

# 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!



Fifth Sunday of Lent [B]

17<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

Telephone: 01294 464063  
St Peter's Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703  
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk  
westkilbride@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

## WEBSITES

[www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk](http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk)  
[www.stbrideschurch.co.uk](http://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

## MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND LIFE OFFICE

[www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://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

### ✠ Mary Consoles Eve

There's a remarkable drawing by Sister Grace Remington which captures the message of Lent in a vivid way. The characters are different, but the message is the same. It's called "Mary Consoles Eve," and the artist is envisioning what would happen if the Blessed Virgin Mary met Eve. Eve is standing before Mary with her head bowed down. Her face is crimson with shame, and you can see that she wants to look up at Mary, but she doesn't dare. In her hand she's holding an apple with a bite taken out of it, a symbol of her sin. There's a snake wrapped around her leg. It's the Devil, who, once we've sinned, tries to convince us that there's no forgiveness and that things will never change. What about Mary? She's looking lovingly at Eve, and her right hand is caressing Eve's face. It looks like she's trying to draw Eve's eyes up to meet her own. Mary's left hand is holding Eve's hand against her stomach. Mary is pregnant with Jesus, the one who forgives us, breaks through our shame and our hardness of heart, and gives us life. And Mary is crushing the snake's head with her foot – but she's not even looking at it! It's as though she were saying, "Don't worry, my son has this taken care of. He is not afraid of sin. He wants to forgive you and make you new." This experience is offered to all of us. This experience brings us to hear Christ's words: "Go, and sin no more, because I am with you." When Christ says "Go and sin no more," what does that mean for our own lives? It's an invitation to a new way of life. Lent is a time the Church gives us to enter into that new way of life. Let's make the most of the remainder of Lent to do exactly that.



## Fifth Week of Lent [B]

<b>St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan</b> <a href="http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk">www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.stbrideschurch.co.uk">www.stbrideschurch.co.uk</a> <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>&amp; Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill (Retired)</i>	<a href="http://www.stevenstonstjohns.com">www.stevenstonstjohns.com</a> <a href="http://www.rcsaltcoats.com">www.rcsaltcoats.com</a> <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>&amp; Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>	
<b>Please note all Masses in St. Peter's are Live Streamed.</b> <b>Masses may be subject to change.</b>		St Bride's	St. John's	St. Mary's
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b> <i>Offered for Kevin Doherty (A),</i> <i>Mrs Mary Gribben (A), Janie Aitken (A)</i>			4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Mass at 10.30am</b> <i>Offered for our Parishes.</i>	12.15pm Mass	11.30am Mass (L)	10am Mass (L)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for John Conlan (RD)</i>			
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of Mary</b> Stations of the Cross at 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Connell &amp; Annie Thomas (A) Theresa Quirk (A)</i>	Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Requiem Mass for Samuel Collins</b> <b>Mass at 10am</b>		Eucharistic Service at 10am	Funeral Mass at 1pm <b>Lucy Anderson</b>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Ken Littlemore (RD)</i>			Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Ellen Quirk (T)</i> <b>Exposition and Benediction 10.30am</b>	9.30am Stations of the Cross  Mass at 10am	Mass at 10am (L)	
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Palm Sunday</b> (Palms will be blessed and distributed at Mass) <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b> <i>Offered for Christopher McManus (A)</i>			4.30pm Vigil Mass (L)

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Ellen Quirk, Tony Smith, Monica (Brady) Dillon, Freddy Kean, John McKenna, David McMahon.*

