



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

2nd August 2026 Eighteenth 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)	_____	10am Funeral Mass (L) Isabel Wales
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	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.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION.

The second collection in St John's next weekend will go to our Twin Parish in Brazil.

***Pope Francis** - Compassion, sharing, Eucharist. This is the path that Jesus points out to us in this Gospel. A path which brings us to face the needs of this world with fraternity, but which leads us beyond this world, because it comes from God the Father and returns to Him. Full Text www.popefrancishomilies.com/compassion*

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

Special Intention

Anniversaries: Ellen Hastings and Joe Murray.

Recently deceased: Kate McGarry (Kilmarnock), Jim McGarry (Sydney, Australia), Wully Gorman and Bob McDerment.

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: Nineteenth Sunday of Year A: Kings 19:9a; Psalm 85; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention

Those who have an anniversary: Joe Murray, Ellen Hastings, Jimmy & Celia McCann, John Higgins, David Gilmour, RoseAnn McAteer, Annie Cavani, Des Blanche, Angelo Vegemezis (Australia) and John McGarvey.

Those who have died recently: 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), Andrew McGinn and Michael Murray.

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!

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

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.

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.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord calls to all who hunger and thirst to come to him and be satisfied. How does your parish community reach out to those who hunger and thirst, either physically or spiritually.

In the letter to the Romans, St Paul boldly proclaims that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Is there an individual in your life who is in need of this message? How might you express it to this person?

Many times in the gospels we hear of Jesus going off to a 'lonely place' by himself in order to pray. Where do you find solace and quiet to pray?

Jesus' miracles show us what life is like in the kingdom of God. From today's miracle of feeding the five thousand from the five loaves and two fish, what message do you receive about the kingdom?

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."*

Paths of Dialogue. *I continue to follow with deep concern the ongoing and escalating violence in the Holy Land, where, in recent days, many civilians, both in the West Bank and in Gaza, have once again fallen victim. I make a heartfelt appeal for a return to negotiations to achieve a just political solution, founded on the equal dignity and equal rights of every human person. At the same time, I urge the rejection of further military actions and unilateral decisions, especially those that violate the respect for and the status quo of the holy places of every religion. I likewise renew my plea regarding the situation throughout the Middle East, where the intensification of military operations has again wreaked violence and destruction, endangering the lives of countless civilians and further aggravating the shortages of drinking water and electricity. From the depths of my heart, I exhort all parties involved to suspend the attacks and urgently reopen paths of dialogue and diplomacy, so that the longed-for peace for the entire region may be achieved without delay.*

Pope Leo at the Angelus last Sunday. *Full text www.vatican.va/*

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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