



St John the Evangelist
St4evnston

8th December 2024 Second Sunday of Advent—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
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)	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	10am Funeral Mass (L) Thomas Clarke
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. Tuesday at 2pm.

RECONCILIATION. St John's—Saturday 10.30am-11am. St Mary's—Saturday 3.45pm-4.15pm.
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Tuesday 9.30am-10am in St Mary's. Friday 10.30am-11am in St John's.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES. Tomorrow (Monday) at 7pm in St John's, Stevenston; Tuesday at 7pm in St Peter's, Ardrossan and Wednesday at 2pm in St Mary's, Saltcoats.

UNITED CONGREGATIONS OF STEVENSTON PARISH CHURCH. Are holding a Carol Service in Ardeer Church today at 2.30pm and extend a warm invitation to our friends at St John's to attend this service.

NURSING HOMES—CAROL SERVICES. Arran View—today at 2pm in Sannox Bay. Caledonia on Sunday 22nd December at 2pm. Please add your name to the sign up sheets available in the church porch if you are able to attend.

QUIET DAY

St John's: Saturday 21st December 1pm-3pm.
St Mary's: Sunday 22nd December 2pm-4pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

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

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 Water provision will cost £1,200. **Total raised so far £2,103.32. This will be the last weekend to donate**

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Patricia MacNamara, Margaret McAuliffe, Owen Conlan (25th), John McNamara, Margaret Williams (2nd), Albert Bloore, Francis Shields (1st), Abbie O'Rourke, Jean Martin, Larry Poland, George Forbes, Mary Dunn and Sarah McLaughlin

Recently deceased: Vincent Barraclough, Alex Tulloch, Laura Dickie, Renee Kane, Thomas Clarke and Dr Sheila Clark (Preston).

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: *Third Sunday of Advent Year C:* Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 12:2-3; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes.

Those who have an anniversary: Patricia MacNamara, Margaret McAuliffe, Owen Conlan (25th), John McNamara, Margaret Williams (2nd), Albert Bloore, Francis Shields (1st), Abbie O'Rourke, Jean Martin, Larry Poland, George Forbes, Mary Dunn and Sarah McLaughlin, Vera Brady, Mary Dunn and Jim Crawford.

Those who have died recently: Vincent Barraclough, Thomas Clarke, Dr Sheila Clark (Preston), Margaret Davidson, William Stranagan (Irvine), Mary Sammons, Angela Donachie (Glasgow), Alex Tulloch, Laura Dickie, Lillian Devine, Renee Kane, Ann Connor and Betty Ferguson.

300 CLUB. Congratulations to the winners of the November draw. No 23—A. Reid £30 and No 300 K. Murphy £20. The Christmas draw will take place at the coffee morning next Sunday (15th)

ST JOHN'S NEW WEEKLY ENVELOPES. Are still available.

ADESTE FIDELIS. A great night. St Mary's hall was full. Thank you to St John's and St Anthony's Primary Schools and to the Caritas students from St Matthew's. A special thanks to St Mary's caterers for the delicious mince pies.

TWIN PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR BRAZIL. Please sign the sheet in St John's Church porch to accompany this.

WALKING WITH THE POOR—FR MARTIN CHAMBERS BOOK. Is available to buy from this weekend at £10.

FOODBANK COLLECTION AT TESCO. Thank you to everyone who helped with this. We collected 1.2 tons of food. People are so generous.

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.

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.

H.C.P.T LOURDES GROUP 376. An afternoon of festive songs featuring Theresa Morrison and Paul Hume next Sunday (15th) at 2pm in St Peter's Church. In aid of H.C.P.T Lourdes Group 376 and Father Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust. Tickets are priced at £8 (including afternoon tea) and will be available after 10.30am Sunday mass at St Peter's. Please contact Esther Coulter 07772433070 or pay at door.

CHANA (Churches Homeless Action North Ayrshire). Is teaming up again with the Night Before Christmas Charity (NB4CC) to provide a Christmas present for those who are homeless & being supported by North Ayrshire Council. Last Christmas, Liz Brown of NAC wrote '169 gifts were provided, including gifts for boys & girls of all ages as well as particularly vulnerable or isolated adults who otherwise might not have received a present at Christmas'. If you can help, please put a cash donation in an envelope marked NB4C & put it in the usual collection bag or donate online at <https://www.nightbeforechristmas.co.uk/>

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 18th December at 7.30pm, accompanied by the Diocesan Choir. The service provides an opportunity to come together as a diocesan community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

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.

NEW LECTIONARY. Thank you to all who attended the readers evening on Thursday in St Mary's.

