



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

26th July 2026

Seventeenth 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

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) and

Peter Sharp (Trainee Deacon)



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)	6pm Prayers of Reception Bob McDerment	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Funeral Mass (L) Bob McDerment	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Mass (L)	_____	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

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

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Will restart in the Autumn.

SEA SUNDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION. St Mary's £838.01. St John's £764.14.

Please remember the following in your prayers

Bob McDerment RIP

Josephine Leonard RIP

Josephine's Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday at 11.30am in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.
Bob's Prayers of Reception will take place on Wednesday at 6pm in St Mary's. Funeral Mass on Thursday at 10am.
Followed by burial in Ardrossan cemetery.

+May they rest in peace+

WHITHORN. The Annual Whithorn Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 30th August with Mass at the shore at 4pm. If anyone is interested in travelling there by bus please add your name to the sign up sheet in either church porch. Please note this year because of increased fuel prices there will be a charge of £10/person to offset costs.

BISHOP FRANK'S PASTORAL LETTER—Sustainability

Parish Consultation meeting will take place in St Mary's Church hall on Sunday 16th August at 3pm and in St John's Church hall on Sunday 13th September at 1pm.

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

Special Intention

Anniversaries: Jimmy & Celia McCann, John Higgins, David Gilmour, RoseAnn McAteer, Annie Cavani, Des Blanche, Angelo Vegemezis (Australia) and John McGarvey.

Recently deceased: Peter Do (Do Van Nguyen), John Lynch (Bearsden), Wully Gorman, Josephine Leonard, Michael Murray and Bob McDerment.

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

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention

Those who have an anniversary: Jimmy & Celia McCann, John Higgins, David Gilmour, RoseAnn McAteer, Annie Cavani, Des Blanche, Angelo Vegemezis (Australia), John McGarvey, John Murphy, Peggy Clarke, Irene Smith, Conti Family, Margaret Morrison, Flora Cameron, John Giffney, Matthew Brady Snr, Rose Brady (Sr Anne of Jesus), Monica (Brady) Dillon, Bill & Mona Smith and John Quinn.

Those who have died recently: Peter Do (Do Van Nguyen), John Lynch (Bearsden), Bob McDerment, Josephine Leonard, Wully Gorman, Kevin Sherry (Wishaw), Anne Leonard (New Zealand), May Fitzsimmons (Dalry), Andrew McGinn and Michael Murray.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: *Eighteenth Sunday of Year A: Isaiah 55:1-3; Psalm 144; Romans 8:35. 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21*

ST JOHN'S SUMMER FETE – SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 12.30PM. Join us for our annual Summer Fete in the grounds of St John's Church Hall on Sunday 6th September! We're looking for volunteers to help run the usual variety of stalls and assist with teas and coffees on the day. If you're able to lend a hand in any way, please speak to a member of the hall committee or Canon Martin - your support would be greatly appreciated. **Donations Needed-** We are also seeking donations for the following: raffle prizes, tombola prizes, chocolate for the chocolate tombola, Bottles for the bottle stall and home baking. If you can donate items, run a stall, help with refreshments, or assist in selling raffle tickets, please get in touch with: Lorna Walker – 07833 347035, Brenda Robertson – 07812 758415 or Michael Lafferty – 07813 650411 **Please Note: We kindly ask not to receive donations of bric-a-brac, books, toys, clothes, DVDs, or videos. Thank you for your understanding. Summer Fete - Lucky Boxes.** Are now available for purchase at the back of the church for £1 per box. Each A4 sheet contains 6 boxes, and we would be very grateful if you could support the hall committee by taking a few sheets to sell. Your help is much appreciated!

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY. Everyone is warmly invited to a special celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly at Carfin Grotto today (Sunday). Bishop John Keenan will celebrate Holy Mass at 3pm, as we give thanks for the invaluable contribution of grandparents and elderly to our families, parishes and communities. Please bring your grandparents, family members and friends. All are welcome.

