



ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN
'Family of Parishes'
ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE



3rd Sunday of Advent [Gaudate Sunday] Year B

13th December 2020

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

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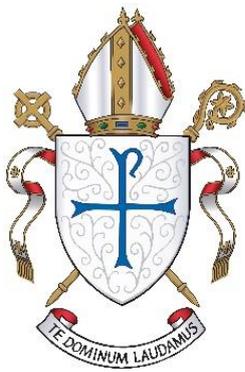
07722 246 169 (*Ardrossan*)
 07585 656 229 (*West Kilbride*)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

St. Bride's: Friday
 between 11am-12noon
 And by request.

**St. Peter in Chains,
 and St. Bride's,
 are Parishes
 in the RC Diocese
 of Galloway.
 Scottish Charity
 Registration Number:
 SC 010576**



**PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF
 THE PARISH BULLETIN HOME
 WITH YOU. THANKS!**

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these readings to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these readings quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the Gospel, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Reflection

Advent is a difficult season to celebrate: by now we are very much in the midst of the "secular Christmas" – trees and lights are up, parties would be happening if it were not for coronavirus restrictions, and the TV and radio schedules have surrendered to festive themes! Keeping Advent can make you seem a bit of a kill-joy. But did you notice that phrase in the opening prayer: "O Lord, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity..." Are we waiting? Or will we be tired of Christmas by the 26th December? The priests and Levites in the Gospel seem to be a bit impatient and not inclined to wait: the way they pressure John the Baptist, constantly asking who he is, shows they have no patience. They are not going to wait for something "still to come." But this is precisely what John demands – that they wait for what is "coming after." No quick fixes. No short cuts. And yet the wonderful paradox is that what they are demanding – what they refuse to wait for – the Messiah - is already "among you, unknown to you." Their impatience is blinding them to the very thing they are after! On this "middle" Sunday of Advent, let's just pause for a moment, to make sure that in our busyness, in our anticipation and eagerness to celebrate Christmas, we are not missing the whole point, and failing to recognise the One who is already among us – Jesus Christ!

Prayer for Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that you are present
 in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things
 and I passionately desire
 to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
 come spiritually into my soul
 so that I may unite myself wholly to you
 now and forever. Amen.



Third Week of Advent [B] 2020

December 2020	St Peter-in-Chains Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	St. Bride's West Kilbride <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	St John's Stevenston <i>Canon Martin Poland</i>	St Mary's Saltcoats <i>Canon Martin Poland</i>	St Peter's Parish Centre <i>Fiona Brown</i>
Saturday 12 th December	Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 10am – Live Streamed <i>Offered for Charlotte Hutchison (RD), Jim Mathieson (A)</i> Third Sunday of Advent, Year B Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Stephen Weideger (RD), John Hutchison</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
Sunday 13 th December	Third Sunday of Advent, Year B Mass at 10.30am - Public <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 12.15pm <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 11.30am	Mass at 10am	
Monday 14 th December	Memorial of St. John of the Cross Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for McMillan Family (SI), Cathie Slimman (SI), Holly & Collins Family</i>				
Tuesday 15 th December	3rd Week of Advent Mass at 10am – Private <i>Offered for Margaret Tracey (MM), Stephen Cusack & Family, Julianne & Family</i>	Mass at 10am	Funeral Mass Private	Mass at 10am	
Wednesday 16 th December	3rd Week of Advent Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Ferguson Family (SI), John Clarke (RD), Chap McDonagh & Family</i>		Mass at 10am		
Thursday 17 th December	Requiem Mass for Alison Harkness Mass at 10am – Private & Live Streamed			Mass at 10am	
Friday 18 th December	Advent Feria by Date Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Elizabeth & Leo Walsh (A) Eileen Carroll (RD), George Poole (A), Cornelius & Denise McDonagh</i>	Mass at 12.00pm	Mass at 10am		
	Requiem Mass for Matthew Donnelly Mass at 2pm - Private & Live Streamed				
Saturday 19 th December	Our Lady's Day for Advent Mass at 10am – Live Streamed <i>Offered for Sweeney Family (Wexford), Richard Haswell (RD)</i> Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Kilbane Family (A) Eric & Dorothy Waters (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	

