



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent 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

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 Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) Hannah Millar	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 John's—Friday 10.30am-11am.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS—DURING LENT. Tuesday in St Mary's 9.30am-10am led by The SCIAF/Synod Group. Friday in St John's at 7pm led by The Synod Group.

CHRISM MASS IN ST MARGARET'S CATHEDRAL, AYR. Will be celebrated by Bishop Frank on Tuesday 31st March at 7pm. A sign up sheet is available at the back of both churches for those wishing transport. The coach will leave St Mary's at 6pm and St John's at 6.15pm. The cost will be £5 per person.

Please remember the following in your prayers

Hannah Millar RIP

Elizabeth Evans RIP

Margaret Trainer RIP

Hannah's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Friday (20th) at 10am in St Mary's
Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

Elizabeth's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 23rd March at 10am in St John's
Followed by burial in High Road Cemetery.

Margaret's Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 1st April at 2.30pm in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.
+May they rest in peace+

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY. Happy Mothering Sunday to all the ladies in both parishes

SCIAF. A Special Collection will take place at all masses this weekend, this will be the second collection taken after Communion. Envelopes are available for those who wish to Gift Aid their donation. Bishop McGee's letter can be found inside the bulletin.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES. St Peter's, Ardrossan—Tuesday 24th at 7pm; St Mary's, Saltcoats—Wednesday 25th at 2pm; St John's, Stevenston—Thursday 26th at 7pm

INVITATION TO MINISTRY. Completed leaflets can be returned to the church porch or Sacristy in each Church.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:

Special Intention

Anniversaries: Ellen McGarvey, Bridget MacDonald, Tommy Brennan (8th), Anna Grymes, May & Patrick Hanlon, Boddy McCall, John Song, Josephina Song and Cathrine Girvan.

Recently deceased: Gerry McCulloch, Hannah Millar, Elizabeth Evans, Geordie Higney and Jean Monaghan.

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: *Fifth Sunday in Lent Year A; Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:25a,26*

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention

Those who have an anniversary: Ellen McGarvey, Bridget MacDonald, Tommy Brennan (8th), Anna Grymes, May & Patrick Hanlon, Boddy McCall, John Song, Josephina Song, Cathrine Girvan, Billy Convery, William Henry McCann, James Ward (60th), Bridget Ward (22nd), Joseph Ward (7th), Helen Celendile, Mary Linney, Michael Reilly, Sarah Crawford, Luke Gargan, Ken Littlemore, Derrick Whitehead, Teresa Reid, Sam Collins and Patrick Joseph Hamilton Snr.

Those who have died recently: Gerry McCulloch, Jean Monaghan, Geordie Higney, Elizabeth Evans, Hannah Millar, Isobel Stewart, Maria Hilferty, Betty Kelly, Peter Freeman, Clare McIlhatton, Paul Carmichael and Anne Craig (Irvine).

THE EASTER TRIDUUM 2026. Holy Thursday: 7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper in St John's; Collection for poor (SCIAF Boxes); Washing of Feet; Procession to Altar of Repose; Night Prayer at 9.30pm. **Good Friday:** 3pm in St Mary's; Day of Fasting and Abstinence; 3pm Liturgy including Passion, Veneration of the Cross; Distribution of Communion, Collection for Holy Places. 7pm Stations of the Cross in St John's and St Mary's. **Holy Saturday:** 10am Morning Prayers in St John's followed by Blessing of Easter Baskets. Vigil of the Resurrection: 8.30pm in St John's; Blessing of Fire and Easter Candle, Readings from Old and New Testament; Blessing of Easter Water and Renewal of Baptismal Promises. **NO 4.30PM MASS. Easter Sunday:** 10am Mass in St Mary's, 11.30am Mass in St John's. A Sign up sheet for ministries is available in both sacristy's.

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL. Will meet this coming Thursday (19th) at 7pm in the parish house.

ST MARY'S WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES. New sets of weekly offering envelopes are now available from the Sacristy or the parish office. 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 ACIES OF THE LEGION OF MARY. Will take place next Sunday (22nd) at 3pm, in St Winin's Church, Kilwinning. All are welcome. Contact 07895584969 regarding attendance for catering purposes.

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

SOUP AND CHAT. Monday in St John's 11.30am-1.30pm and Wednesday's in St Mary's 11.30am-1.30pm. St John's Soup and Chat will close for a break after tomorrow.

MARY'S MEALS. Walk For Hope—This year, the charity Mary's Meals is organising a selection of pilgrimage walks around the UK, bringing people together to pray for our mission to feed hungry children. Visit our website to find out about our selection of walks and register your interest: <https://bit.ly/MarysMealsPilgrimage>. **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. 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.

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.

YOUNG ADULTS' PILGRIMAGE TO ROME. Join Young Adults from across the Diocese from 12th – 16th October as they explore the Eternal City. The programme includes a wide range of different spiritual and cultural activities and is open to all young people in current S5-30. The week costs £1000 which includes all essential elements and main meals, the group is also planning to fundraise to reduce the cost. For more details and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on 'Young Adults'.

YOUTH EVENING. Join Youth from across the cluster next Sunday (22nd) as they gather for their monthly evening in St Peter's, Ardrossan. They'll be reflecting on St Joseph: who he is and what we can learn from him. 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 P5-S4 are welcome, if it's your first time, please complete an Annual Consent Form online: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

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 available on the Diocesan website. 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 currently in P6-S3. Register before Easter for a discounted rate of only £140 pp, and only pay a £50 deposit. 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. Go to youth.rcdg.org.uk for more details and to register.

GOSPEL: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

At that time:

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva.
Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him,
'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent).
So he went and washed and came back seeing.
The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying,
'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.'
Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'
They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.
Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.
So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight.
And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.'
Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.'
But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?'
And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man,
'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?'
He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him,
'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.
Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said,
'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered,
'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him,
'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.'
He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

- *Where might there be a pocket of blindness in your own life? How could you invite God in to heal it?*
- *What are your real values in life—where do you really spend your time, attention, energy, and money? Do any of these conflict with who you profess to be?*
- *Does anything about God's work in these readings make you uncomfortable? How might that be a call to action.*

*The Evangelist John wants to draw attention to something that also occurs in our own day when a good work is performed. The blind man who is healed is first interrogated by the astonished crowd — they saw the miracle and they interrogated him —, then by the doctors of the law who also interrogate his parents. In the end the blind man who was healed attains to faith, and this is the greatest grace that Jesus grants him: not only to see, but also to know Him, to see in Him "the light of the world". **Pope Francis.***

*Seeds of Hope Today in Qulayaa, Lebanon, the funeral of Father Pierre El Raii, Maronite parish priest of one of the Christian villages in southern Lebanon, is being celebrated. These villages are once again experiencing the tragedy of war. I am close to all the Lebanese people at this time of grave trial. Dear brothers and sisters, let us continue to pray for peace in Iran and throughout the Middle East, especially for the many civilian victims, including many innocent children. May our prayer be a comfort to those who suffer and a seed of hope for the future. **Pope Leo on Wednesday***

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for March - For disarmament and peace. *Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

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*

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 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@rcdg.org.uk or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.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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