SOUP AND CHAT. Every Wednesday at 11.30am-1.30pm in St Mary's hall. **Will stop for a well earned Christmas break this coming Wednesday (11th) and reopen again on 15th January 2025.**

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

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

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

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.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Have you taken a course or attended a workshop on biblical history? Are there clues in the week's readings that you are able to pick out because of the time you've spent studying the context of the writers? What can you share with your fellow ministers?

Who was a great coach or mentor who helped you develop? What activities or words did this person use to encourage you to grow?

Paul's prayer for us is, "that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" How does this make you feel? How would you change if you knew this prayer was being said for you constantly?

In light of Paul's words, what is your prayer for your own community?

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. A major feature of the Final Document (October 2024) is the "significant emphasis" placed on recognising the gifts and charisms of all the baptised. Bishop McGuckian said, "The concept of baptismal ministry – acknowledging the ministry or service that all baptised people can participate in – was profoundly encouraging. This Synod has really inspired us to embrace the gifts of the Spirit that are present in each individual, as we journey forward together in faith." **Irish Bishops' Conference.**

X/TWITTER ACCOUNT. 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 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.

Please support our advertisers

<p><u>SCIAF</u> 7 West Nile Street Glasgow G1 2PR</p> <p>0141 354 5555</p>	<p><u>A.W. BLAIR & SONS</u> Seabank Street SALTCOATS</p> <p>01294 468238</p> <p><i>Independent Family Funeral Directors</i></p>	<p><u>PAUL STEVENSON</u> 29 Chapelwell Street SALTCOATS</p> <p>01294 607001</p> <p><i>Independent Family Funeral Directors</i></p>
<p><u>WARDEN MOTORS</u> (Prop. – Kevin Warden) CANAL STREET, SALTCOATS</p> <p>01294 463333</p> <p><i>All types of repairs MOT & Service Quality Used Cars</i></p>	<p><u>BREEN ROOFING & BUILDING CONTRACTORS</u> 4b Castlehill Yard, Hill Street ARDROSSAN</p> <p>01294 464733</p> <p><i>Slating, Tiling, Flat Roofing, Roughcasting, Plastering - general building works</i></p>	<p><u>The Albion Bar</u> 16 Dockhead Street Saltcoats</p> <p>01294 462436</p> <p><i>Well 'Kent' faces behind and in front of bar!</i></p>
<p><u>IRVINE MEMORIALS MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS</u> Headstone sales & installation. Small memorials, plaques & vases. Additional inscriptions to existing Headstones. Headstone re-erection & refurbishment Processing of permits & paperwork Tel: 01294 215990/Mob: 07563335025 irvinememorials@gmail.com www.irvinememorials.com 17 Macadam Place, Irvine, KA11 4HP</p> <p><i>Caring, sensitive and professional service</i></p>	<p><u>ST. ANTHONY'S PRIMARY</u> Dykesmains Road, Saltcoats KA21 6DE 01294 468559</p> <p><u>ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY</u> Morrison Avenue, Stevenston KA20 4HH 01294 464557</p>	<p><u>WRIGHT VALETING Car Valeting Service</u> <i>Email:</i> Chris@WrightValeting.co.uk</p> <p><i>Website:</i> www.WrightValeting.co.uk</p> <p><i>Twitter:</i> @WrightValetingDetailing</p>
<p><u>JAS. CAMPBELL & Co. Ltd</u> Solicitors Notaries Estate Agents www.jascampbell.co.uk e-mail: mail@jascampbell.co.uk Bank of Scotland Buildings 57 Dockhead St. Saltcoats 464301/4 85 Main St. West Kilbride 829599 76 Princes St. Ardrossan 464131</p>	<p><u>Eglinton Diner & Fish Fry</u> 28/30 Windmill Street Saltcoats</p> <p>01294 601126</p> <p>Traditional fish teas. Lunchtime specials. Sit in or carry out.</p>	<p><u>THREE TOWNS YOGA</u> Friendly, down-to-earth yoga classes for all levels including complete beginners. Move and breathe - feel calmer, stronger, more flexible, balanced and relaxed. Contact Steph to book. 07470435735 threetownsvoga@gmail.com www.threetownsvoga.com</p>
<p><u>SPRED</u> Suite 3, First Floor, Boswell House 2-14 Arthur Street Ayr KA7 1QI 01292 738068 spredgalloway@talktalk.net</p>	<p><u>Taylor and Henderson</u> 51 Hamilton Street Saltcoats KA21 5DX</p> <p>01294 464341</p> <p>Solicitors and Estate Agents www.taylorandhenderson.co.uk Offices in Saltcoats, Irvine, Kilwinning and Largs</p>	<p><u>Hughes Painting & Decorating</u> Call for a No Obligation Quotation Reliable & Affordable</p> <p>Noel Hughes 0777 0599 297 hughespaintinglargs@gmail.com</p>

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