#### ✦ Those who have died recently:

*Samuel Collins, John Conlan, Ken Littlemore,*

#### ✦ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Janie Aitken 1989, John McCormick 2019, Michael Reilly 2013, Debbie Roy 2022, Ian Trayner 2008,  
 Keith Baldwin 2006, Sheila Giebler 2019, John Gurney 2004, James Terence McHugh 2020, James Mulhearn 1982,  
 Thomas Rourke 2015, William Tait 1996, Kevin Doherty 1979, Alistair Malloy 2014, Peggy McArthur 1986, Andrew Murphy 1971,  
 Agnes Dougan 2018, Kate Smith 1972, Sam Bannon 2006, Maureen Conway 1999, Denise Devlin 2015, Agnes McLaren 1994,  
 Patrick McDonald, Maria Monaghan 2004, William Shanks 1952, William Shanks 1987, Susan Reid 2007, Pietro Brogi 1948  
 Veronica Stevenson 2016, Anne McLaren 2022, John Pentleton 2014, Hugh Conway 1976, Pamela Devine 2020, Mary Reid 2002  
 Sister Immanuel CP 2002, Terence McCarroll 1967, Patrick McDermott 1973, May McParland 2016, Cathie Slimman 2021.*

### Lenten Penance Service in the Three Towns

We've heard the phrase, "What would Jesus do?" As we start the season of Lent, a better question is, "What did Jesus do?" Jesus, about to transition from the hidden mission of home to the public mission of proclaiming the Good News of God's love, was drawn to pray and fast for 40 days in the desert. The desert. Why would Jesus go there – on purpose? Though preparing for a big life-change, his instinct wasn't to busy himself. It was to retreat. To quiet himself. To listen. To allow himself to be tested in his core. To encounter the Father and let his heart be focused, nourished, and shaped for his mission. We are invited to metaphorically enter the desert each Lent. But how do we enter the "desert"? We have three Lenten Penance Services in the Three Towns this Lent:

**Monday, 18th March at 2pm at St Mary's Saltcoats, Tuesday, 19th March at 7pm at St John's Stevenston, and Wednesday, 20th March at 7pm at St Peter in Chains Ardrossan.**

Though going into the desert implies some discomfort. . . go for it. Embrace it. It is purposeful. It is the Lord we seek. . . and the truth about ourselves... so that God can heal what is broken. So... live this Lent.

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

- ▶ **REQUIEM MASS FOR SAMUEL COLLINS** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Samuel Collins, who died on Monday, 4th March 2024, aged 80 years. His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday, 20th March at 10am, followed by Interment at Ardrossan Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!
- ▶ **COACH FOR THE CHRISM MASS FROM ST PETER'S** Lorna, from St Mary's, has booked a coach for this year's Chrism Mass with the new Bishop at St Margaret's Cathedral in Ayr. The Chrism Mass during the Holy Week will be on Tuesday, 26th March at 7.30pm. The coach will pick up St Bride's and St Peter's parishioners at St Peter's at 6.15pm prompt. The cost is £5 per person. If you wish a seat on the coach please add your name and contact number to the list in the porch.
- ▶ **ST. BRIDE'S MONTHLY DRAW** Congratulations to Veronica McTeer (No: 20) who wins £26.50 in the March draw.
- ▶ **ST. BRIDE'S SCIAF EMERGENCY APPEAL** We have received a letter of thanks for the £444.50 raised a few weeks ago for our sisters and brothers affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine. Please see the letter of thanks on the noticeboard.
- ▶ **HCPT LOURDES GROUP 376 APPEAL** We are looking for donations of bars of chocolate or biscuits to take to Lourdes on our Easter trip. We are travelling this year with a group of 10 adults who need additional support. A box will be available in the porch, or donations can be handed in to toddler group. Thanks Esther Coulter.
- ▶ **THANK YOU** Ellen Quirk would like to thank Fr. Duncan, friends and parishioners of St Peter's for their kind support, thoughts and prayers after her recent injury and illness. A Mass of thanksgiving will be offered for all. Ellen is recovering well.
- ▶ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR VOCATIONS** The Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb are a popular devotion in our parishes during Lent. In the 16th century, this pathway was officially entitled the "Via Dolorosa" (Sorrowful Way) or simply Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross. We can pray the Stations together this Lent every Tuesday at 9.30am in St Peter's and also every Friday at 9.30am in St Bride's.
- ▶ **CHANA (Churches' Homeless Action North Ayrshire)** During March, we hope to collect toiletries for homeless people in North Ayrshire. In particular, soap, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable razors would be useful. Please leave any donations in the basket in the Porch. *Many thanks.*

