



St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

4th October 2026

Twenty Seventh 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	6pm Prayers of Reception Amanda Monaghan	10am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Friday	10am Funeral Mass Amanda Monaghan	—————	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 Mary's – Tuesday at 9.30am-10am.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: Will restart in the Autumn

ROSARY: In St John's at 7pm every Tuesday during October.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intentions for October: Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Papal Audience on Wednesday.....And so it was natural and proper that, after Paris, I should make a pilgrimage to Lourdes to venerate the Mother of the Church, Mary, she who, in the hour of passion and death, keeps alight the lamp of faith and hope. In Lourdes, the Lord, through the maternal care of the Virgin Mary, conveys to everyone, pilgrims and especially those who are sick in body and spirit, a message of hope and rebirth. A message that I wished to openly reaffirm: every human life, in whatever condition, even in the most extreme frailty, retains its inviolable dignity and deserves to be cared for, accompanied and relieved of suffering with human compassion and with the aid of the means offered by science. For this reason, Lourdes represents for the entire world a sanctuary of the civilization of love. **Pope Leo Full Text**www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/

Please remember Amanda in your prayers

Amanda Monaghan RIP

Prayers of Reception will take place on Thursday at 6pm in St John's

Funeral Mass will take place on Friday at 10am. Followed by burial in High Road Cemetery.

+May she rest in peace+

Dates for your diary.

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

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

St John's Wayside Visit – Sunday 29th November.

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

Anniversaries: Joe O'Rourke, Sean Henry, Eileen Higney, Ellen Murphy, William Fraser, Sean Pentleton, Hugh White, Rose McKay and Seamus Boyle.

Recently deceased: Sheila Kerrigan, Ellen Carson, Jim Cooney, Riccardo Lucchesi and Theresa Wilson (North Wales).

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 Eighth Sunday of Year A; Isaiah 25:6:10a; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:12-14,19-20; Matthew 22:1-14*

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

For all the sick in our parishes

Those who have an anniversary: Joe O'Rourke, Sean Henry, Eileen Higney, Ellen Murphy, William Fraser, Sean Pentleton, Hugh White, Rose McKay, Seamus Boyle Michael & Margaret McDermott, Anne Lafferty and Wiliam Hazelton.

Those who have died recently: Sheila Kerrigan, Ellen Carson, Riccardo Lucchesi, Theresa Wilson (North Wales), Lawrence Burke (Norfolk, formerly Saltcoats), Amanda Monaghan, Jim Cooney, Marie Fraser, Gerard Callaghan, Patsy Ventra (Cheshire), Eileen Dundas (Ireland), John McCarron (Glasgow) and Alistair MacIver (Troon)

300 CLUB. Congratulations to the winners of the September draw. No 134 – J. McKendrick £30 and No 233 – U. McDowall £20.

MICHAEL JAMES GALLAGHER—STRONGER TOGETHER AYRSHIRE, CHARITY CONCERT. Thank you to everyone who attended this concert, gave donations or raffle prizes and purchased raffle tickets. The concert was emotional and at the same uplifting and truly honoured Michael's life. The total sum raised for SAMH was £7800.

R.C.I.A. The first meeting will take place tomorrow (Monday) at 6pm in St Mary's parish house.

NORTH AYRSHIRE FUNDING FAYRE. Has been organised to take place at Saltcoats Town Hall, 18-20 Countess Street, Saltcoats on Friday 30th October from 09:30am – 12:30pm.

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!

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.

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30) EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place from 6.30pm - 8pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock tonight (Sunday). 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

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.

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.

ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S SUNDAY TEAS. Takes place after Sunday Masses today in St Mary's and St John'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 21:33-43

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

What fruit is God calling you to bear in your life? What keeps you from fully producing this fruit?

Are there "stones" in your life you might inadvertently be rejecting? In other words, are there things in your life that God might be building with in unexpected ways? People you overlook? Qualities you dislike about yourself?

The second reading reminds us that God is a God of peace; peace is what God wants for us. Where do you need God's peace in your life?

With this parable, Jesus reminds us what happens when a person deceives him/herself into thinking that he or she does things on their own, and they forget to be grateful, they forget the real basis of life: that good comes from the grace of God, that good comes from his free gift.... So, let us ask ourselves: Am I aware that life and the faith are gifts I have received. Am I aware that I myself am a gift? Do I believe that everything comes from the grace of the Lord? Do I understand that, without merit, I am the beneficiary of these things, that I am loved and saved gratuitously? And above all, in response to grace, do I know how to say "thank you"? Pope Francis Full text: www.popefrancishomilies.com/matthew-chapter-18-22

This year's Romero Lecture will be delivered by Oliver McTernan, internationally recognised peace mediator. (He used to be on Radio 2 with Wogan). The evening will include a lecture, Q&A and refreshments. October 26th at 7.30 pm at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, Maryhill, Glasgow G20 0AA FREE. Livestream www.churchservices.tv/maryhill

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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