



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

9th August 2026

Nineteenth 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 Mass (L)
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 next Sunday (16th) at 3pm and in St John's Church hall on Sunday 13th September at 1pm.

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

When we speak of dignity, we do not always use the word in the same way. Sometimes we refer to moral dignity, namely the way in which a person directs his or her choices and actions. At other times, we think of social dignity, which refers to a person's living conditions and the concrete respect received from society. In other cases, we refer to existential dignity, meaning the way in which a person perceives his or her own worth and the value of life. These aspects of dignity can be enhanced or diminished. In addition to these notions, there is also the more profound and important level of ontological dignity. This is the dignity that belongs to every human being simply by virtue of existing, of having been willed, created and loved by God. No sin, failure, humiliation or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being. Pope Leo's first Encyclical. www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/

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

RIP Birthday Anniversary: Arthur Smyth

Anniversaries: 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

Recently deceased: James Davies, Annette (Hanlon) Walker (Australia), Tom Gallagher (Kilwinning) and Mr O'Hara

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: Twentieth Sunday of Year A: Isaiah 56:1. 6-7; Psalm 66; Romans 11:13-15. 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Special Intention

Those who have an anniversary: 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, Cathrine O'Rourke, Joe Murray and Ellen Hastings.

Those who have died recently: James Davies, 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.

300 CLUB. Congratulations to the winners of the July draw. No 15—T. McCann £30 and No 52—M. Reid £20.

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 this coming Friday (14th). £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 at: www.youtube.com/@TheCatholicCafeGalloway



SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING. Join Youth (P5-S4) from across the Diocese as they gather for their Summer Gathering on Saturday 15th August from 11am to 4pm. The day will include a wide range of fun games, including old favourites and a few new ones, two short talks on the theme of the gathering: St Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of young people, Mass, and lunch (pizza and BBQ). There's no charge to take part, but if you're coming, please scan the QR code to register! Free transport is provided from Ayr, Saltcoats, Dumfries, and Cumnock.

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.

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

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 14:22-33

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied:
Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat
and go before him to the other side,
while he dismissed the crowds.
And after he had dismissed the crowds,
he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.
When evening came, he was there alone,
but the boat by this time was a long way from the land,
beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.
And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them,
walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea,
they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear.
But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,
'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.'
And Peter answered him,
'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'
He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water
and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid,
and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.'
Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him,
saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'
And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'



PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

Elijah finds God present not in the loud powers of the natural world but in a tiny whispering sound, one that would be easy to overlook were he not paying attention. What small, gentle ways might God be present in your life? Where could God be calling you to pay closer attention?

Jesus issues a one-word invitation to Peter: "Come." It echoes many of Jesus's other commands and invitations throughout the gospels. How do you hear this invitation in your own life? How is Jesus calling you to come closer to him?

While Peter's faith falters in this story, he also shows another level of faith: when he starts to sink, he does not turn back on the boat. His immediate reaction is to call out to Jesus for help. When you find your faith faltering, how do you respond? Do you trust Jesus to bolster your efforts when they are not enough?

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/

This is an effective image of the Church: a boat which must brave the storms and sometimes seems on the point of capsizing. What saves her is not the skill and courage of her crew members, but faith which allows her to walk, even in the dark, amid hardships. Faith gives us the certainty of Jesus' presence always beside us, of his hand which grasps us to pull us back from danger. We are all on this boat, and we feel secure here despite our limitations and our weaknesses. We are safe especially when we are ready to kneel and worship Jesus, the only Lord of our life. Pope Francis Full Text www.popefrancishomilies.com/matthew-chapter-11-15

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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