

St John the Evangelist
Stevenston

29th November 2026
First Sunday of Advent - Year B



Our Lady Star of the Sea
Saltcoats

Parish Priest: Canon Martin Poland
St John's, Hayocks Road, Stevenston, KA20 4DE
Tel No: 01294 463225. Email: stevenston@rcdg.org.uk
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. Email: saltcoats@rcdg.org.uk
St Mary's Parish website: www.rcsaltcoats.com
and Sr Ursula and Sr Anna
Canon Matt McManus (Retired) and
Peter Sharp (Trainee Deacon)

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 Whole School Mass with St Anthony's PS	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)**

RECONCILIATION: St. Mary's— Saturday 3.45pm-4.15pm. St John's – Saturday 10.30am-11am.
EXPOSITION: St Mary's on Tuesday 9.30am – 10am. St John's on Friday 10am-10.30am

L = LIVESTREAMED

PENANCE SERVICES
St Peter's - Monday 14th December 7pm
St John's - Tuesday15th December 7pm
St Mary's - Wednesday16th December 2pm

Please remember Kathleen in your prayers:
Kathleen Balkeen
Funeral Service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium on Wednesday 9th December at 2.30pm
+May she rest in peace+

WELCOME. To our friends from the Wayside Club of Glasgow to St John's this afternoon.

Adeste Fideles - Come All Ye Faithful - a Parish Celebration for Advent with our children for the whole parish. We are getting together with our two Primary Schools to celebrate Advent in St Mary's Hall at 3pm today. An hour of song, prayer and reflection with mince pies, tea, coffee and juice. It is usually a very uplifting experience. Please bring a tin for the Foodbank if you can. Everyone is welcome.

THE FOLLOWING MASS INTENTIONS ARE BEING CELEBRATE THIS WEEK:

Anniversaries: Joe McAuliffe (1st), Mary Hamilton, Maureen & Willie McKenna, Sarah Waddell and Janet Smith

Recently deceased: Marie MacDonald, Mady Thekes Franssens, Christine McFadden, Ina McIver, James McKendrick, Joyce McKechnie

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*: Second Sunday of Advent- Year B;* *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8*

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

For all the sick in our parishes

RIP Birthday: Michael Boyd

Those who have an anniversary: Joe McAuliffe (1st), Mary Hamilton, Maureen & Willie McKenna, Sarah Waddell, Janet Smith, Larry Burke, Hugh McAllister, Kenneth Trayner (3rd), Cathie Pllu, Anne McAuley, Alice Burns, John Maxwell, Kathleen Poland, Hannah Kirk and McConnell & Wylie families.

Those who have died recently: Marie MacDonald, Mady Thekes Franssens, Christine McFadden, Billy Giffney, Ina McIver, James McKendrick, Daniel McGreer, Canon John McGrorry (Balloch), Bernard McLaughlin (Glasgow), Bernadette Quinn, Jim Harper, James McNamara, Margaret Conway, Joyce McKechnie, Michael Neil, Hugh Scott, Maureen Cahalane (London).

FIRST RECONCILIATION. Takes place in St John's this coming Wednesday at 7pm.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS FAYRE. On Friday from 1.30pm.

ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE. On Friday from 3pm.

WATER FOR A VILLAGE. Once again this year we will make our Christmas Gift through SCIAF to a village which currently has no water. The cost is £1,200 per village and the collection boxes will be available for the next 3 weeks.

CALEDONIA CARE HOME CAROL SERVICE. Will take place on Sunday 13th December at 2pm and a sign up sheet is available if you wish to take part.

GIFTS AT THE CRIB. As usual Gifts at the Crib in St John's go to Hillhouse Care, Kilmarnock and St Mary's go to Cardinal Winning Initiative. Monetary donations go to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS. Retired Priests: St John's - £611.91, St Mary's - £1139.77; **Mission Sunday**: St John's - £486.52, St Mary's - £1,079.82

SPRED GALLOWAY GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. Tickets will be available to buy at the start of both St Mary's Masses this weekend, cost £1 with a book of five available at the bargain price of £5. Prizes start at £100 cash with (approximately) twenty prizes in total The promoter is the irrepressible Mr Hugh McGuire and he will supervise the draw of the winning tickets on December 7th (2026).

300 CLUB. The Christmas draw will take place at the coffee morning on Sunday 6th December.

RCIA. Will meet again tomorrow (Monday) at 6pm in St Mary's parish house

P4 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME. Saturday Club in St John's on 5th December at 9am-10.30am.

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

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

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH. Thursday 31st December, 7.30pm – 12.30am. Proceeds Ukraine Appeal. Tickets £15. More information contact – Michael on 0781 365 0411.

GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR. 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 34085or on the night.

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: Mark 13:33-37
At that time:
Jesus said to his disciples:
'Be on guard, keep awake.
For you do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge,
each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.
Therefore stay awake –
for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
in the evening, or at midnight,
or when the cock crows, or in the morning –
lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'

PROMPTS FOR FAITH SHARING

In the first reading we find the familiar refrain "We are the clay and you are the potter." How is God forming and moulding you at this moment?

Throughout salvation history the people of God have prayed as in today's psalm, "Rouse your power. And come to save us." Where is God's restoring power most needed in your community?

In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul writes, "In Christ … you are not lacking in any spiritual gift." How would it change your family or faith community if this belief was lived out?

How is Jesus calling you to be watchful and alert this Advent season?

CHRISTMAS MASSES
ST JOHN'S:
6PM VIGIL AND 9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY
ST MARY'S:
4.30PM VIGIL AND 11AM CHRISTMAS DAY
BOXING DAY:
SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER **NO 4.30PM VIGIL MASS**

Pope Leo's General audience on Wednesday - Summary of the Holy Father's words*: Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes, today we focus on Chapter 5, which is dedicated to the promotion of peace. This project, filled with hope, embraces all of humanity and creation. In the name of the Lord, we are called to work for peace throughout the world. Indeed, true peace comes from the cross of Christ and is offered to everyone as the fruit of our redemption, which is a gift of grace to which we must respond. The Council Fathers combine their firm condemnation of war with a solemn appeal to convert minds and hearts to the King of Peace, encouraging us to break the ideological chains and economic interests that fuel conflicts. Moreover, the right to legitimate self-defense is always linked to the promotion of international institutions that promote peace between peoples and integral human development.*
Full Text https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/

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 GAINST 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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