



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!



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord [B]

31st March 2024

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

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

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ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
westkilbride@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

WEBSITES

www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk
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

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www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk.



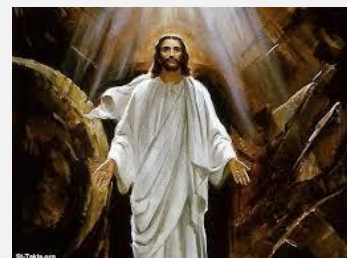
**St. Peter in Chains
and St. Bride's,
are Parishes in the
RC Diocese of Galloway.
Scottish Charity
Registration SC010576**

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

Mustard Seeds

✚ Easter Faith: The Secret Rooms

Secret rooms and hidden doors are generally considered features of haunted houses, but in 16th-century England, they were integral in keeping Catholic priests, and Catholicism itself, alive. With the Protestant Reformation ramping up and Catholicism under attack, a system of safe houses equipped with cleverly hidden "priest holes" kept fugitive clergymen safe from persecution. When Protestant Queen Elizabeth I ascended to the throne in 1558, the anti-Catholic attitude among much of the British monarchy had reached fever pitch. Elizabeth immediately became the target of a number of Catholic church plots aimed at removing her. The queen's response to these plots was not subtle. Under her rule, it became illegal to practice the Catholic faith in England. Anyone found engaging in Catholic rituals could face punishments ranging from fines to life imprisonment. Catholic priests were in even more danger. It became high treason for a Catholic priest to so much as enter England, and anyone found aiding or harbouring a priest would be just as guilty. The same went for anyone caught attempting to convert someone to the faith, as it was seen as removing supporters from Elizabeth's cause. Devout Catholics living under Elizabeth's reign began to worship covertly, establishing a network of homes for priests and other "recusants" to continue the faith in England. If a priest was found, he would face torture and eventual execution. To escape this fate, a number of homes installed hidden compartments called priest holes, where Catholic priests could conceal themselves in the case of a raid. These small hideaways were often built under staircases or inside fireplaces or behind false walls. Priest hunters eventually got wind of these clever holes and stepped up their searches accordingly. They would knock house walls to see if they were hollow or measure the footprint of the building on the inside and outside to see if they matched. They began counting the windows and pulling up the floors. Sometimes they would stake out a home for days or weeks. Due to the secret nature of the holes, there is no record of exactly how many were built. But one man stands out as the master of the craft. Jesuit brother Nicholas Owen, nicknamed "Little John" thanks to his height, began designing and building hidden chambers around the 1580s. For the next 20 years he turned hiding priests into an art. A master architect and builder, Owen was known both for his ability to create secret chambers that baffled the priest hunters. Owen was almost found out a number of times during his career, and got arrested and tortured in 1594. But even when subjected to agony, Owen never gave up the location of another priest or the holes he built. When was caught a final time in 1606, he gave himself up to distract from other priests hiding in the house. He was taken to the Tower of London and tortured to death, never giving an inch. For his work in creating the priest holes that saved countless lives, Owen was canonised by Pope Paul in 1970 and made a saint.



Octave of Easter [B]

