Club at St. John's.

**YOUTH EVENING, ST MATTHEW'S, KILMARNOCK:** On Sunday 8th October, beginning with Mass at 6pm. All welcome.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Meeting for parents/carers on Tuesday 19th September in St. John's hall: Those preparing for Reconciliation (P3) at 6pm. Those preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist (P4) at 6.30pm.

Meeting for parents/carers on Wednesday 20th September in St. Anthony's School:

Those preparing for Reconciliation (P3) at 6pm. Those preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist at 6.30pm.

**SOUP AND CHAT.** In St Mary's parish hall every Wednesday 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.

**ST MATTHEW'S ACADEMY AGM:** The Parent Council are holding their AGM on Monday 25th September 2023 in the school library at 7pm-8pm approx. All parents/carers/guardians of children attending the school are very welcome to attend. Please come along and find out what the Parent Council is all about.

**NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE:** Saturday 18th November at 9.30am to 4pm, Strathclyde University—see poster for booking.

**DIOCESAN EDUCATION MASS:** The Diocesan Education Mass will be celebrated in St Margaret's Cathedral, John Street, Ayr on Thursday 28th September at 7.00 pm. All staff who teach and work in our schools are warmly invited, including those who have retired. After Mass, there will be a light buffet in the hall and an opportunity to socialise.

**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.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE:** Please contact your MSP to inform them about the dangers of assisted suicide. We should be improving palliative care in Scotland and caring for vulnerable people. Please visit [repolitics.org/assistedsuicide](http://repolitics.org/assistedsuicide) for more information.

**FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Will be open this week as normal.

**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: Sir. 27:30; 28:7**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail.

Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay; and cease from sin!

Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbour; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults. **The Word of the Lord.**

**PSALM: Psalm 103:1-4; 9-12**

**R/ The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **R/**
2. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion. **R/**
3. He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R/**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. **R/**

**Gospel: Matt. 18:21-35**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.'



**PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

*Are there faults and hurts that you find easy to forgive? Are there any that you struggle to forgive fully?*

*Sometimes forgiveness fully restores relationships and sometimes it moves them to a new phase with new boundaries. What does forgiveness look like in your life?*

*Which relationships in your life still need forgiveness's healing power?*

**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](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.