



St John the Evangelist

15th October 2023

Twenty Eighth 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
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



Our Lady Star of the Sea

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	—————	—————	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	10am Funeral Mass Josanna Shaw (L)	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Eucharistic Service	—————	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	—————	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Eucharistic Service	—————	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 this week
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. On request.
ROSARY. During October. St John's on Tuesday at 7pm

SYNOD NEWS. Vatican Press Conference Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, also shared a concrete pastoral experience, the reception in Newark Cathedral of "a pilgrimage of people who felt marginalised because of their sexual orientation." He recalled a presentation given by a priest, who told the group: "This is a beautiful church, but it is most beautiful when its doors are open. "That, he said, was an experience of an open Church. And he concluded that in a world characterised by exclusionary nationalism, by xenophobia, in which there are leaders who are committed to building borders, the Church's option is that of fraternity, of synodality, an option that enables us to understand that we are all brothers and sisters. "In a Church in which we see ourselves as brothers and sisters," he said, "there is room for everyone." **Vatican News**

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY— Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday, when Pope Francis invites Catholics all over the world to contribute to a special collection for Missio (The Pontifical Mission Societies), his official charity for overseas mission. This year, the theme is "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." Please support Missio Scotland in helping missionaries whose hearts have been filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit and who have travelled far from their homes to work within and alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, such as Sri Lanka. Join in on this special day, that unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission, to share God's love with all people. Please give generously.
www.missioscotland.com www.facebook.com/missioscotland Tel: 01236 449774

Please remember the following death in your prayers
Josanna Shaw RIP

Josanna's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday at 10am in St John's
 Followed by burial in High Road Cemetery
 + **May she rest in peace** +

SAVE THE DATE. Saturday 28th October at 12 noon Synod Meeting. St Mary's Hall. **ALL WELCOME**

TWITTER ACCOUNT. Has started so that members can be up-to-date on parish events and other news. The Twitter handle is [@stmarysstjohns](https://twitter.com/stmarysstjohns) for those who wish to follow it.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Pat McAvoy, Rosemary Duncan, Barry McKeever, Jimmy Crawford, Joe Coleman and Francis & Josephine Morrison.

Recently deceased: Margaret McDermott, Patricia Adamson, Josanna Shaw, Maretta Main, Peter Higgins, Nancy Robb and Peter Fitzpatrick.

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Twenty Ninth Sunday Year A: Isaiah 45:1. 4-6; Psalm 95; Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes

Those who have an anniversary: Pat McAvoy, Rosemary Duncan, Barry McKeever, Jimmy Crawford, Joe Coleman, Francis & Josephine Morrison, Sean Henry, Ellen Murphy, Mary Nellis and Seamus Boyle.

Those who have died recently: Maretta Main, Nancy Robb, Margaret McDermott, Patricia Adamson, Josanna Shaw, Bridget McWilliam Collins (Bolton) and Maureen Stevenson, Jimmy McGhee, Jim Conlan, Frances Donnelly, Peter Higgins, Anne Taylor (Glasgow), Jamal Aslam, Peter Fitzpatrick, Mary McAvoy, Ronnie McGurk, Robert Wright (Kilmarnock) and Cathie Wilson (Kilwinning).

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS. Lists are available for our deceased relatives and friends during the month of November. Please hand them into St Mary's parish office or St John's Sacristy where they will be placed on the Altar during this month. Those included on the list will be remembered in masses in both churches as well as Canon Matt and Fr McCabe in Cape Town.

SYCAMORE PART 3. Continues in St Mary's over the next 2 weeks in October i.e. 17th and 24th. We meet in the Parish hall on Tuesdays from 12.30 to 2pm. Sign up sheets will be available in the porch or by contacting our Parish co-ordinator Julie Breen (07877741739). Or simply turn up on any of the dates and receive a warm welcome.

MARY'S MEALS. Due to the worldwide price increase of foodstuff the cost of feeding a child has risen from £15.90 a year to £19.15!! This is the largest increase in the charity's 20 year history. Since April this year we have sent £610.00 of your donations to help Mary's Meals in this very important work. Thank you for your continued support.

GLASGOW TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION. Please join SPUC in Glasgow on Thursday 26th October for the annual torchlight procession to commemorate 56 years since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act, which has led to the loss of more than 10 million lives here in the UK. This is a solemn and prayerful event to pray for an end to abortion. 6.30 pm – Rosary in George Square; 7pm – Begin procession to St. Andrew's Cathedral; 7.30 pm – Mass in St. Andrew's Cathedral. For more information, email Charlie McCluskey on charliemccluskey@spuc.org.uk, or call 0141 221 2094.

ARDROSSAN CEMETERY MASS. Will take place on Sunday 5th November at 2pm in Ardrossan Cemetery.

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

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

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.

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.

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 for more information.

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for October - For the Synod; "We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit to go out to the whole world."

Bidding Prayer. *We pray for the Synod taking place in Rome. May the Spirit of generosity and openness find a place in the hearts of all those taking part.*

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 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame every where on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain. **The Word of the Lord.**

PSALM: 22

R/ In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R/**
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R/**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R/**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R/**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen. **The Word of the Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. 'Tell those who have been invited,' he said, 'that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.' But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.' So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, 'How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?' And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

How does God invite you to the feast? Where do you hear the call to share in the abundant life and joy that God promises?

What needs do you have that often go unseen? How do you wish God would provide for these?

In this parable, "bad and good alike" rub shoulders at the same celebration. Who in the church is a struggle for you to be in communion with? How might God be inviting you to greater love for them?

Opening hearts and communities. *The Holy Father said we are called to not rest on our laurels in the task of evangelisation and charity. God, he said, "prepares His banquet for everyone: the just and sinners, good and bad, intelligent and uneducated." The wedding garment," said the Pope, "symbolises the mercy that God freely gives us... It is not enough to accept the invitation to follow the Lord; one must be open to a journey of conversion, which changes the heart." God, he added, constantly offers us a "garment of mercy", which is grace. "And it demands to be welcomed with astonishment and joy." **Vatican News***

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.