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 30 th March	HOLY SATURDAY AT THE TOMB OF CHRIST EASTER SOLEMN VIGIL at 8.30pm <i>(There is <u>no</u> Saturday 5.30 Vigil Mass)</i>		Morning Prayers with Blessing of Polish Easter Baskets at 10am Vigil of the Resurrection at 8.30pm (L)	<i>(There is <u>no</u> 4.30pm Vigil Mass)</i>
Sunday 31 st March	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD at 10.30am	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 1 st April	OCTAVE OF EASTER Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Frank Macduff (A), Louise Payton (A), Charlie MacGregor (A)</i>			
Tuesday 2 nd April	OCTAVE OF EASTER Morning Prayer of the Church Mass at 10am <i>Offered for David & James McCurry (A), Beryl (T)</i>	Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Felix Hamill (A)</i>		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 3 rd April	OCTAVE OF EASTER Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for James & John Mullen (A), James Friel (RD)</i>		Funeral Mass at 10am Helen McCabe	
Thursday 4 th April	OCTAVE OF EASTER Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Sam Collins (RD), John Davidson (RD)</i>			Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 5 th April	OCTAVE OF EASTER Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Tony Mulholland (RD), Patrick Joseph Barrett (RD), Katie (T)</i> Benediction at 10.30am <i>(afterwards refreshments in St Peter's Café)</i>	Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Colin James Robertson (A)</i>	Eucharistic Service at 10am	Funeral Mass at 10am Margaret Slimon
Saturday 6 th April	2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Simon & Matilda Branman (A), Jacky Brown (A), Joe Howie (A)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm

Anniversary of Canon Matt

We wish Canon Matt every joy peace and blessing on the Anniversary of his priestly ordination on Wednesday, 3rd April. Canon Matt celebrates 59 years of priesthood.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 24th March 2024:
£452.96

Second Collection (Building Fund): £276.21

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 24th March 2024:
£131.00

**STANDING ORDERS –
PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT**

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Ellen Quirk, Betty Craig, Tony Smith, Monica (Brady) Dillon, David McMahon.

✚ Those who have died recently:

Freddy Kean, Hugh Cameron (Uncle of Fr Gerry), Frankie McSorley, Patrick Joseph Barrett (Glasgow), James McBreen, Sam Collins, John Davidson, James Friel, Tony Mulholland.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

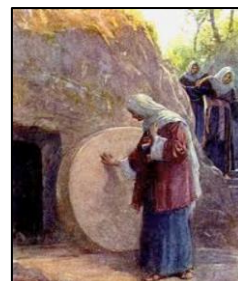
Felix Hamill, Sarah Anderson 2003, Pauline Gear 2020, Elizabeth Hughes 2013, James Kelly 1983, Michael McCann 2012, Sandy Miller 1979, Gus Slimman 1993, Isabella Stuart 2004, William Friel 1994, Peter Hughes 2011, Irene Mathieson 2012, Jane McFarlane 2006, James McLaughan 2023, Jane Mullen 2003, Kenneth McSkimming 2002, Jenny Murphy 1998, Marjorie Robertson, Margaret Shanks 1993, Margaret Murphy, Monsignor John O'Farrell 2008, Pope John Paul II 2005, James Smith 1959, Archie McFarlane, Harry Quinn 1993, Patrick Tomelty 2004, Thomas Watt 2017, Annie Adam 1997, Mattie Friel 1995, Dominic Gribben 2018, Barbara Henderson, Frank McCaffrey 2012, Annie Murphy 1981, Agnes Ward 2001, Margaret Boyd 2004, Jacky Brown 2022, George Lee 1992, James Wilson 2013, Daniel Thomas Gilmour 2013, Frank Grogan, Michael McNamara 2008.

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

- ▶ **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION** We welcome to the Family of the Church Liz Moran who will be confirmed on Easter Sunday at St Bride's. We wish Liz and her Sponsor Janette Ferguson a day of blessing, peace and Easter Joy! Please join us after Mass for refreshments in the Community Room.
- ▶ **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** We welcome to the Family of the Church Curtis Lees who will be baptised on Tuesday, 2nd April at St Peter's. We wish him, his Sponsors Carolyn McGann and Stephen McGinn, and his family an Easter day of grace and joy.
- ▶ **GRAVESIDE SERVICE AT ARDROSSAN CEMETERY** Please pray for the Repose of the Souls of Mary Thorne, Mary Brodie and James Brodie whose mortal remains will be buried at Ardrossan Cemetery in the presence of their family on Thursday, 4th April at 2pm. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- ▶ **OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** Please collect your new envelopes which are now available from the stall at St Peter's or at the back of church in St Bride's.
- ▶ **HCPT LOURDES GROUP 376** We would like to thank everyone who supported the group in any way over the past year. We are travelling to Lourdes for Easter week with ten adults who require support. You will be remembered in our masses and prayers. Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us. Esther Coulter
- ▶ **ST. BRIDE'S EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT** We would love you to support the Easter egg hunt by donating some Easter eggs. Please bring them along this Sunday and put them in the baskets at the back of the church. *Thank you!*

