



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

13th September 2026

Twenty Fourth 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

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 Eucharistic Service	7pm 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)

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

RECONCILIATION: On request. **GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Will restart in the Autumn.

L = LIVESTREAMED

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for September: For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it. thepopevideo.org/september-for-the-care-of-water/

BISHOP FRANK'S PASTORAL LETTER—Sustainability

Parish Consultation meeting will take place in St John's Church hall today at 1pm.

VOCATIONS MASS. Will take place this coming Thursday in St Peter's, Ardrossan at 7pm. All welcome.

PARENTS MEETINGS FOR THE SACRAMENTS. Will take place on Tuesday (15th) at 6pm for P3 First Reconciliation and 6.30pm for P4 First Eucharist for St Anthony's pupils in the school. Wednesday (16th) at 6pm for P3 First Reconciliation and 6.30pm for P4 First Eucharist for St John's pupils in St John's Church hall.

Justice & Peace Scotland welcomes the announcement by the UK Government of a ban on imports from illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, alongside further sanctions targeting those involved in settlement expansion and settler violence.....We pray for all people living in the Holy Land and for a future in which Palestinians and Israelis can live with equal rights, security, dignity and lasting peace.

This year's Romero Lecture on 22nd October will be delivered by Oliver McTernan, internationally recognised peace mediator, Director of Forward Thinking, and author of *Violence in God's Name*. The evening will include a lecture, Q&A and refreshments. More details on SCIAF website: www.sciaf.org.uk/

Dear brothers and sisters, with a sorrowful heart, I have followed the news of the latest violent attacks that have recently struck several cities and civilian infrastructures in Ukraine, causing the deaths of innocent people. My heart goes out to the suffering people, who for years have lived in anguish and fear. I renew my appeal to put an end to the violence, to stop the destruction and to open hearts to dialogue and peace! I hope that the efforts undertaken in these days to resume negotiations will bear concrete fruit and open space for diplomacy. Let us raise our prayers to the Lord, that concord may prevail in all the conflicts of the world.
Pope Leo last Sunday

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

Anniversaries: Mary Hune, Sarah Wright, Tommy Kirk, Georgina McWhirter, Alex Doherty, Charles McRoberts, May Rourke, Catherine Bannerman, Tracey Lafferty Fitzsimmons, Margaret Higgins, Charlotte Mitchell, Philomena McKee, David Dunbar, Helen McCall, Jean Tortolano and Jim McGrath.

Recently deceased: Harry Tracy, John McCarron (Glasgow), Alistair MacIver (Troon) and Gerald Collins.

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 Fifth Sunday of Year A; Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145; Philippians 1:20c-24,27a; Matthew 20:1-16*

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Birthday Remembrance: John Mitchell.

Those who have an anniversary: Mary Hume, Sarah Wright, Tommy Kirk, Georgina McWhirter, Alex Doherty, Charles McRoberts, May Rourke, Catherine Bannerman, Tracey Lafferty Fitzsimmons, Margaret Higgins, Charlotte Mitchell, Philomena McKee, David Dunbar, Helen McCall, Jean Tortolano, Jim McGrath, Emily McCarney, Esther & Bobby Gaston, Michael Pollock, Mary Conti and Matt Lunardi (4th).

Those who have died recently: John McCarron (Glasgow), Alistair MacIver (Troon), Gerald Collins, Mrs Catherine Murphy (Glasgow), Gerard McTear (Wishaw), James McIntyre (Greenock), Harry Tracy (Oxford, formerly Saltcoats), Steven Crawford, Dave Barrow (Leicester) and Robert Cooper.

ST JOHN'S SUMMER FETE. St John's Hall Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Summer Fete such a fantastic success. Thank you to all our generous donors, everyone who helped run the stalls and activities and of course, everyone who came along and supported us on the day. Thanks to your incredible support, we raised a fantastic £3,555.13! We really couldn't have done it without you, so thank you to everyone who played a part. **Date for your diary: Christmas Fayre – Sunday 22nd November.** We hope to see you all there!

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. To allow us to cover holidays, there will be no teas on Sunday 20th or Sunday 27th September. We apologise for any inconvenience and look forward to welcoming you back for our next Sunday tea on the 4th October.

ST ANTHONY'S PS. Over the years St Mary's parish provides transport to and from the Church; personal books for Advent and Lent and weekly sheets relating to the Gospel. This costs the parish almost £2,000 and over the next 2 weeks there will be a collection basket for anyone who would like to assist with these costs.

ST JOHN'S. Thank you to those who have agreed to help with the Children's Liturgy. We are also looking for helpers to accompany Primary 1/2 for a visit to the Church. Please let me know if you can help.

