

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!



Second Sunday of Advent [A]

4th December 2022

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

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WEBSITES

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

07825 726904 (Ardrossan)
07585 656229 (West Kilbride)

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

✠ Second Gift of Advent: God's Words of Comfort

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 40:1-5

In early adulthood I began to find Christmas a great letdown. People talk about the magic of Christmas. At that time in my life, the magic seemed to have disappeared. Christmas began to seem like just any other day, only one with a lot of additional obligations and emotional demands. Ironically, my sense of holiday malaise began to ease when I accepted that Christmas is, in one respect, just like any other day. That is, I can recognize the coming of Christ into my life and into my heart at any moment, on any and every day. Christ's coming wasn't limited to that one single day when "the magic" had to happen. In fact I came to realize that this wasn't about magic at all, but about reality. The true meaning of Christmas is grounded in the profound revelation that God so loves us that he chose to dwell among us both in Bethlehem and today right in our families. I came to see how, in Isaiah's words, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" whenever I am willing to prepare the way of the Lord into my life. For me, making a straight path in the wasteland usually has to do with quieting my mind and opening my heart. The gift for the second week of Advent is that God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of our discontent and longing. In this quiet season—a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity—make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. Probably the quickest way to begin hearing those words is to create a daily gratitude list. Set aside five minutes each morning or evening and take a few deep breaths. When you are settled, start jotting down whatever comes to your mind that you are grateful for.

With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in our lives will change. We will begin to see, even in the demands of our Christmas preparations, the real purpose of those efforts—celebrating the Lord's arrival in our life and the lives of those we love.



Second Week of Advent [A] 2022

St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk www.stbrideschurch.co.uk Father Duncan McVicar <i>assisted by Sr Marie Monique, Sr Ursula & Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill</i> <i>(Retired)</i>		www.stevenstonstjohns.com www.rcsaltcoats.com Canon Martin Poland <i>assisted by</i> Sr Marie Monique, Sr Ursula & Canon Matt McManus (Retired)	
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 3 rd December	2nd Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Matt Donnelly (A), Ralph Piacentini (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass (L) at 4.30pm	
Sunday 4 th December	2nd Sunday of Advent (A) Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)	
Monday 5 th December	2nd Week of Advent Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for John O'Leary (RD)</i>				
Tuesday 6 th December	Memorial of St Nicholas, bishop Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Eilidh McCarroll (RD), Billie Kelly (RD)</i>	Adoration 9.30 Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am (L)	
Wednesday 7 th December	Memorial of St Ambrose Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Emily Hackett (A), Peggy Duffy (RD)</i>		Mass at 10am (L)		
Thursday 8 th December	Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Charlie Little (A), Jim Mathieson (A)</i>	Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am (L)	
Friday 9 th December	Memorial of St Juan Diego Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Hugh Conway (MM), Elizabeth & Leo Walsh (A)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am	Adoration 9.30 Mass at 10am	Mass at 10am (L)		
Saturday 10 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Paul Foran (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass (L) at 4.30pm	

The Meaning of the Nativity Scene by Pope Francis

"The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realise that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him... But let us go back to the origins of the Christmas crèche so familiar to us. We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his Rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem... Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realise his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay". On 25th December, friars came to Greccio from various parts, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene..." [taken from Admirable Signum]

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Beryl Meechan, Ennis McHugh,
Tom McGreevy, Dawn Clark.*

✦ Those who have died recently:

*John O'Leary (Irvine), Billie Kelly,
Peggy Duffy, Natalina Farro.*

✦ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Jim Delahunt 2014, Mary Finnigan 2020, Martin Lehane 2015,
Mary Martin 1983, Isabella McGoogan 1998,
Gordon Alexander Smith 1997, Father Alec Smith SDB 2008,
John Hughes 2010, Margaret Anne Shanks 1994, Jean Graham,
Rose Smith 1999, Anne Thompson 1986, Robert Walker 2012,
Susan Connor 2009, Thomas Connor 2006, Joyce Feeney 2012,
Alexander Merrick 2001, May Shanks 1990, Rose Smith 1999,
Sarah Braniff 1961, Katherine Fearon 1911, Janet Ferris 2013,
Ann McCubbin, Robert Shanks 1996, Alexander Bartley 2017,
Teresa Dorans 2006, Francis Fitzpatrick 2020,
Philip Gargan 2012, Margaret Hughes 2006,
Agnes Martin 2007, James Mathieson 1999, John Tracy 1999,
Gerard McCulloch 1990, Anthony McGarvey 1996,
John McKay junior 1972, James McSorley 2010,
Cassie Millen 2011, May O'Farrell 2013, Rebecca Rourke 2021,
George Forbes 2014, Jim McIntosh 2019, James Devlin 2021,
Harry McKeachan 2020, Agnes Stevenson 1992,
Agnes Tomelty 2017, Laurence Poland 2010.*

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

► **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** We welcome to the Family of the Church Evie Spencer Thompson, who will be baptised this coming Saturday. Congratulations to the parents and the Godparents.

