



St John the Evangelist
St4evnston

19th November 2023

Thirty Third 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
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	7pm Bereavement Mass (L)	10am Mass	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Mass	7pm Bereavement Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) Kathleen Chalmers	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. 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.

SYNOD NEWS. The Synod 2021-2024 continues to draw on the energy of the seed sown by the Vatican Council and to develop its potential. The synodal path is, in fact, implementing what the Council taught about the Church as Mystery and People of God, called to holiness. It values the contribution all the baptised make, according to their respective vocations, in helping us to understand better and practice the Gospel. In this sense, it constitutes a true act of further reception of the Council, prolonging its inspiration and reinvigorating its prophetic force for today's world. **Final Report on the latest session of the Synod**

PARISH MASS FOR THE DECEASED. St John's Tuesday at 7pm—**helpers required for the teas in the hall afterwards.** St Mary's Wednesday at 7pm

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS. Lists are still available. 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.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES. Wednesday 13th December at **2pm** in St Mary's Saltcoats ; Thursday 14th December at 7pm in St Peter's Ardrossan; Friday 15th December at 7pm in St John's Stevenston.

FIRST RECONCILIATION. Will take place on 30th November at 7pm in St Mary's Church for pupils from St Anthony's and on 12th December at 7pm in St John's Church for pupils from St John's.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SPECIAL COLLECTION. Will take place at all masses this weekend. There will be speakers at all masses next weekend.

Please remember the following death in your prayers
Kathleen Murray Chalmers RIP
Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Friday at 10am in St Mary's.
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery
+May she rest in peace+

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Jack Gartland (17yrs), Cathie Pllu, Gerard Pentleton and Francis McGinn

Recently deceased: Catherine O'Connor (Old Kilpatrick), Kathleen Chalmers, Sandra Cassidy, Matthew Harris (Irvine) and Elizabeth Dorrian

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Solemnity of Christ the King Year A: Ezekiel 34:11.12. 15-17; Psalm 22; I Corinthians 15:20-26.28; Matthew 25:31-46

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention: Sick and Thanksgiving

Those who have an anniversary: Jack Gartland (17yrs), Cathie Pllu, Gerard Pentleton, Francis McGinn, Gerard Monaghan, Jim & Claire Lawler, Hugh McAllister, Amedeo Badialli, Cyril Martin Dorrian (9th), Sharon Lafferty, Billy Cassidy, Albert White.

Those who have died recently: Catherine O'Connor (Old Kilpatrick), Matthew Harris (Irvine), Kathleen Chalmers, Agnes Maureen Orr, John Douglas, Sandra Cassidy, Anne (West) Uwins, Dora Macalonan (Paisley), Vincent Quinn, Nita Ramsay (Canada), Elizabeth Dorrian and Fr Paul Graham.

CALEDONIA NURSING HOME CAROL SERVICE. Will take place on Sunday 17th December at 2pm

SCIAF—REAL GIFT OF WATER FOR A VILLAGE. Once again we are taking donations to help raise funds for Water for a Village. Each village will cost £1,200.

ST JOHN'S P4 CHILDREN SATURDAY CLUB. On Saturday 2nd December 10am-12 Noon.

CHURCHES HOMELESS ACTION NORTH AYRSHIRE - Donations of Christmas Gifts. We are teaming up with the charity Night Before Christmas Charity (NB4CC) to provide those who are homeless and being supported by North Ayrshire Council a Christmas present. Last year NB4CC gave presents to 182 people, including 122 children in North Ayrshire. We would be delighted if people would contribute to this charity. This can be done by visiting NB4CC's "Justgiving" page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Nightbeforechristmascampaign> or putting your donation in an envelope marked "NB4CC" in the church collection.

TESCO (SALTCOATS) FOOD BANK COLLECTION. 30th November to 2nd December. If you can spare a couple of hours between 10am and 4pm giving out leaflets and encouraging people to donate, please contact Danny on 0797 954 2319. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN AID OF H.C.P.T LOURDES GROUP 376. Featuring Theresa Morrison, Paul Hume and friends. Sunday 17th December 2pm in St Peter's Church. Ticket £6 includes afternoon tea. Tickets available after Sunday morning Mass at St Peters or phone or text to Esther Coulter 07772433070

SCIAF'S ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE MASS. In St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, G1 4JY on Thursday at 1pm followed by light refreshments. Please join us to remember those who have shown so much support for SCIAF throughout their lives and pray for our sisters and brothers around the world in need of our help at this time. If you would like a loved one remembered at the Mass, even if you are unable to attend, please contact us on 0141 354 5555 or email getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk

REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL. Registration for August 2024 is an online process and will take place until Sunday 26th November. You should register your child's details on the North Ayrshire Council website.

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL - FUTURE EVENTS. **Sunday 26th November** - Visit of Wayside club to St John's for their annual Christmas party. We are looking for donations of male and female toiletries, gloves, hats, new underwear and socks, and also items for our raffle (chocolate, sweets, gift sets etc) If you have anything to donate please contact Brenda 07812758415 or Michael 07813650411 or hand into the hall or back of church. **Sunday 3rd December** - St John's Christmas / Craft Fayre. If anyone would like to book a table to sell your own craft goods (£15) per table please get in touch with Brenda 07812758415, Lorna 07833347035 or Michael 07813650411 there are a few tables left. **Sunday 31st December** - Hogmanay Ceilidh (8pm - 1am) in aid of HCPT 207 and the Ukraine appeal. Tickets (£15 each) these are limited so will be sold on a first come first served basis. This was a great night last year and was sold out early so book now to save disappointment. Contact Michael 07813650411 or Lisa 07988607098

SCHOLA BENEDICTI. Are celebrating their 10th anniversary with a Scottish Premiere of 'Missa Deus Nobiscum' conducted by the composer Philip Stopford at the University of Glasgow Memorial Chapel on Saturday (25th) at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and are available on eventbrite, by email (thescholabenedicti@gmail.com) or some limited tickets on door.

SOUP AND CHAT. In St Mary's parish hall every Wednesday from 11.30am-1.30pm. All welcome. Will be available in St John's in January and February on Monday's 11.30am-1.30pm.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CLEANERS. Helpers still required on Thursday at 10.30am.

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

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.

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

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: Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife—who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates. **The Word of the Lord.**

PSALM: 127

R/ O blessed are those who fear the Lord

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R/**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R/**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R/**

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about “times and seasons”, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, “How quiet and peaceful it is” that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now a long time after, the master to those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. ‘Sir’, he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.’ Next the man with two talents came forward. ‘Sir,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.’ Last came forward the man who had the one talent. ‘Sir’, said he, ‘I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- *Are there areas in your life where you could practice greater faithfulness in seemingly small ways?*
- *Do you find it overwhelming or reassuring to think that there might be countless opportunities to grow in holiness in your everyday life?*
- *What do you think of the images of marriage presented in the first reading and the psalm? If you are married, do they resonate with your experience? If you are not, what might these readings be inviting you to consider about faithfulness and commitment in other areas of your life?*

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for November. *We are asked to pray for Pope Francis himself as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

NATIONAL WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR MARRIAGE, FAMILY & LIFE. *Please visit the Bishops' Conference national commission website at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk*

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.