



St John the Evangelist
St4evnston

17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent Year B

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	_____	1pm Funeral Service Graham Rafferty	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 with St John's PS	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)	5.30pm Vigil Mass (L)
Sunday Christmas Eve	11.30am Mass (L) 6pm Christmas Vigil	10am Mass (L) 4.30pm Christmas Vigil (L)	10.30am Mass (L) Mass of the Holy Night at 5.30pm (L)

L = LIVESTREAMED

GOSPEL REFLECTION. Livestreamed Monday at 7pm this week

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. St Mary's Tuesday 9.30am-10am.

SYNOD NEWS. "The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium" (Pope Francis, October 17, 2015). We do not need to be afraid to respond to this call. Mary, Mother of the Church, the first on the journey, accompanies our pilgrimage. In joy and in sorrow, she shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope! **"From the Letter published at the end of the Synod in Rome. (Full text can be found <https://www.synod.va/en.html>)"**

CHRISTMAS MASSES

St Mary's: Christmas Eve 4.30pm and Christmas Day 11am. **St John's:** Christmas Eve 6pm and Christmas Day 9.30am.

Please remember the following deaths in your prayers

Graham Rafferty RIP
Francis Shields RIP

Graham's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Service will take place on Monday at 1pm in St Mary's.
 Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

Francis's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 10am in St Marys.
 Followed by cremation in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium
 +May they rest in peace+

GIFTS AT THE CRIB. Will be welcomed as usual. St Mary's will go to the Cardinal Winning Initiative and St John's to Hillhouse Care, Kilmarnock.

CALEDONIA NURSING HOME CAROL SERVICE. Has been cancelled.

QUIET DAY. Will take place today in St Mary's at 2pm-4pm.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

RIP Birthday Intention. Margaret Ann Gallagher (Monaghan)

RIP Christmas Remembrance: Annie & Connell Thomas, Kathleen Fraser, Mary Hollywood, Ian Howie, Pllu Family, Jimmy, Cathy O'Meara AND Gerard Monaghan

Anniversaries: William Meechan & deceased family members, Ian Gilchrist, Kevin & Patricia MacNamara, James Patrick Gallagher, Mary Ramsay, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Jimmy Gailey and Annie McKernon.

Recently deceased: Mary Campbell, Thomas Kilmartin, Francis Shields, Larry Burke, John Patrick Breen, Graham Rafferty and Michelle Robertson

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B—2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-11.16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

SCIAF—REAL GIFT OF WATER FOR A VILLAGE. Final amount raised was a fantastic £2,734.02 which will help 2 villages. Many thanks once again to all who donated.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes

RIP Birthday Intention. Margaret Ann Gallagher (Monaghan)

Special Intention: SPC England & Ireland Communities

RIP Christmas Remembrance: Annie & Connell Thomas, Kathleen Fraser, Mary Hollywood, Ian Howie, Pllu Family, Jimmy, Cathy O'Meara and Gerard Monaghan.

Those who have an anniversary: William Meechan & deceased family members, Ian Gilchrist, Kevin & Patricia MacNamara, James Patrick Gallagher, Mary Ramsay, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Jimmy Gailey, Annie McKernon, Larry Poland, Wullie Henry, Jean Martin, Mary Dunn, Owen Conlan, Betty Freeman, Joseph McKeever, Ruth, Hugh & Cecilia Monaghan, Margaret Williams, Abbie O'Rourke, Michael Joseph McCabe and John McNamara (Galston).

Those who have died recently: Mary Campbell, Thomas Kilmartin, Francis Shields, Isabel Kelly (Ardrossan), John Patrick Breen, Graham Rafferty, Victor Westcott (Prestwick), Ruby Sabin, John Conlan, Kenneth Traynor (South Queensferry), May Pentleton (Canada) Larry Burke, Gordon Wylie, David McNamara, Clare Hanna (N.I), Robert Wells, David Kiltie, Daryl George, Mary Hendry (Airdrie), and Seamus McGrory (Birmingham).

GOOD WISHES. To all those going away at Christmas and to our schools which close next Friday.

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB. Thank you to all members for their continued support and generosity. £810 has been transferred to church funds. The Christmas draw will take place at the coffee morning today.

TESCO FOODBANK COLLECTION. Thank you to all who helped in this. We collected almost a ton of food.

DOUBLE THE LOVE. For your information - this year both Mary's Meals & SCIAF are involved in the Double the Love campaign. This means that any donations from now till mid January will be DOUBLED!

NEW WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES. Are available at St John's.

PRAYER TO BE CRIMINALISED IN SCOTLAND. A new bill proposes criminalising prayer in designated 'buffer zones' around abortion clinics in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please visit repolitics.org/buffer-zones for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced. Please respond to the parliament consultation which ends on 20th December. For more information follow this link to the Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office: [Buffer Zones - Catholic Parliamentary Office \(repolitics.org\)](http://Buffer Zones - Catholic Parliamentary Office (repolitics.org))

CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS. A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. The service provides an opportunity to come together once again as a diocesan family to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL - FUTURE EVENTS. Sunday 31st December - Hogmanay Ceilidh (8pm - 1am) in aid of HCPT 207 and the Ukraine appeal. Tickets (£15 each) Contact Michael 07813650411 or Lisa 07988607098

THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC HERITAGE COLLECTIONS TRUST (SCHCT). Is working with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to create a new museum of Scottish Catholic History. We would love your help by spending a few minutes answering a short survey. The survey can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/e/6D7EuB8EvU>.

SOUP AND CHAT. Will be available in St John's in January and February on Monday's 11.30am-1.30pm. Will reopen again on Wednesday 10th January 2024 in St Mary's.

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. **There will be no Sunday Teas available on 24th and 31st December.**

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: Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. "For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations." **The Word of the Lord**

PSALM

R/ My soul rejoices in my God

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R/**
2. The almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R/**
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R/**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything—hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you. **The Word of the Lord**

Gospel: John 1:6-8.19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then," they asked "are you Elijah?" "I am not" he said. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?" So John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord." Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water; but there stands among you—unknown to you—the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

The prophet Isaiah proclaims, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord." How do you experience God as "The joy of your soul?"

Isaiah prophesies that just as "the earth brings forth its plants," God will "make justice and praise/spring up before all nations." Where do you see justice and peace growing in the world?

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St Paul writes "The one who calls you is faithful." When was a time in your life that you experienced deeply the faithfulness of God?

In the Gospel, John the Baptist is described as one who came to "Testify to the light." How does the way you live your life testify to the light of Christ?

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS DECEMBER 2023. "Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programmes that enhance their active participation." The Pope said "It means changing our mentality a little and opening ourselves to the abilities and talents of people who are differently abled, both in society as well as in the life of the Church."

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.