



St John the Evangelist  
St4evnston

# 17th March 2024

## Fifth Sunday in Lent 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](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  
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)	1pm Funeral Mass <b>Lucy Anderson</b>	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Samuel Collins</b>
Thursday	—————	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	—————	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 on Monday at 7pm

**EXPOSITION.** St John's—Friday 10.30am-11am.

**RECONCILIATION.** St John's—Saturday 10.30-11am. St. Mary's— Saturday 3.45pm - 4.15pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS. During Lent:** Tuesday at 9.30am in St Mary's led by The SVDP. Friday at 7pm in St John's led by the Parish Pastoral Council.

**SCIAF. REFLECT WITH SCIAF.** This Lent, your prayers and donations are making a BIG difference to people in Rwanda and around the world. As you prepare for Easter, SCIAF have created several prayers and reflections to use as part of your Lenten worship. Please visit [sciaf.org.uk/resources](http://sciaf.org.uk/resources) to download your prayer resources today.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION: £1,378.30 from both parishes.** Thank you all for your generous support

*Please remember the following deaths in your prayers*

**Lucy Anderson RIP**

**Senga McCulloch RIP**

**Margaret Slimon RIP**

Lucy's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 20th March at 1pm in St Mary's  
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

Senga's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 25th March at 10am in St Mary's.  
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery

Margaret's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 3rd April at 10am in St Mary's.  
Followed by cremation in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.

*+May they rest in peace+*

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES.** St Mary's, Saltcoats—Monday at 2pm; St John's, Stevenston—Tuesday at 7pm and St Peter's, Ardrossan—Wednesday at 7pm.

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

**Special Intention:** Get Well Wishes and Thanksgiving

**Anniversaries:** Philip Burns (4th), Margaret Peacey (3rd), Bridget MacDonald, William H. McCann, Connell Thomas, Agnes Kelly and Bobby McCall.

**Recently deceased:** Lucy Anderson, Margaret Slimon, Sam Collins, Senga McCulloch, Francesco Cecchini and Mary Joyce (London).

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

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord—Year B: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47**

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

**For all the sick in our parishes.**

**Special Intention:** Get Well Wishes and Thanksgiving

**Those who have an anniversary:** Philip Burns (4th), Margaret Peacey (3rd), Bridget MacDonald, William H. McCann, Connell Thomas, Agnes Kelly, Bobby McCall, Luke Gargan, Patrick Hanlon, Ellen McGarvey, Derrick Whitehead (15th), Mary Mollie McFarlane, Teresa Reid, May & Patrick Hanlon, Michael Reilly, Helen Celendile, Mary Linney, James Ward (58th), Joseph Ward (5th) and Sarah Crawford.

**Those who have died recently:** Lucy Anderson, Margaret Slimon, Mary Joyce (London), Sam Collins, Sr Rene Marie SPC, Senga McCulloch, Francesco Cecchini, Kenneth Littlemore, Helen Connell, Gerry Fitzpatrick, Sheila Strachan and Irene Murphy (Irvine).

**CHRISM MASS IN ST MARGARET'S CATHEDRAL, AYR.** Will be celebrated by Bishop Dougan on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm. A sign up sheet will be available at the back of both churches for those wishing transport. The coach will leave St Mary's at 6.30pm and St John's at 6.45pm. The cost will be £5 per person.

**DIOCESAN MEMBERS OF SPRED.** Join us at the 11.30am in St John's today.

**COMBONI SISTERS.** Thank both parishes for your generosity towards them during their visit selling their calendars last year. A wonderful £259.20 was raised.

**GOOD WISHES.** To Christopher Meechan and Lynsey Thomson who are to be married in St John's next weekend.

**FR GERARD McCABE.** Will celebrate his 40th Anniversary in the Priesthood on Palm Sunday. We send him our prayers and congratulations.

**ST MARY'S SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL.** The SVdP Conference thanks all its benefactors and patrons for their generous support throughout the year. Our Conference currently has 12 members and your support allowed us to visit and assist families and individuals who need financial help. During the calendar years 2023 we undertook 359 visits. Fuller details are shown on the notice in the porch.

**ST MARY'S WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES.** New sets of weekly offering envelopes are now available from the Sacristy or the parish office. **Please note that envelope numbers have been changed, please refer to sheet for your new number.** If you are a tax payer and wish to Gift Aid your collection please consider doing so-it makes such a difference. Please contact the parish office.

**THE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE.** Invites you to our Easter Youth Evening with Bishop Frank, Come and meet our new Bishop, chat with him and celebrate Easter with him. This takes place on Sunday 14th April with Mass at 6pm, followed by pizza and activities finishing with Night Prayer at 8.30pm at St Matthew's Kilmarnock. For more info please see poster on both parish noticeboards.

**ST JOHN'S SVDP.** Are collecting non perishable food for the Crisis Bags they share with the High Kirk.

**SAFEGUARDING MATTERS—MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER.** Can be found on the parish website or from the parish office.

**ST MARY'S STALL.** Now have Easter Cards and St Bridget's Crosses on sale.

**SOUP AND CHAT.** St Mary's Church Hall Wednesdays 11.30am-1.30pm. **Not on Holy Week or Easter Week.**

**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.

**SYNOD NEWS.** We are being asked to experience and to practice synodality, rather than simply to expect Rome to promulgate dramatic and/or controversial pronouncements which might bring about changes to structures, disciplines, or policies in the Church. These may well happen in time, and probably will, but in the meantime, we must continue with our prayer, listening and conversations aimed at empowering as many people as possible towards greater witness in the areas of communion, participation and mission, the three themes or dimensions of the synodal journey. In other words, we must do synodality, and must do so in our parishes and in the diocese. **Fr Willie McFadden**

**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)

**ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS.** Takes place after both Sunday Masses.

**PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER—ST MARY'S, LARGS.** Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be designated a Year of Prayer, as a preparation for the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope" in 2025. The Year of Prayer is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and rediscover anew the power of prayer. We are being encouraged to reflect on our life of prayer: what we pray, how and why we pray. This is for two reasons: 1) To encourage people to go deeper in their commitment to pray, and in their love of God; 2) To think about how they might accompany someone else to pray during the coming Year of Prayer. To facilitate this we will be offering a series of "Pilgrimage of Prayer" workshops exploring a variety of different ways of praying throughout this year. Workshops will take place in St Mary's, Largs, parish hall or church at 2pm on the first Saturday of the month. Our Pilgrimage of Prayer workshops will include: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Guided Meditation, Taizé Prayer, Prayer and Praise, Prayer and Sacred Art, The Divine Office, Our Lady Untier of Knots, Prayer and Sacred Music. All welcome.

**"CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE"**. Latest issue of newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life – download a copy on [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk)

**PROPOSED NEW LAW THREATENS TO CRIMINALISE PRAYER IN SCOTLAND.** For more information and action plan visit: [Buffer Zones – Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](http://Buffer Zones – Catholic Parliamentary Office (rcpolitics.org))

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

**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.

**GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we should like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking to him." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. "Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself." By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

**PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING**

- *In the first reading God declares through Jeremiah, "I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind." How have you experienced God's forgiveness this Lent?*
- *The psalm implores God, "A pure heart create for me." What attributes do you think of when considering a "Clean heart"?*
- *The second reading from the letter to the Hebrews offers the image of Christ being "perfected" through suffering. Have there been moments of suffering in your life that have led to spiritual growth?*
- *Jesus tells his disciples, "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest". How have you encountered this mystery that death leads to even more abundant life?*

**Holy Year FB page is Holy Year Scotland 2025 and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/holyyearsScotland2025>**

**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.

**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 [stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@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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## 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.