



ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN

'Family of Parishes'

ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE

Meeting people where they are... leading them where God calls them to be!



Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year [A]

19th November 2023

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESSES

St Peter in Chains Church
1 South Crescent Road
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

St. Bride's Church
9 Hunterston Road,
West Kilbride, KA23 9EX

PARISH PRIEST ADDRESS

Father Duncan McVicar
St Peter's Presbytery
1 South Crescent Road
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU
01294 464063
duncan.mcvicar@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

Telephone: 01294 464063
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
westkilbride@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

WEBSITES

www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk
www.saintpeterinchains.net
www.stbrideschurch.co.uk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

07825 726904 (Ardrossan)
07585 656229 (West Kilbride)
07379 400568 (Saltcoats)
07498 501326 (Stevenston)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Peter in Chains: Saturday between
4.45pm-5.15pm and by request.

St. Bride's: By request.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

Crosshouse: Fr Stephen McGrattan
crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
01563 521832 ext:2

Ayr: Fr. Benjamin Mkeri 01655 882145
ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

**St. Peter in Chains
and St. Bride's,
are Parishes in the
RC Diocese of Galloway.
Scottish Charity
Registration SC010576**



**PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF THE
BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU OR PASS IT
ON TO SOMEONE ELSE. THANKS!**

Mustard Seeds

✠ Capturing the Moment



You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. Matthew 24:44

Jesus wants us to live each day of our lives to the full, loving God and loving our neighbour. That's why he doesn't tell us exactly when the end of history will come, just as he doesn't tell us exactly when our own death will come.

It is enough for us to know that it could be today. Every time we hear an ambulance siren, we are reminded that the world might have come to an end for someone. Every time we drive past a cemetery, it is an opportunity for us to take stock of our lives, to change whatever needs to be changed so that we can die with no regrets. Some people consider these thoughts morbid, but they are just realistic. The really morbid thought is to blind ourselves to what Jesus has revealed and pretend that history will never end. A painting by the remarkable nineteenth century British artist Sir John Everett Millais captures the lesson our Lord is trying to teach us. It is called *The Vale of Rest* and it is held by the Tate Gallery in London. It refers to an old Scottish superstition that when a coffin-shaped cloud is seen in the sky, it means an approaching death. The painting shows the cemetery of a convent, with a few crooked old headstones. In the background the sun is setting, and the tall trees growing near the convent wall are sharply, blackly silhouetted. One dark cloud blotches the brilliant sunset, and it is in the shape of a coffin. In the foreground are two nuns. The younger nun is knee-deep in a grave, digging vigorously, her veil tucked back out of the way – she is working hard, serving her neighbour. Sitting on a headstone beside her is an older nun, holding a rosary – praying hard, serving the Lord. The sitting nun is staring right out of the canvas, directly at the onlooker. Her face is hard to read, but it seems to be anxious and intent. She has seen the coffin-shaped cloud, and she seems to know who the grave is for: maybe for her, maybe for a dying sister in the convent, but also maybe for the intruder on the scene – us. We do not know the day or the hour, but we know the fact: Jesus will come again; history will end; the sun will set, and God wants us to stay ready, both by working and by praying.



33rd Week of the Year 2023 [A]

| St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk www.stbrideschurch.co.uk <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>& Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i> | | <i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill (Retired)</i> | www.stevenstonstjohns.com www.rcsaltcoats.com <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>& Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i> | |
|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Please note all Masses in St. Peter's are Live Streamed. Masses may be subject to change. | | St Bride's | St. John's | St. Mary's |
| Saturday 18 th November | 33rd Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Poor) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Stephen Munn (A), Alice McGrattan (A)</i> | | | Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L) |
| Sunday 19 th November | 33rd Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Poor) Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes</i> | Mass at 12.15pm | Mass at 11.30am (L) | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Monday 20 th November | 33rd Week of the Year Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Margaret Gallagher (RD)</i> | | | |
| Tuesday 21 st November | Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Elizabeth Dorrian (RD)</i> | Requiem Mass at 10am Ann Buchanan | Bereavement Mass at 7pm (L) | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Wednesday 22 nd November | Memorial of St Cecilia, martyr Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Edna McKinnon (RD)</i> | | Mass at 10am (L) | Bereavement Mass at 7pm (L) |
| Thursday 23 rd November | 33rd Week of the Year Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for John Douglas (RD)</i> | | | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Friday 24 th November | Memorial of St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Margaret McIver (A)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am | Mass at 10am | Mass at 10am (L) | |
| Saturday 25 th November | Solemnity of Christ the King Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for John Aitken Clarke (A)</i> | | | Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L) |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Tony Smith, Mary Cole.