Easter Message 2024

On Easter Sunday, I will travel to Lourdes with the HCPT Pilgrimage along with people from this diocese and thousands from the UK, Ireland and beyond. One important message for any pilgrimage is that the Lord is present the whole time, not just during the liturgical celebrations and that the most profound moment a person has might just be during a casual conversation over coffee. God is there at all times, and we have to be ready for him. So it is with the Risen Lord at Easter. He is certainly present in the great celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. But he doesn't want us to package him up and leave him in those moments alone. The mystery and the joy of the Resurrection is that the Risen Lord is with us in every moment including the day-to-day. So, don't save your 'Alleluia's' for Mass alone. Christ is Risen! The darkness was never able to extinguish his light. This is news that everyone needs to hear, and we are the ones to tell them. In Lourdes this year, we will celebrate the theme 'Let Your Light Shine'. We are all called to reflect the light of the Risen Christ to all those around us, so be brave and let the joy of Easter into every part of your lives. Happy Easter, Christ is Risen. Alleluia!
+ Frank Dougan, Bishop of Galloway



Two Alleluia Stories

"We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!" These words of St. Augustine express the joy that comes with this irreversible victory of Easter. This grace is not only joyful, but it is also transforming - it changes lives. Here are two true stories about lives that were transformed by Christ's resurrection. The first is about a working-class man with almost no education. He tried to make something better out of his humble, poor life, by going to work for a friend who was starting a new company. He was hoping for a new lease on life, but it didn't work out. In fact, his friend was arrested and thrown in prison, wrongly condemned for a crime he didn't commit. In the end, he was brutally killed by a furious mob. The working class man was not only discouraged by this failure, but he was actually afraid that the same thing might happen to him. So he disowned his old friend and, dejected, went back to his former life. The second true story is about a woman of ill repute who had squandered her abundant gifts. She never got respect, and never did anything to deserve any. A slave to her own sin, she cried herself to sleep night after night. She simply couldn't imagine a better life than the one she was living. Then she met someone who gave her hope - the same man from the first story, who was starting a new business. She also went to work for him, trying to get a new lease on life. But then he was murdered, and her hope was extinguished, like the fragile flame of a candle in the wind. And what happened next? Well, they found out Jesus rose from the dead - and that made all the difference, for the woman's name is St Mary Magdalene, and the man is St Peter. By putting our faith in Christ, our stories can become just like theirs.

Eucharistic Revival this Easter – Who do you spend your day with?

It has been observed that people emulate the five people they spend most time with—for better or worse. Make Jesus one of those five people. Spending time in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will transform you and your life in ways you cannot even begin to imagine. Pope John Paul II wrote, "The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world... Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: He is God with us. Seek Him without tiring, welcome Him without reserve, love Him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever." [from Matthew Kelly]

Just for a laugh 😊😊😊

A 747 was halfway across the Atlantic when the captain got on the loudspeaker: "Attention, passengers. We have lost one of our engines, but we can certainly reach London with the three we have left. Unfortunately, we will arrive an hour late as a result." An hour later the captain made another announcement: "Sorry, but we lost another engine. Still, we can travel on two. I'm afraid we will now arrive two hours late." Shortly thereafter, the passengers heard the captain's voice again: "Guess what, folks? We just lost our third engine, but please rest assured we can fly with only one. We will now arrive in London three hours late." At this point, one passenger became furious. "For goodness sake," he shouted. "If we lose another engine, we'll be up here all night!"

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