



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

19th July 2026 Sixteenth 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 Funeral Mass (L) Michael Murray	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	6pm Prayers of Reception Wully Gorman	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Funeral Mass (L) Wully Gorman	_____	10am Mass (L)
Saturday	_____	4.30pm Mass (L)	5.30pm Mass (L)
Sunday	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)	10.30am Mass (L)

EXPOSITION: St Mary's—Tuesday 9.30am-10am.

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Will restart in the Autumn.

L = LIVESTREAMED

SEA SUNDAY. A Special Collection will take place at all masses this weekend. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. You can still donate by visiting www.sellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5.

Please remember the following in your prayers

Michael Murray RIP

Wully Gorman RIP

Bob McDermott RIP

Josephine Leonard RIP

Michael's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday at 10am in St John's.

Followed by burial in High Road Cemetery.

Wully's Prayers of Reception will take place on Thursday at 6pm in St John's. Funeral Mass on Friday at 10am. Followed by burial in Ardrossan Cemetery.

Josephine's Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 29th at 11.30am in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.

Bob's Prayers of Reception will take place on Wednesday 29th at 6pm in St Mary's. Funeral Mass on Thursday 30th at 10am.

Followed by burial in Ardrossan cemetery.

+May they rest in peace+

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: McCarrey family

Anniversaries: 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

Recently deceased: Wully Gorman, Josephine Leonard, Michael Murray, Bob McDermott, Margaret Smith and Kevin Sherry (Wishaw)

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: *Seventeenth Sunday of Year A: I Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52*

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention: McCarrey family

Those who have an anniversary: 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, John Quinn, Connell Thomas, Annie Thomas, James Kelly, Agnes Kelly, Alan Duncan, John Lynn, Michael Cowan, Margaret McAteer and Agnes Gailley.

Those who have died recently: Bob McDermott, Josephine Leonard, Wully Gorman, Kevin Sherry (Wishaw), Anne Leonard (New Zealand), May Fitzsimmons (Dalry), Andrew McGinn, Mary Conway, Mary Frew, Margaret Smith, Mark Graham, Michael Murray, Eva Needham (London) and Grant Mitchell.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS. April—June 2026. St Mary's: £19,831.01—Envelopes £6,234.26; Cash £6,658.75 and Standing Orders £6,938.00. St John's: £14,129.66—Envelopes £6,558.20; Cash £1,619.91; Standing Orders £2,641.00 and Building Fund £3,310.55.

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.

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 next Sunday (26th). 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.

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

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY. The Diocesan Youth Office invites all those who have made their First Communion this year to join them for a celebration at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock **next Saturday** (25th) from 11am to 4pm. The day will include a variety of fun and engaging games, a couple of short talks, Mass, and lunch (pizza and a BBQ). Interested? Scan the QR code to register. There's no charge to take part in the day.



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.

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.

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

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 13:24-30

At that time:

Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying,
‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man
who sowed good seed in his field,
but while his men were sleeping,
his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
So when the plants came up and bore grain,
then the weeds appeared also.
And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him,
“Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?
How then does it have weeds?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.”
So the servants said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?”
But he said, “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.
Let both grow together until the harvest,
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
‘Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned,
but gather the wheat into my barn.’”



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

God cares for us as a farmer cares for the crop. How do you experience God's care in your life? In what ways do you long for God's care?

What is the fruit that your life is bearing? What do you have to offer to God at the harvest?

How have you experienced God's mercy? Where do you still need it?

*So today too, we can ask ourselves some questions. Thinking of the field of the world : Do I know how to resist the temptation to generalise, to sweep others aside with my judgments? Then, thinking of the field of the heart : Am I honest in seeking out the bad weeds in myself, and decisive in throwing them into the fire of God's mercy? And, thinking of the neighbour's field : Do I have the wisdom to see what is good without being discouraged by the limitations and sluggishness of others? **Pope Francis***

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/

*God's generosity towards us is not naïve but wise. He sees within us the potential of a good that, at times, we ourselves might fail to recognize. For this reason, the Lord, who knows the soil of our hearts better than we, never ceases to believe in us — in who we are and in who we can become, day by day, if we entrust ourselves to him in faith. **Pope Leo the Angelus last Sunday.** Full Text <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>*

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.

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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front of bar!*

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