✦ Those who have died recently

Ann Buchanan.

✦ Those who died at this time of Year

*Linda Jackson 2009, Alice McGrattan 2013,
 Stephen Munn 2011, Annie Boyle O'Hare 1967,
 Alice Tomelty 2000, Susan Hamilton 2009,
 Father Frank Kiernan 1989, Joseph Smith 2002,
 Robert Stevenson 1962, Joseph McKeraghan 2020,
 Andrew Steven 1998, Ian Mitchell 2011, Mary McNally 2004.
 Matthew Ssenyondo, father of Father Charles 2015,
 Karen Sharon Byrne 2003, Patrick Gerald Burns 2003,
 John Carry 1997, Canon George McCafferty 2000,
 Nora Moore 2012, Janie Matthews 2014,
 Elizabeth McDougall 1948, Mart Toland 2015,
 Father John Walsh 2009, Monsignor Frank Duffy 2000.*

Catholic Heritage in Scotland

'The Scottish Catholic Heritage Collections Trust (SCHCT) is working with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland (BCOS) to create a new museum of Scottish Catholic History. To do this the SCHCT is reviewing and updating its vision along with developing plans for a new museum. We would love your help by spending a few minutes answering a short survey. The survey can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/6D7EuB8EvU>.

The survey will be open till the end of the year and will be used to inform the design and vision of the new museum. A QR code has been attached to this email for you to share as well. The Blairs Museum's Facebook will also have a link to the survey which you can share if that is easier. Please feel free to email the SCHCT curator at jackie.masiunas@blairsmuseum.org or respond to this email if you have any additional questions.

Beautiful Monstrance found in Church Cellar

Bill Andrew found a dusty wooden box in the Church cellar at St Peter's and when he looked in he found a very old and beautiful monstrance. John Walsh took the Monstrance apart and cleaned it and repaired it as necessary. The wooden box has also been refurbished. We are using it at the moment for Adoration on Fridays. Sincere thanks to Bill and John for the "keen eye" and the hard work.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 12th November: £539.70
 Second Collection (Building Fund): £253.24

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 12th November: £61.00

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

St. Bride's & St. Peter's Notices

► REQUIEM MASS FOR ANN BUCHANAN AT ST BRIDE'S

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Ann Buchanan, who died on 11th November 2023, aged 89 years. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 21st November at 10am, followed by Interment at West Kilbride Cemetery. Her Month's Mind Mass will be on Tuesday, 12th December 2023. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

► **ST BRIDE'S MONTHLY DRAW** Congratulations to the Winner of the Monthly Draw for November, No: 35, Terry Gallanagh who wins £26.50.

► **CHURCHES HOMELESS ACTION NORTH AYRSHIRE - DONATIONS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS** We are teaming up with the charity Night Before Christmas Charity (NB4CC) to provide those who are homeless and being supported by North Ayrshire Council a Christmas present. Last year NB4CC gave presents to 182 people, including 122 children in North Ayrshire. We would be delighted if people would contribute to this charity. This can be done by visiting NB4CC's "Justgiving" page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Nightbeforechristmascampaign> or putting your donation in an envelope marked "NB4CC" in the church collection.

► **REFRESHMENTS ON SUNDAY – ST PETER'S** There have been some initiatives to restart refreshments after Sunday Mass at St Peter's. Marade Griffin is hoping to get some teams together. If you would like to go on a rota and join a team, please get in touch with Marade or the Parish Office.

► **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - ST BRIDE'S** Friday 8th December, Christmas Dinner with entertainment at West Kilbride Golf Club. Wednesday 13th December. Carol Service at St Bride's. Full details coming soon.