### **Eucharistic Revival this Lent - Just keep showing up**

The most practical wisdom I have ever received about prayer was from an old priest many years ago, when I was a teenager and first starting to take my spiritual life seriously. The initial excitement had worn off and I was experiencing the early signs of dryness and desolation in prayer. Our natural and very human reaction when prayer doesn't "feel good" is to wonder what we are doing wrong. Prayer should never be judged by how it makes us feel, and we often aren't doing anything wrong. Prayer isn't about feelings. "Just keep showing up," the old priest said to me. I didn't understand at first and when I asked him what he meant, he replied, "I'm speaking plainly. No hidden meanings, boy. Just keep showing up. Show up each day regardless of how you feel or if it is convenient. Just show up and let God work on you." The counsel of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is more needed today than ever before, because so many people have abandoned Sunday Mass: "With all the strength of my soul I urge you to approach the Communion table as often as you can. Feed on this bread of angels and you will draw all the energy you need to fight inner battles. Because true happiness, dear friends, does not consist in the pleasures of the world or in earthly things, but in peace of conscience, which we have only if we are pure in heart and mind." [from Matthew Kelly]

### **Holy Week and Easter at St Bride's and St Peter's**

Please make sure that you get a copy of the Holy Week and Easter Programme with all the times of services and Mass. Please take one along for family members and neighbours.

### **Holy Week Meditations with the Ardrossan Churches**

The Ardrossan Churches are offering a daily, short Meditation at the Park Church, Dalry Road, Ardrossan KA22 7LD during the Holy Week at 11am. This is a great opportunity for Christians in our town to come together and celebrate the greatest week of our faith.

### **ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Cash Collection 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024: £535.06  
Second Collection (SCIAF): £406.28

### **ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Cash Collection 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024: £163.05  
Second Collection (SCIAF): £116.65

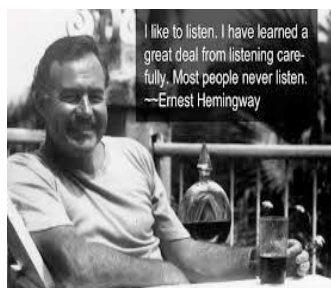
### **STANDING ORDERS – PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT**

*Many Thanks for your support and generosity!*

### **Advertising for Paco**

Ernest Hemingway once wrote a short story called "The Capital of the World." In it, he told the story of a father and his teenage son who were estranged from one another. The son's name was Paco. He had wronged his father. As a result, in his shame, he had run away from home. In the story, the father searched all over Spain for Paco, but still he could not find the boy. Finally, in the city of Madrid, in a last desperate attempt to find his son, the father placed an ad in the daily newspaper. The ad read: "PACO, MEET ME AT THE HOTEL MONTANA. NOON TUESDAY. ALL IS FORGIVEN. PAPA." The father in Hemingway's story prayed that the boy would see the ad; and then maybe, just maybe, he would come to the Hotel Montana

On Tuesday, at noon, the father arrived at the hotel. When he did, he could not believe his eyes. An entire squadron of police officers had been called out in an attempt to keep order among eight hundred young boys. It turned out that each one of them was named Paco. And each one of them had come to meet his respective father and find forgiveness in front of the Hotel Montana. Eight hundred boys named Paco had read the ad in the newspaper and had hoped it was for them. Eight hundred Pacos had come to receive the forgiveness they so desperately desired. Fortunately, God has not given up on us. Persistently and indefatigably, He searches for us. He never gives up on us. He longs day and night for us to come home. And if and when we do, He is overjoyed. He loves us. He forgives us. He restores us.



I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.  
— Ernest Hemingway



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