► **THANK YOU** Anna Conway would like to thank all those who attended Hugh's funeral, those who sent cards, flowers and those who offered help, or helped in any way.

► **GALLOWAY NEWS - ON THE WAY!** The event edition of the Galloway News will be available soon. Make sure you get your copy to get all the news and developments.

► **ST JOHNS CHRISTMAS CRAFT / FAYRE** Sunday 4th December in St. Johns Church Hall, Stevenston 12.30 - 3pm Selection of different stalls, tea, coffee and hot rolls also visit from Santa!

► **HOGMANAY CEILIDH IN AID OF UKRAINE APPEAL** St Johns church hall Stevenston, Sat 31st Dec 7.30pm - 1am. Bar available but please bring your own snacks. Tickets are £15 (inc supper, raffle and Irish bingo ticket) they must be paid for when ordering as tickets are limited. To order please contact Michael Lafferty 07813650411 or Lisa Lafferty 07988609078

► **CHANA Churches Homeless Action North Ayrshire - Donations of Christmas Gifts** As we did last year 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 150 people in North Ayrshire. The Officer in charge of Homelessness in North Ayrshire Council wrote "Once again, your generosity and kindness has gone a long way to help us make life that little bit easier and more enjoyable for our homeless clients throughout 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/nb4cc> or putting your donation in an envelope marked "NB4CC" in the church collection".

► **ST BRIDE'S SSVF CHRISTMAS LARDER COLLECTION** This will run from Sunday 6th November to Sunday 18th December, this means non-perishable goods can arrive anytime but perishable ones can still be handed in nearer Christmas Day as the theme this time is all for Christmas. Please check the sell by dates are after Christmas. Items suggested: Mince Pies, Yule Logs, boxes of biscuits, sweets both types, for Children and for Puddings. Anything that would be difficult to buy for Christmas if you are on a very restricted income. Thank you again for all your support.

Advent Reconciliation Services

Please join us for one of the Advent Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas: Monday, 19th December at 7pm at St Peter in Chains, Ardrossan; Tuesday, 20th December at 7pm at St John's, Stevenston; and Wednesday, 21st December at 2pm at St Mary's, Saltcoats. The communal service is an opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in asking for forgiveness and healing during this important time of the year. As we prepare for Christmas Day, we invite all to begin anew with souls nourished from the gift of the divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone.

Nicene Creed

(for Advent and Christmastide)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

All bow: *and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

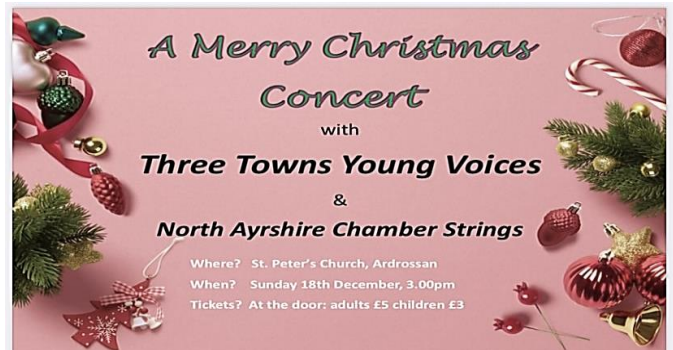
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

God's Promises

God has not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised, sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God has promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love!

Nativity

On Christmas Eve at the 5pm Mass there will be a short nativity play. Any children who would like to take part, please stay after the 10.30am Mass for a short practice on the 11th and 18th December. Any questions phone or text 07895 537964. Thanks!



**A Merry Christmas
Concert**
with
Three Towns Young Voices
&
North Ayrshire Chamber Strings

Where? St. Peter's Church, Ardrossan
When? Sunday 18th December, 3.00pm
Tickets? At the door: adults £5 children £3

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 27th November 2022: £534.21
Second Collection (Building Fund): £238.61

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 27th November 2022: £93.00
Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

Just for a Laugh... It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the priest managed to arrive at the church for the morning Mass. 'Well' said the Parish Priest 'I guess there's no point in having Mass today.' 'Well that's not how I see it. said the farmer. If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it.'

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