



St John the Evangelist  
Stevenston

## 8th February 2026 Fifth 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](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) 6pm Prayers of Reception <b>Isabella Lawler</b>	10am Mass (L)
Wednesday	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) <b>Isabella Lawler</b>	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L) 6pm Prayers of Reception <b>George Reid</b>	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	12 Noon Funeral Mass (L) <b>George Reid</b>	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Mass (L)	5.30pm Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

**L = LIVESTREAMED**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:** Tuesday at 2pm.

**EXPOSITION:** St Mary's—Tuesday 9.30am-10am. St John's—Friday 10.30am-11am

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

*Please remember the following in your prayers*

**Isabella Lawler RIP**

**George Reid RIP**

**James Monaghan RIP**

Isabella's Prayers of Reception will take place on Tuesday at 6pm in St Mary's.  
Funeral Mass on Wednesday at 10am. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

George's Prayers of Reception will take place on Thursday at 6pm in St Mary's.  
Funeral Mass on Friday at 12 Noon. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

James's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 16th at 10am in St Mary's.  
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

**+May they rest in peace+**

**GROWING IN FAITH, LIVING IN HOPE, SERVING IN LOVE** – Given by the Craighead institute in St Mary's and St John's over 5 Saturdays and 4 Thursdays between February and June. Based on the Sermon on the Mount and particularly the Beatitudes, this course will explore ways in which we are called to respond in faith, hope and love to the issues which confront us in today's uncertain world. To sign up phone Lorna at 01294 463461 or email [saltcoats@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:saltcoats@rcdg.org.uk) There are a limited number of spaces available.

**Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for February - For children with incurable diseases.** Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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

**Special Intention for family**

**RIP Wedding Ann:** William & Grace Lundie

**Anniversaries:** Michael Boyd (8yrs), Pat Monan Snr and Margaret Nellis.

**Recently deceased:** Joe McMullen, James Monaghan (Ardrossan), Isabella Lawler, George Reid, Gerry Pollock, Tom Collins (Bolton), Anne Stevenson, Desmond Donnelly and Mary Teresa Hughes.

*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: *Sixth Sunday of Year A;***  
*Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119; I Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37*

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

**For all the sick in our parishes**

**Special Intention for family**

**RIP Wedding Ann:** William & Grace Lundie

**Those who have an anniversary:** Michael Boyd (8yrs), Pat Monan Snr, Margaret Nellis, Eileen Coppola (1st), Moira Grant, Teresa Fitzsimmons, Patsy Reid, Rachel Cairnie, Bernie Doyle and Agnes Hazelton

**Those who have died recently:** Joe McMullen, James Monaghan (Ardrossan), Anne Stevenson, Desmond Donnelly, Mary Teresa Hughes, Isabella Lawler, George Reid (Southport), Tom Collins (Bolton), Mother Mary Matthias of the Sacred Heart (Benedictine Monastery, Largs), Catherine Monagle, Kenny Kelly, Michael McFarlane and Gerry Pollock.

**SATURDAY CLUB.** Will take place next Saturday 9.30am-11am in St John's Church hall.

**THE RITE OF ELECTION.** Takes place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Sunday 22nd February at 3pm for those joining the Church at Easter.

**THE DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK MASS.** Will be held next Sunday at 4pm in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. The Hospitality looks forward to welcoming you, if you wish to be anointed please make yourself known to a member of the Hospitality team on arrival. Following Mass there will be refreshments in the hall and the AGM of Galloway Lourdes Hospitality.

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY IN STEVENSTON.** Are looking for old wellington boots and waterproof clothes for children (aged 4-12) and any shoe size up to a 4 or 5. Items can be dropped off at either Church or the school.

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

**SOUP AND CHAT.** Monday's in St John's 11.30am-1.30pm and Wednesday's in St Mary's 11.30am-1.30pm. **Due to Funeral teas St Mary's Soup and Chat will be closed this Wednesday.**

**MARY'S MEALS.** Do you have any leftover foreign coins or notes from your holidays? Donate them to Mary's Meals. The money will go to an organisation called Leftover Currency. They will donate the exchange value plus 5% extra to Mary's Meals. You can also add UK coins & notes that are no longer legal tender. Over the next few weeks a box will be available at the back of both churches for your donations.

**DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD?** Do you sense a call to serve God and his people in the Priesthood? The Catholic Church in Scotland is inviting you to explore the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. If you are considering a life dedicated to serving in the ministry, we encourage you to apply for seminary starting in 2027. To learn more about the application process and what a Priestly vocation entails, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Stephen McGrattan on [stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk). The Vocations Director will support you in your journey of discernment and guide you through the steps along the way. Don't hesitate; the Lord may be calling you to something extraordinary. Take the first step and contact the Diocesan Vocations director today!

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

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

**FOODBANK STEVENSTON.** 07437 521 930.

**PARISH HALLS.** To book any of our halls please call the Parish Office on 463461 for St Mary's and Michael Lafferty on 07813650411 for St John's. Please note a booking form has to be completed to confirm your booking

**GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR.** Rehearsals take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm until about 8.45pm. Please contact: David Robinson at [david.robinson.mj@gmail.com](mailto:david.robinson.mj@gmail.com) or on 07714 340854.

**YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME.** Join Young Adults from across the Diocese for a 5 day/ 4 night pilgrimage to Rome from 12th – 16th October 2026. The itinerary will feature a wide range of different spiritual and cultural activities, including the Wednesday Audience, Vatican Museums, and a walking tour of Rome, as well as a free day to explore the city. The pilgrimage is open to young adults in S6 (at time of departure – current S5) to age 30 and costs £1000 (the group is planning to fundraise to reduce this) which includes all flights, accommodation, breakfast, dinner, and admission costs. If you're interested, scan the QR code on the poster, or go to [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk), for more details and to register.

**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](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr)

**ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT.** Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel. The retreat is open to all young people in P6-S3 (P7-S4 at time of the retreat) and costs £160 pp, however if you register before Easter it's only £140 pp. The weekend includes a range of times of prayer, Mass, spiritual reflection, different outdoor activities and lots of time to relax and spend time with friends. Subsidies are available for those in need, or for families with more than one child wishing to attend – please contact the Youth Office by emailing: [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk). Registration opens tomorrow (Monday) – places are limited so be sure to sign up early to guarantee yours. Sign up by scanning the QR code or going to [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

**YOUTH EVENING.** Join Youth from across the cluster on Sunday 15th February as they gather for their monthly evening in St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan. They'll be reflecting on the theme of Lent: what Lent is and what they're called to do during it. The evening begins with Mass at 5pm after which they'll continue in the hall with games, activities, a short talk, and pizza. All young people in P6-S4 are welcome, if it's your first time, please complete an Annual Consent Form online: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

**200 CLUB.** Are you passionate about supporting youth and young adults ministry in Galloway? The Youth Office runs events across the Diocese to help young people grow in faith and friendship to come to know and love God through like minded groups. For £5 a month you can help support their work and win cash prizes. For details, and to register, go to: [youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club)

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,  
'You are the salt of the earth,  
but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?  
It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out  
and trampled under people's feet.

'You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.  
Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket,  
but on a stand,  
and it gives light to all in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



*In this Gospel passage, immediately after the Beatitudes, Jesus says to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world". This surprises us a bit when we think of those who were before Jesus when he spoke these words. Who were these disciples? They were fishermen, simple people... But Jesus sees them with God's eyes, and his assertion can be understood precisely as a result of the Beatitudes. He wishes to say: if you are poor in spirit, if you are meek, if you are pure of heart, if you are merciful... you will be the salt of the earth and the light of the world! **Pope Francis***

#### **PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING**

*Reflect on a time when you were in need and someone responded to that need with generosity. How were they God's light for you?*

*Can you think of a time when you had the opportunity to be God's light for someone else? How did you respond to the invitation?*

*How can you stay committed to works of mercy and justice when our earthly eyes do not always see the rewarding beauty that God promises in these readings?*

*"Next Friday, the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic Games will begin, followed by the Paralympic Games. I extend my best wishes to the organizers and all the athletes. These great sporting events send a powerful message of fraternity and rekindle hope for a world at peace. This is also the meaning of the Olympic truce, an ancient custom that accompanies the Games. I hope that all those who care about peace among peoples and are in positions of authority will take this opportunity to make concrete gestures of détente and dialogue." **Pope Leo - last Sunday***

**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.

**MONEY SMART.** Welfare Rights Advice—North Ayrshire Council 01294 310000 (Option 1) or email [moneysmart@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:moneysmart@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**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 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 Parish:** Fr Duncan McVicar, St Peter's, Ardrossan 464063. Fr Jim Hayes, 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.

## 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.

**Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Mr Tony Fisher 01292 266750**



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perfect way to move, groove, and feel  
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Contact Jacqueline on 07780090076*

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