



St John the Evangelist
St4evnston

29th December 2024 Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph; Year C

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
Saltcoats

Day	St John's	St Mary's	St Peter's
Monday	_____	_____	10am Mass (L)
Tuesday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	11am Mass (L)	11am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
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. Will return on 7th January 2025

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters, God Is With Us. As we come again to the great feast of Christmas, we all do so with mixed feelings. We hear a message of "Joy to the World" and yet we are faced with so much bad news in our world, in our communities and often in our own families. But, as we celebrate again the birth of Christ, we remind ourselves that the bad news is not the last word. The Prophet Isaiah helps us out in the 1st reading at Midnight Mass: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Is 9:2). That message was true at the first Christmas and is the same today. As pilgrims of hope we are called to remind ourselves and each other that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ, nothing can come between us and the love of God made present in Jesus Christ. Why? Because God Is With Us. I ask the blessing of the newborn Christ on you and your families and invite you to continue to welcome the love of Christ into your hearts and to share that love with others.

+Frank Dougan

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. Money will go to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society.

Happy New Year

*Canon Martin, Canon Matt, Sister Ursula and Sister Anna wish you a very
Happy New Year and every blessing in the Jubilee Year 2025.*

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Special Intention: JM, Christmas Blessings—Soup & Chat Ladies, Srs of Spc UK & Ireland.

Christmas Remembrance: Alex, Cathie & Edward Pllu, James & Cathy O'Meara, Andrew Millar, Derrick Whitehead, Mary & Thomas Garvey and deceased family members, Joe & Sarah Murray, John Monaghan, Morag & Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, deceased members of Murphy family, deceased members of McCarney family, John & Janet Collins and deceased family members, Arthur Smyth; Margaret McGee; Gerrard Monaghan; Joe Burns and deceased members of Fitzpatrick family.

Anniversaries: Joseph McKeever, William Martin, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Jimmy Gailey, Patrick McCann, Mairi Grier, John Mitchell (6 months mind), Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, William Meechan and deceased family members, Martha Murphy and Peter Cartwright (4th); Dick and Sadie Bettley; Rod MacDonald; Michael Boylan and deceased members of the Boyland and Dillon families; Mary Fraser.

Recently deceased: Elizabeth McNeill and Michael Cowan; Michael Colan Junior; Margaret Gribben; Kathy Lynn and Vera Laverty.

Masses are celebrated also by Fr Benjamin, Fr Gerard McCabe (South Africa) plus Retired Priests and Missio

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 7(71):1-2,7,8;10-13; Ephesians 3:2;5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes.

Special Intention: JM, Christmas Blessings—Soup & Chat Ladies, Srs of Spc UK & Ireland.

Christmas Remembrance: Alex, Cathie & Edward Pllu, James & Cathy O'Meara, Andrew Millar, Derrick Whitehead, Mary & Thomas Garvey and deceased family members, Joe & Sarah Murray, John Monaghan, Morag & Lewis McLaughlin, Derek Findlay, deceased members of Murphy family, deceased members of McCarney family, John & Janet Collins and deceased family members, Arthur Smyth, Margaret McGee, Joe Burns and deceased members of Fitzpatrick family.

Those who have an anniversary: Joseph McKeever, William Martin, Kathleen (Kitty) Boyle, Jimmy Gailey, Patrick McCann, Mairi Grier, John Mitchell (6 months mind), Robert & Jean Wylie, Peter & Rose Finnegan, William Meechan and deceased family members, Martha Murphy, Peter Cartwright (4th), Michael Joseph McCabe, Jimmy & Margaret Ann Gallagher, Mary Ramsay, Ian Gilchrist, Wullie Henry, Ruth, Hugh & Cecilia Monaghan, Elizabeth Turbet, Betty Freeman, William Martin, Thomas Peter McCann, Ricky Bloore and Annie McKernon; Jessie Burns (7th); Cathy O'Meara; Nora McCluskey Frances & Teddy Kelly; Mary Fraser; Dick & Sadie Bettley; Rod MacDonald; and Michael Boylan.

Those who have died recently: Elizabeth McNeill, Michael Cowan, Sadie Hannah, Teresa Timmons (Perth), May Craigs, Jean McDougall, Arne Draege, Vincent Barraclough, Thomas Clarke, Dr Sheila Clark (Preston), Michael Conlan Junior and Margaret Gribben., Kathy Lynn and Vera Laverty.

THANK YOU: To all who assisted with the Christmas Masses, including all who helped to prepare the churches.