St Peter's Parish Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703

Scotland's Catholic Bishops publish letter of hope

In a National Pastoral Letter to Scotland's Catholic Community, the Catholic Bishops of Scotland have highlighted "reasons for hope" as we live through these difficult times. The document suggests society has begun to rediscover universal human dignity, pointing out that when citizens were asked "to make difficult and prolonged sacrifices for the sake of the most vulnerable...they willingly responded." The letter describes this genuine concern for the vulnerable as "obvious and beautiful". The letter goes on to hope that "the love and compassion" we have shown amid so much suffering and death in recent months (might) now become a way of life and that love of neighbour might now "become the vital principle of our culture". The bishops welcome the news of vaccine approvals and "hope this will allow an early immunisation programme to protect our population and offer the prospect of some return to normal life." In response to ethical concerns raised about the vaccines, the bishops "reassure our Catholic population that, in accordance with longstanding guidance from the Pontifical Academy for Life, it is ethical to take any of the C19 vaccines purchased by the UK at the present time, either because foetal cell lines have not been used in their development or because their sourcing is sufficiently remote." "Just as the nations of the world have been required to collaborate to respond effectively to the virus, so too in our own society we must work together for a better future as we rebuild after the Pandemic." Read the full Pastoral Letter on our Parish websites.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anthony Brennan, Cathie Currie, Maria Hilferty, Cathie Slimman.

✚ Those who have died recently:

*Matthew (Matt) Donnelly, Alison Harkness, John Clarke,
Eileen Carroll, Richard Haswell, Eric & Dorothy Waters*

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Mary Branchfield 2003, Kenny Brown 2015, Mary Dunn 2002, Sam Ferguson 2008, Catherine Graham 2015, George Kelly 2011,
Norman Lamont 2009, James McIntosh 1998, Catherine McMahan 2005, Ina McKay 1998, John Taylor 2002, Annie Thompson
2016, Dr Matt Carty 2008, Monsignor Peter Murphy 1999, Mary Magee 1997, Robert McKay 1993, Denis McLaughlin 2008, Harry
McNamara 2002, Sally Quigg née Gilmour 1984, Anne Warden née McNamara 2012, Chris Casey 2006, Susan Jones 1996, James
Kernahan 1998, Frances Kilbane 1978, Roseanne Kirkwood 1991, Esther Madden 1981, Jimmy Robertson 2017, Mark Shanks 2008,
Mary Catherine Wishart 2002, Margaret Bennie, Annie Boyle, Kitty Boyle 2007, John Campbell 1997, John Carolan 2017, John
Dolan 2007, Sheila Douglas 2014, Annie Farmer 1984, Pat Haggarty 2015, Rose Leonard, William Martin 1974, Jean McCluskey
2015, George Poole 1991, Maureen Adamson 2014, Bobby Edwards 2014, Manus Gallagher junior 2016, Alice Grogan 2003,
Father Peter Sweeney 2001, May Wilson 2006*

St. Peter's Notices

► **REQUIEM MASS FOR ALISON HARKNESS** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Alison Harkness who died on 2nd December, aged 45 years. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 17th December at 10am, followed by Cremation at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dregghorn. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **REQUIEM MASS FOR MATT DONNELLY** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Matthew Donnelly, who died on 2nd December 2020 aged 83 years. His Requiem Mass will be on Friday, 18th December at 2pm, followed by cremation at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS** Booking for Christmas Eve and Christmas day Mass will be available from Wednesday 16th by calling the parish office on 01294 464063 between **9am and 11am**.

► **IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH** A lot of intricate work will be going on hopefully before Christmas: The lights in the Church tower have to be replaced with adapted fittings, the sound system needs an improvement and the microphones will be changed, a section of the wiring for the live-streaming has to be replaced and moved in a part of the Church as it is affecting the loop system, the loop system for hearing aids is now working in Church again; one of the altar spotlights have given up the ghost and will hopefully be replaced before Christmas. A set of doors in St Peter's Centre will have to be repaired through wear and tear. If any Parishioner would like to make a contribution to any of these repairs and maintenance issues, it would be a great help. I would be very grateful for any support offered. Thank you!

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 6th December 2020: £540.56
Second Collection (Building Fund): £260.00

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 6th December 2020: £165.00

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

St. Bride's Notices

► **CHRISTMAS MASS – BOOKINGS** We have to limit the numbers for Mass in line with COVID19. To enable us to do this as best we can over Christmas, we have set up a telephone booking service as follows: Please call Phyllis Howie on 01294 822320, on **WEDNESDAY 16th between 7 - 9pm**. Confirm how many adults/children and which Mass you would prefer to attend Christmas Eve at 7pm or Christmas Day at 9.30am. A seat number will be allocated, based on the number in your party. Thank you for your co-operation.

