



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

27th September 2026

Twenty Sixth 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 Eucharistic Service	10am Funeral Mass (L) James Cotter
Wednesday	10am Eucharistic Service	_____	10am Mass (L)
Thursday	_____	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L) 12 Noon Funeral Service Tom McGrattan
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

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

EXPOSITION: St John's - Friday at 10.30am-11am.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Will restart in the Autumn.

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/

RETIRED PRIESTS SPECIAL COLLECTION.

Will take place at all masses this weekend. Envelopes are available for those who wish to Gift Aid their donation.

ST ANTHONY'S PS. Thank you to everyone who donated to help with costs. The total amount raised was £569.65.

Summary of the Holy Father's words at the General Audience on Wednesday. Dear brothers and sisters, as we continue our series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council, today we consider the meaning and value of human activity as presented by the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. Revolutionary advances in science and technology in the past century have led some to assume that belief in God is now obsolete, and that true human autonomy can be affirmed only by emancipation from God. The Council Fathers emphasised, on the contrary, that "the achievements of the human race are a sign of God's greatness and the fulfilment of his mysterious design" (n. 34). Indeed, far from inhibiting believers from being engaged in human activity, the Gospel message compels us to contribute to authentic human flourishing through our involvement in society. Let us carry out our daily activities with true charity, offering our work to the Lord both as a means for personal sanctification and as an expression of our desire ever more fully to bring about God's kingdom, especially through pursuing the common good, caring for the needy and defending human dignity. **Full Text** <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/>

Dates for your diary.

St John's Food Taster – Sunday 25th October.

St John's Christmas Fayre – Sunday 22nd November.

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

Anniversaries: Michael & Margaret McDermott, Anne Lafferty and Wiliam Hazelton.

Recently deceased: Lawrence Burke (Norfolk, formerly Saltcoats), Amanda Monaghan, Jim Cooney and Alistair MacIver.

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 Seventh Sunday of Year A*; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Birthday Remembrance: Joe McIver and Peter Cartwright

Those who have an anniversary: Michael & Margaret McDermott, Anne Lafferty, Wiliam Hazelton, Betty Ross, Harry & Kate Nellis, Agnes Dickie, John Smith, Ina Kelly and Peter McCourt (1st),

Those who have died recently: Lawrence Burke (Norfolk, formerly Saltcoats), Amanda Monaghan, Jim Cooney, Marie Fraser, Gerard Callaghan, Patsy Ventra (Cheshire), Eileen Dundas (Ireland), John McCarron (Glasgow), Alistair MacIver (Troon), Gerald Collins, Mrs Catherine Murphy (Glasgow) and Gerard McTear (Wishaw).

ST ANTHONY'S PARENT COUNCIL. Are looking for donations of garden equipment - spades, shovels, rakes, weeders etc... These can be handed in directly to the school or church office. Too early to think about Christmas? You are right! However, behind the scenes at St Anthony's parent council are working hard to ensure we have donations for stalls, any item will be gratefully received. Please hand in to church office. The support that the St Mary's church family has given St Anthony's has been pivotal in a lot of our success and it doesn't go unnoticed. We thank you for all your continued support, especially in a time when know it's difficult for many. Essentially, this is why we at The Parents council do what we do! We want our children to have the best education and extra school experience as possible, hence why we are able to provide brilliant experiences free or at a small fee to the parents. With your contributions and continued support we are able to do this and we want to publicly thank you & a special mention to the amazing "Tea team". We always appreciate your support and continued support!

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. To allow us to cover holidays, there will be no teas today. We apologise for any inconvenience and look forward to welcoming you back for our next Sunday tea next Sunday (4th).

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

SPUC CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION. Will take place on Thursday 29th October 2026. Rosary at the Mercat Building, Glasgow Cross at 6:30pm; Candlelight Procession at 7pm; Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral at 7:30pm.

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>.

GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR. Are seeking new singers (especially tenors and basses) for liturgical music. Music reading is helpful but not required. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:15–8:45pm (September–March, except December/January) at St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. Contact: David Robinson: david.robinson.mj@gmail.com or 07714 340854 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.

YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENINGS: Resumes tonight (Sunday) from 5pm – 7pm in St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan. Join young people from across the region for an evening of games and activities, faith and fun. The evening begins with Mass at 5pm, following which we'll continue in the hall with games, activities, pizza, and a short talk. This session, the evenings will be exploring the Mass and what happens at Mass. All welcome, there is no charge to take part. If your child is coming for the first time, please complete a Consent Form on the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30) EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place from 6.30pm - 8pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock on Sunday 4th October. This month, we'll be looking at examples of different methods of prayer as well as trying some for ourselves as we explore the theme of "Talking to God: does he hear me?". Any young adults welcome to come along and take part. Can't join in person? Follow online! Register for online participation on the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

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.

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

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME. St. Margaret's Cathedral will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of its opening in 2027. As part of the celebrations a Pilgrimage to Rome is being organised from September 16th-23rd 2027 and a few places are still available. The cost of the Pilgrimage is £1,800 (based on two people sharing a twin room on a half-board basis) and includes all transfers. Travel Insurance is not included. A deposit of £300 per pilgrim is required at the time of booking. If you would like to be part of the Pilgrimage, or would like more information, please email Fr. David Borland at david.borland@rcdg.org.uk for a Booking Form.

SOUP AND CHAT. Every Monday in St John's from 11.30am-1.30pm. 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 in St Mary's.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:28-32

At that time:

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people,

'What do you think? A man had two sons.

And he went to the first and said,

"Son, go and work in the vineyard today."

And he answered, "I will not",

but afterward he changed his mind and went.

And he went to the other son and said the same.

And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go.

Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you,

the tax collectors and the prostitutes

go into the kingdom of God before you.

For John came to you in the way of righteousness,

and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.

And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'



PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

Do you identify more with the first or second son in Jesus's parable? Do you feel frustrated or relief at this gospel passage?

Do you identify more with the chief priests and elders that Jesus addresses or tax collectors and prostitutes whose place in the kingdom he affirms? Why do you think that is?

In what ways do you feel you succeed in answering the second reading's call to look out for the interests of others? In what ways could you improve?

Matthew 21:28-32 The key word is repentance: it is repentance that allows us not to harden, to turn no to God into yes, and yes to sin into no for the sake of the Lord. The will of the Father, who every day gently speaks to our conscience, is carried out only in the form of repentance and continuous conversion. In the end, everyone has two paths ahead of them: to be repentant sinners or hypocritical sinners. But what matters is not the reasoning that justifies and attempts to save appearances, but a heart that moves forward with the Lord, struggles every day, repents and returns to Him. Because the Lord seeks the pure of heart, not pure "on the outside". **Pope Francis Full Text**
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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