THANK YOU: Canon Matt, Sister Ursula, Sister Anna join with me to thank you for your good wishes, cards and gifts we received this Christmas.

JUSTICE AND PEACE SUNDAY: is on 5th January when a Special Collection will be taken up for the work of the Justice and Peace Commission.

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR. After opening the Holy Year in Rome on Christmas Eve, Pope Francis has asked Bishops throughout the world to launch the Jubilee Year in their Cathedrals on the Feast of the Holy Family. The Mass to Open the Jubilee Year will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 29th December. All are welcome to join Bishop Frank in the Cathedral parish for this celebration.

MARY'S MEALS. The team would like to thank everyone who very generously gave donations for Mary's Meals. In the last few months we have sent £848 to help feed hungry children in some of the poorest countries of the world. Again this year, some very generous benefactors have pledged to double any donations sent during the Christmas period. We wish everyone a happy Christmas & a peaceful New Year.

YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) CHRISTMAS DINNER. Join young adults from across the Diocese for a festive Christmas

 Dinner on Sunday 5th January from 6pm–8pm at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB). The evening begins with Mass at 6pm following which we'll enjoy our dinner together from 6.30pm. There's no charge for the evening but please register so we know you're coming by scanning the QR code also on the poster in the porch, or through our social media channels: @rcdg youth. Galloway Young Adults meets monthly on the first Sunday of every month in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. Even if you can't join us for Christmas Dinner, why not come along to one of our evenings in 2025? Follow us to be the first to hear! @rcdg youth.

JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND DECEMBER-FEBRUARY 2024/25 NEWSLETTER. See all the latest activities and campaigning across the J&PS network in the latest quarterly newsletter, available at www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk. Includes all the information as to how you can become involved and play your part.

SOUP AND CHAT. Closed for Christmas break and will reopen again on 15th January 2025.

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. Takes place after Sunday Masses. St Mary's teas will return on Sunday 12th January 2025.

DIOCESAN SOCIAL MEDIA. The Diocese has launched a new website and social media channels to help share what's happening across the Diocese. Stay up to date with all the latest news and events from across the Diocese, follow us: @rcdgalloway on Facebook, X, or Instagram, and check out our new website: www.rcdg.org.uk.

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.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

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

HOGMANAY CEILIDH. St Johns Church hall on Tuesday 31st December at 7.30pm - 1am. £15 per ticket. Tickets are limited and must be paid for when ordering. Tickets to be shown on the night, one per person. To order please contact Michael Lafferty 07813650411 bar is available but please bring snacks.

ST JOHN'S SVDP. Are collecting non perishable food for the Crisis Bags.

FOODBANK STEVENSTON. 07437 521 930.

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

SVDP. Please call 07379400568 for St Mary's. Please call 07498501326 for St John's. Please call 07825726904 for St Peter's.

MONEY MATTERS. Welfare Rights Advice—North Ayrshire Council 01294 310456 Monday-Friday 9.30am-4pm. Direct Line 07901338682.

CHANA. A huge thank you to all who donated to Chana's **Night Before Christmas Appeal.** 168 presents have been delivered in time for Christmas to those in the Homeless Hostel and in Supported Accommodation in North Ayrshire. Thank you.



Gospel: The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him, After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

- *Imagine Jesus as a peer in your primary school or high school. How do you think he would have been received? Would you have been friends?*
- *Have you ever had a conflict with a parent or authority figure because of misunderstood communications? How does it feel to know Jesus had the same interaction with his parents?*
- *What do you consider "my Father's house" and how do you choose to dwell there in everyday life? Is it the physical church? A moment of prayer and meditation? A garden or walk?*

PARISH OFFICE. Will be closed until Monday 6th January 2025. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year. Lorna

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

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions for December 2024 In December, we pray with Pope Francis that the forthcoming Jubilee may strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope. Follow this link <https://youtu.be/LEs2XA-PuuU?si=yTQffKISnyMcYzcY>

SYNOD NEWS. At the concluding Mass of the Synod Pope Francis said, "Brothers and sisters, not a sedentary Church, but a Church on her feet. Not a silent Church, but a Church that embraces the cry of humanity. Not a blind Church, but a Church, enlightened by Christ, that brings the light of the Gospel to others. Not a static Church, but a missionary Church that walks with her Lord through the streets of the world,"

X/TWITTER ACCOUNT. The X/Twitter handle is @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 Bible in 10 minutes video can be found on www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm3b4Q98vx8

***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 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