► **IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH** The heating system seems to be working fine now and the timer settings are kicking in as planned; after changing some of the pictures on the wall in the Church Meeting Room, we will have to repaint the walls. That should be happening this week. If any Parishioner would like to make a contribution to any of these repairs and maintenance issues, it would be a great help. I would be very grateful for any support offered. Thank you!

JUST FOR A LAUGH... Hamish, from Ardrossan, appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and towards the end of the programme had already won 500,000 pounds. "You've done very well so far," said Jeremy Clarkson, "but for a million pounds you've only got one life-line left, phone a friend. Everything is riding on this question. Will you go for it?" "Sure," said Hamish. "I'll have a go!" "Which of the following birds does NOT build its own nest? a) Sparrow, b) Thrush, c) Magpie, d) Cuckoo?" "I haven't got a clue." said Hamish, "So I'll use my last lifeline and phone my friend Ken in Saltcoats ..." Ken answers. "That's simple it's a cuckoo." "Are you sure?" "I'm sure." Hamish hung up the phone and told Jeremy, "I'll go with cuckoo as my answer." "Is that your final answer?" asked Jeremy. "That it is." "Hamish, you've won 1 million pounds!" The next night, Hamish invited Ken to their local pub to buy him a drink. "Tell me, Ken? How in Heaven's name did you know it was a Cuckoo that doesn't build its own nest?" "Why because he lives in a clock!"

Mustard Seeds

✠ The Shepherd Boy

On a high mountain there lived an old shepherd and his young son. They longed for the coming of the Saviour and that the words of the Prophets would come true. They prayed every day that He would come soon. The Shepherds looked after the sheep on the mountains. They lived in a poor hut and they were poor and lonely. Sometimes the Shepherd Boy would play his flute. One night, as the old shepherd was fast asleep, he had a dream. He dreamt that a beautiful shining star appeared in the sky. He had never seen such a bright star before. He looked at the light of the star in the darkness and he felt that something special and good was going to happen. Then the old shepherd saw an Angel. The Angel came to him and said: "Don't be afraid! I have come to bring you news of great joy! This night in the town of Bethlehem, the Saviour has been born! Awake, get up, and follow the Star to the place where you will find the Christ Child!" The Old Shepherd awakened quickly from this dream. He looked up into the sky and saw the beautiful star. Its light shone all around and filled the skies. The Old Shepherd ran quickly to his son and shook him so that he would awaken. The Old Shepherd said: "Shepherd Boy, wake up, wake up! Look at the Star in the skies. Look how beautiful it shines! Something wonderful is going to happen! Come, let us follow the Star. It will take us to the place where the Saviour is going to be born! Hurry! Hurry!" They followed this beautiful light across mountains and through valleys. They came to a wonderful city. It had enormous great walls, lights were shining out of the windows. Laughter could be heard. People were making merry. The Old Shepherd thought this must be the place. This is where we will find the Saviour Child. However, much to his surprise the star led them further, and led them away from the beauty and wonder of the city. All of a sudden, they saw a most spectacular palace. Then again, the Old Shepherd thought, we have to find the Child here. But the Star led them further and led them away from the palace. The light of the Star seemed to be fuller and brighter. They came to a lonely field. There was a stable there. The Old Shepherd thought, we must have lost our way. He wanted to turn back. But then, to his surprise, the Star bowed down over the Stable. Surprised the Old Shepherd approached the hut. There was a Child lying in a Manger. Mary and Joseph sat quietly in adoration. The Child turned and looked towards the Shepherds. Then the Shepherd Boy came forward and said: "You are the Christ Child. You are the Saviour of the world. And you are so poor. Born in a stable. You don't have a cradle to lie in. You're lying here on straw in a donkey's manger!" And the Old Shepherd took off his cloak. It was rough material, but he placed it gently over the Child. Then the Shepherd Boy took out his flute and played his best tune with all his heart. And the Baby Jesus smiled and the Shepherd forgot all their poverty and loneliness. Their joy was without bounds. And the Star over Bethlehem shone into the darkness of the night, bringing joy and peace to the world.

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