CEILIDH DANCE 14TH AUGUST 7.30PM-10PM. RSCDS are holding a family friendly Ceilidh dance in St John's Church Hall on Friday 14th August. £6 per ticket, accompanied children go free, pay at the door. Bring your own refreshments 7.30pm - 10pm (please note there will not be a bar) www.narscds.org.uk.

THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE CARE OF CREATION OFFICE. Invites you to the Season of Creation Conference 2026 on Saturday, 5th September 2026, 10am – 3pm, in Eyre Hall, Archdiocese of Glasgow Offices, Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Our guest speaker will be Lorna Gold, Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement, and there will be workshops on how to engage young people and parish groups. Please register here: bit.ly/SeasonofCreation26

PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE 2026. The annual Pilgrimage for Life will take place at Carfin Grotto on Saturday 1st August 2026. Led by Bishop John Keenan, the day offers an opportunity for prayer, reflection and witness to the dignity and sanctity of every human life. The programme includes: 12 noon – Holy Mass; 2pm – Eucharistic Adoration; 2:15pm – Stations of the Cross; 2:45pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet and 3:30pm – Holy Rosary.

PODCAST. Peter Sharp is working on different podcasts, you can find them by visiting the following link. www.youtube.com/@TheCatholicCafeGalloway

GALLOWAY'S SEOUL. In 2027, Pope Leo will join young people from across the world in Seoul, South Korea. While it is not possible for us to travel to Seoul, the Diocesan Youth Office will be running a parallel event in our Diocese at Gowanbank SU Centre (near Darvel). Join young people (current P5-S4) from across the Diocese as we gather for the week to follow the World Youth Day programme, hear inspiring Catechetical talks from local priests, take part in a range of different outdoor activities, and have a fantastic week of faith and friendship. Galloway's Seoul runs from 7th – 11th August 2027 and costs £400 per person (grants are available for those in need and if more than one child in a household is taking part), but we'll be supporting young people in fundraising to reduce the cost. For full details pick up a flyer or go to our website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

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

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: 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.

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

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE ST JOHN'S. Takes place on Sundays (when guitars are on) from 10.30am. All welcome.

R.C.I.A. Following the completion of this years programme we hope that the new programme will begin around September/October. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith or becoming a full member of the Church should contact either the parish office or Canon Martin.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-46

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd:

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
which a man found and covered up.
Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant
in search of fine pearls,
who, on finding one pearl of great value,
went and sold all that he had and bought it.'



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

What do you truly value? Consider where you spend your money, your time, and your attention. Do they align with what you claim is important to you?

Where and when have you encountered God in such a way that it brought you great joy and wonder?

What have you been called to sacrifice for commitment to the Christian life? How does that make you feel?

Peacemakers. As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers and to uphold the dignity of every human life. Nuclear weapons are fundamentally incompatible with this call as their existence threatens indiscriminate destruction and a future built on fear and power-wielding rather than on fraternity amongst nations. Justice and Peace Scotland invite you to join the pilgrimage led by Archbishop Nolan, Rev Gordon Kennedy, Moderator and Rev Mark Strange, Episcopal Primus. The gathering will be a time of prayer, reflection, readings, **Saturday 1st August at 11am outside Faslane Nuclear base. FREE BUS AVAILABLE FROM GLASGOW Gordon Street (outside Central Station), leaving at 9.30am.**

The Kingdom of God. This is how it is with the Kingdom of God: those who find it have no doubts, they sense that this is what they have been seeking and waiting for; and this is what fulfills their most authentic aspirations. And it really is like this: those who know Jesus, encounter Him personally, are captivated, attracted by so much goodness, so much truth, so much beauty, and all with great humility and simplicity. To seek Jesus, to find Jesus: this is the great treasure! Pope Francis.
www.vatican.va/content/francesco/

Dear brothers and sisters, While I am taking a few days for rest, I once again extend my greetings and gratitude to all of you, residents of Castel Gandolfo, and I joyfully welcome the pilgrims arriving from every part of the world! We continue to follow with concern the events unfolding in various countries torn apart by war and violence. Let us not forget those who are suffering and dying because of these conflicts, and let us add our constant prayers to the generous efforts for peace. Pope Leo last Sunday www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for July: Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for July: For respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God. www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/

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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