► **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – ST JOHN'S** Sunday 26th Nov Visit of Wayside club to St Johns. We are looking for donations: toiletries, gloves/hats, new underwear/socks, items for our raffle (chocolate, gift sets etc) If you have anything to donate please contact Brenda 07812758415 or Michael 07813650411 or hand into the hall or back of church. Sunday 3rd Dec - St Johns Christmas Fayre. To book a table to sell craft goods (£15) per table: contact Brenda 07812758415, Lorna 07833347035, Michael 07813650411.

► **CHRISTMAS CARDS** There is a wide selection of beautiful Christmas Cards available now at St Bride's & St Peter's stall. Also available are a wonderful selection of cards, candles, statues, Mass cards and gifts etc.

Christmas concert in aid of H.C.P.T Lourdes Group 376.

Featuring Theresa Morrison, Paul Hume and friends. Sunday 17th December 2p.m St Peter- in-Chains Church. Ticket £6 includes afternoon tea. Tickets available after Sunday morning Mass at St Peters or by phone/text Esther Coulter 07772433070.



Latest Updates from the Synod in Rome

The Synod on Synodality's first session at the Vatican has concluded, with its results wrapped up in a 41-page "half-time report". Here are a few "takeaways" for us to think and pray about. 1. Synodality is about the church's evangelising mission. "Synodality is ordered to mission," because we all share the "common grace of baptism." 2. The Synod calls for formation in "authentic discipleship," united by the Eucharist and nourished by the Word of God. We all have the "responsibility of demonstrating and transmitting the love and tenderness of God to a wounded humanity." Living discipleship is at the heart of being Catholic. "The Eucharist shapes synodality," and so the Mass should be celebrated "with an authentic sense of friendship in Christ" that reflects beauty and simplicity. Every Community should find ways of enriching our Catholic life beyond the Mass with alternative forms of liturgical prayer, as well as popular piety, particularly Marian devotion. 3. Synodality is about discerning together how to go on mission at each level of the church. The document emphasises the need for formation, and also making spaces to receive the church's teaching, and discern how to act on it. The church's social doctrine needs to be understood by the faithful so they can build up the kingdom of God. "Jesus' actions, assimilated in prayer and conversion of heart, show us the way forward." The Synod recognised there is universal agreement that priestly celibacy is "richly prophetic and a profound witness to Christ." 4. Disciples listen to people and accompany them like Christ. The Synod emphasised the church needs to give its closeness, listening and accompaniment to those who feel alone in remaining faithful to the church's teaching on marriage and sexual ethics, as well as to those on the margins because of "their marriage status, identity or sexuality." The synod suggests further consideration of the point that listening "does not mean compromising proclamation of the Gospel or endorsing any opinion or position proposed" -- but rather being like Jesus, who listens and loves unconditionally to share his good news. 5. The Synod emphasises the church needs to evangelise the social media as a dimension of its mission. The Synod proposes discernment on how the church can be involved in helping make the online world "safe" for families -- noting the dangers of intimidation, disinformation, sex exploitation and addiction -- and how the church can make the digital realm "spiritually life-giving." 6. Sex abuse is undermining the church's missionary life, - a truly synodal church needs to get this right. Listening to and accompanying those who have suffered abuse in the church have helped people feel no longer invisible. At the same time, the Synod makes clear "the long journey towards reconciliation and justice" remains and requires "addressing the structural conditions that abetted such abuse" and "concrete gestures of penitence." A synodal church requires a "culture of transparency". These are just a few "takeaways" to consider.

Just for a Laugh... Remember Sherlock Holmes and Watson. The famous duo once went on a camping trip. After sharing a good meal and a bottle of good wine, they retire to their tent for the night. Some time in the early morning Holmes nudged Watson and said to him, "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?" Watson replied, "I see thousands and thousands of stars." Holmes asked him, "What does that tell you?" Watson answered, "Astronomically it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Theologically it tells me that God is great and we are small and insignificant. Chronologically it tells me that it's about 3am. Meteorologically it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes retorts, "It tells me that someone stole our tent!"

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