YOUNG CARITAS SCOTLAND. SCIAF is launching Young Caritas Scotland, a new movement for young adults who want to put their faith into action, meet likeminded people from the global church, and help build a better world. This movement is about making a real difference – about solidarity and community. A space to connect with young people across in Scotland and across the world and turn frustration into something hopeful. More information and details of how to join our movement can be found at www.sciaf.org.uk/youngcaritas

FAMILY CONFERENCE. The agency for marriage, family and life of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland have organised a conference. Married couples and families are invited to a day at St Augustine's, Coatbridge on the 24th of October 2026. Come along for family adoration, mass with Bishop John Keenan, formative talks, children's catechesis and so much more! Please book your place at <https://bcos.org.uk/nfc26>.

MICHAEL JAMES GALLAGHER—STRONGER TOGETHER AYRSHIRE, CHARITY CONCERT. Will be held in Troon Concert Hall on 25th September at 7.30pm to 10.30pm to raise funds for SAMH in memory of Michael. Joanna and Michael's friends within the musical theatre community in Ayrshire have formed a new organisation, Stronger Together, Ayrshire to organise and promote the event. All are invited to celebrate Michael's life. Please visit www.tickettailor.com for tickets.

GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR. The Diocesan Choir is looking to recruit new members who enjoy singing as part of a group and are committed to the enhancement of the liturgy through music. This four-part choir has been in existence in its present form for over 25 years. They sing at diocesan events in the Cathedral at least twice a year, and the rehearsal period runs from September to March (with a break in December/January). Rehearsals take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 pm until about 8.45 pm. **There is a particular need for men to sing tenor and bass.** While being able to read music is an advantage, it is not a requirement – most members do not read music. The first rehearsal of the new season is on Wednesday 9th September at 7.15 pm. If you are interested in joining them or would like more information, please contact David Robinson at david.robinson.mj@gmail.com or on 07714 340854.

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30) EVENING. The new series of Young Adults Evenings launches on Sunday 13th September when Fr Kevin Rennie will be speaking on "Life and Death: What do we believe?" – looking at Church teaching on life issues and some of the challenges faced today. The talk takes place in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB) from 6.30pm – 8pm and is open to all Young Adults, if you don't live in East Ayrshire you can join online, go to youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on 'Young Adults – Online Participation' to register. There is Adoration in the Church from 6pm for those who wish.

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

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT. Beat the Back to School blues and sign up to join Youth (P7-S4) from across the Diocese on the Advent Youth Retreat! Taking place from 27th – 29th November, young people from across the Diocese will gather at Gowanbank SU Centre for a weekend of outdoor activities (tree climbing, archery tag, and more), fun and games, talks, prayer and reflection, Mass, and lots of time with friends! Places are limited, for details and to register go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on ‘Youth – Advent Youth Retreat’. The cost per person is £140 (if you register before 15th September). Bursaries are available for children in need, or families with more than one child taking part, email youth@rcdg.org.uk for details.

BISHOP FRANK NEEDS A NEW CHRISTMAS CARD. Is your child in P5-S4? Help Bishop Frank get ready for Christmas by designing his Christmas Card! Draw your favourite Christmas-themed design and send it along with your child’s name and year to christmas@rcdg.org.uk – the winning design will be Bishop Frank’s Christmas Card for 2026 and available to buy from the Youth Office store, with the winner receiving printed cards, their design on a set of Christmas Baubles, and a certificate from Bishop Frank! Closing date for entries Friday 9th October, with the winner announced in mid-October.

YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENING. Save the date! Our Diocesan Youth Evenings for P5-S4 start back on Sunday 27th September from 5pm–7pm in St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan.

SOUP AND CHAT. Every Wednesday in St Mary’s from 11.30am-1.30pm in the parish hall.

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

SVDP. Please call 07379400568 for St Mary’s. Please call 07498501326 for St John’s. Please call 07825726904 for St Peter’s.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, “Pay what you owe.” So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.’

PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

Are there faults and hurts that you find easy to forgive? Are there any that you struggle to forgive fully?

Sometimes forgiveness fully restores relationships and sometimes it moves them to a new phase with new boundaries. What does forgiveness look like in your life?

Which relationships in your life still need forgiveness’s healing power?

Forgiveness. Jesus wished to introduce the teaching of this parable into the Our Father. He linked the forgiveness which we ask from God with the forgiveness that we should accord our brothers and sisters: “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”. God’s forgiveness is the symbol of his “overflowing” love for each of us. It is the love that leaves us free to distance ourselves, like the prodigal son, but which awaits our return every day. It is the resourceful love of the shepherd for the lost sheep. It is the tenderness which welcomes each sinner who knocks at his door. The Heavenly Father — our Father — is filled, is full of love and he wants to offer it to us, but he cannot do so if we close our heart to love towards others. **Pope Francis** www.popefrancishomilies.com/matthew-chapter-18-22

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

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.



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