



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

16th August 2026 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Eucharistic Service	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Eucharistic Service	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Eucharistic Service	_____	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. **RECONCILIATION:** On Request
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Will restart in the Autumn.

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 today at 3pm and in St John's Church hall on Sunday 13th September at 1pm.

XAVERIAN FATHERS—ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL. We welcome Fr Jim Clarke to our parishes next weekend.

Please remember the following in your prayers

James Davies RIP

Geraldine Gillespie RIP

James' Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 26th at 10.30am in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.

Geraldine's Prayers of Reception and Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 31st at 10am in St John's.
Followed by cremation at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium.

+May they rest in peace+

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for August 2026 : For evangelisation in the city. "Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community."
thepopevideo.org/

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

Birthday: 90th Birthday.

Anniversaries: Willie Burns (2nd), Luigi Tortolano, Chris Ross and Grant Mitchell (months mind).

Recently deceased: Dixie McMahon, Susie Dinsmore (Dunganon), Msgr Dan Hart, Julie McAnna, William Donaghy, James Davies, Eugene Crummie (Auchinleck), Claire Clarke and Geraldine Gillespie.

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: *Twenty First Sunday of Year A: Isaiah 22:15;19-23; Psalm 138; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20*

GOOD WISHES. To our schools as they begin a new academic year.

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Birthday: 90th Birthday and Arthur Smyth (RIP Birthday).

Those who have an anniversary: Willie Burns (2nd), Luigi Tortolano, Chris Ross, Grant Mitchell (months mind), Marie Cambridge, Laura Cambridge, Edward Pllu, Jim Rourke, James Monan (4th), John Collins Snr, Isabel Houston, Alec McCann, Kathleen Higgins (10th), Elizabeth Crawley, Thomas Girvan and Cathrine O'Rourke.

Those who have died recently: Dixie McMahon, Susie Dinsmore (Dunganon), Msgr Dan Hart, Julie McAnna, William Donaghy, James Davies, Eugene Crummie (Auchinleck), Claire Clarke, Geraldine Gillespie, Annette (Hanlon) Walker (Australia), Tom Gallagher (Kilwinning), Mr O'Hara, Kate McGarry (Kilmarnock), Jim McGarry (Sydney, Australia), Peter Do (Do Van Nguyen), John Lynch (Bearsden), Bob McDerment, Josephine Leonard, Wully Gorman, Kevin Sherry (Wishaw), Anne Leonard (New Zealand), May Fitzsimmons (Dalry) and Andrew McGinn.

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!

ST JOHN'S SVDP. The members will be involved at the Summer Fete running the Wheel of Fortune and we depend very much on your generosity. We are in need of donations of bottles etc for prizes. If you can donate any prizes please hand them to any SVDP member. Thank you for your generosity.

ASSISTED DYING BILL. Our constituency MP Irene Campbell will meet with parishioners in St Peter's Church on Wednesday 26th August at 2pm to address concerns relating to the Assisted Dying Bill, due to go before Parliament on the 11th September. She is also happy to answer questions on other issues from parishioners.

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, Glasgow. 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

PODCAST. Peter Sharp is working on different podcasts, you can find them at: www.youtube.com/@TheCatholicCafeGalloway



WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE. As part of the annual National Pilgrimage to Whithorn on Sunday 30th August the Youth Office will be running a Youth Pilgrimage. Join with young people (P5-S4) from across the Diocese as we gather to learn more about the life and witness of St Ninian. In the morning we'll have games, activities, lunch and a talk on St Ninian, before walking to the beach for Mass with Bishop Frank. After Mass, we'll enjoy a packed supper before heading home. Free transport is available from: Saltcoats, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Maybole, Girvan, Dumfries, and Kirkcudbright. Please register by scanning the QR code or going to the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk. There is no charge, but please bring a packed supper.

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: Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,
and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears,
the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'
And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.



FOR REFLECTION

Elizabeth greets Mary, 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'. How is Mary a model of belief and discipleship in your life?

Mary begins the Magnificat, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord'. How do you seek to magnify the Lord with your life? We all need companions in the spiritual life. Who do you journey with along the road of discipleship?

The Magnificat of Hope. Mary says: "My soul glorifies the Lord" – today, the Church too sings this in every part of the world. This song is particularly strong in places where the Body of Christ is suffering the Passion. For us Christians, wherever the Cross is, there is hope, always. If there is no hope, we are not Christian. That is why I like to say: do not allow yourselves to be robbed of hope. May we not be robbed of hope, because this strength is a grace, a gift from God which carries us forward with our eyes fixed on heaven. And Mary is always there, near those communities, our brothers and sisters, she accompanies them, suffers with them, and sings the Magnificat of hope with them. **Pope Francis.** www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/milies/2013/

SUDAN TRAGEDY. I continue to follow with concern the tragic situation in Sudan, especially in the city of el-Obeid. In expressing my spiritual closeness to all the people of the nation, I renew my appeal to those in authority to guarantee humanitarian corridors for the civilian population. At the same time, I urge the international community to support efforts aimed at bringing about an immediate ceasefire. Let us pray that the Lord may sustain those who are suffering, convert the hearts of those who sow violence, and grant the long awaited peace. **Pope Leo last Sunday.** www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/angelus/2026/

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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