



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!



2nd Sunday of the Year [B]

17th January 2021

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Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

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WEBSITES

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www.saintpeterinchains.net
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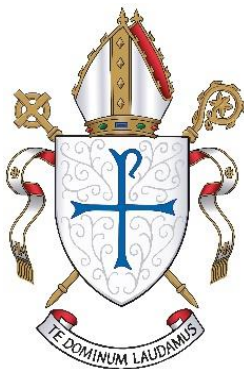
07722 246 169 (*Ardrossan*)
07585 656 229 (*West Kilbride*)

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 1:35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Reflection

If you read through today's Gospel again, you will notice that there is a lot of "staring and seeing" going on! John the Baptist "stares hard" at Jesus, and later Jesus does the same to Simon Peter. The somewhat diffident request of the disciples when Jesus sees them is met simply with the words "Come and see!" There is a gentle, almost enigmatic feeling to this "calling" – it is very unthreatening, almost non-committal. In the modern Catholic programme for prospective converts (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA) the first "phase" is called the Period of Enquiry, or searching, or indeed "looking hard and seeing." It acknowledges that conversion or commitment is not something that always happens in a blinding flash but is gradual and tentative. We must practise the same gentleness as we proclaim our faith to others – never badgering or insisting but inviting. "Where do you go to church?" "Come and see!" "How do you pray?" "Come and see!" Perhaps today have a think about how we invite others to "Come and see" what our faith is all about. Have you ever invited someone to come to church with you, or pray with you – without being threatening or overpowering? Let us pray for the confidence to share our faith with patience and allow people to "look hard and see" what inspires us.

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.



Second Week of the Year [B] 2020

January 2021	St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	St John's, Stevenston: www.stevenstonstjohns.com St Mary's Saltcoats: www.rcsaltcoats.com Please visit the above websites for further information	
		<i>Canon Martin Poland</i>	
		St John's	St Mary's
Saturday 16 th January	Second Sunday of the Year [B] Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Gough Family (CB), Mary McSpurr (RD), John & Ann Taggart (CB) and Patrick & Sarah Braniff (A)</i>		
Sunday 17 th January	Second Sunday of the Year [B] Mass at 10.30am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>		
Monday 18 th January	2nd Week of the Year Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins) Offered for Theresa Conlan (RD), Robert Montgomery (MM)</i>		
Tuesday 19 th January	2nd Week of the Year Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Harry McKeachan (RD), Stuart (SI) and Murray Family (SI)</i>		
Wednesday 20 th January	2nd Week of the Year Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Mary Finnigan (RD) and David McIlroy (RD)</i>		
Thursday 21 st January	Memorial of St. Agnes Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Helen Kerr (RD) and Lizzie Paterson</i>		
Friday 22 nd January	Mass in Time of Pandemic Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for James Crichton (A) and Isabella McHugh (A)</i>		
Saturday 23 rd January	Third Sunday of the Year [B] Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered in thanksgiving and for Nan Connelly (SI) and Currie family (SI)</i>		

The Sacraments - sorely missed!

"The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the body of Christ, and, finally, to give worship to God; because they are signs they also instruct ... They do indeed impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them most effectively disposes the faithful to receive this grace in a fruitful manner, to worship God duly, and to practice charity." — Sacrosanctum Concilium, 59. My favourite sacrament is baptism. Words cannot really express the wonderful joy at witnessing the rebirth of a new person in Christ. Through the grace of God dispensed in that beautiful sacrament, one who is "dead in sin" becomes an adopted heir in Christ Jesus. Sometimes the sacraments are seen as "way stations" in life, events that occur at certain moments in our life story. Although that is true in a sense, it is an incomplete view. The sacraments are where we engage in a relationship with the Trinity. They are more than "mile markers" on the path of life. They form the core of Christian life itself. We are sensible creatures, and our senses are engaged in the sacraments. Our bodies need food to grow and be healthy; so too, do our souls. We need spiritual nourishment for our faith, and we receive this "nutrition" through the sacraments. Through his gift of the sacraments, the Lord allows us to share in his life. Strip away the sacraments, and one is left with an incomplete faith. I think we would appreciate the sacraments more if we spent time contemplating what our faith life would be like without them.

Sad News at the Death of Archbishop Tartaglia

The Archbishop of Glasgow, Philip Tartaglia, has died suddenly at his home in Glasgow. He was 70 years old. Archbishop Tartaglia, who had served as Archbishop of Glasgow since 2012, had tested positive for COVID 19 shortly after Christmas and was self-isolating at home. The cause of death is not yet clear. The Archbishop had served as leader of Scotland's largest Catholic community since 2012. The Pope's Ambassador to Great Britain, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti has been informed. It will be for Pope Francis to appoint a new Archbishop to succeed Archbishop Tartaglia, but until then the Archdiocese will be overseen by an administrator. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anthony Brennan, Jim Boyle.

✚ Those who have died recently:

Mary McSpurr, Theresa Conlan, Edward McLaughlin, Harry McKeachan, Mary Finnigan, David McIlroy, Helen Kerr.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

George Agostini 2006, Maureen McKenzie 2014, Janis McSkimming 2010, James Murray 1972, Rena Scullion 2008, Canon Michael Farrington 2009, Margaret McLaughlan 2005, Thelma Carrick 2005, Annie Boyle O'Hare 1967, Celio Staffieri 2017, Mary Catherine Teggart 1999, Frances Vennard 2000, Thomas West 2005, Bessie Brown 1982, Peggy Gray 2010, Addie Hissey 2009, Margaret McMillan 2009, Margaret Jane Brennan 1964, Betty Kelly 2011, Hugh Taylor 2016, John Curran 2013, Annie Monan 1998, James Cunningham 1986, Michael Lynn 2005, James McCormack 1999, Catherine Welsh 2005.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January 2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 was prepared by the Monastic Community of Taize in France. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17. We cannot bear fruit on our own. We cannot bear fruit separated from the vine. It is the sap, the life of Jesus flowing through us, that produces fruit. Remaining in Jesus's love, remaining a branch of the vine, is what allows his life to flow through us. When we listen to Jesus his life flows through us. Jesus invites us to let his word abide in us (John 15:7) and then whatever we ask will be done for us. For the eight days of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021, there are eight themes, where we can focus our prayer for the day: Day 1: Called by God: "You did not choose me but I chose you" (Jn 15:16a) Day 2: Maturing internally: "Abide in me as I abide in you" (Jn 15:4a) Day 3: Forming one body: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12b) Day 4: Praying together: "I do not call you servants any longer ... but I have called you friends" (Jn 15:15) Day 5: Letting oneself be transformed by the Word: "You have already been pruned by the word..." (Jn 15:3) Day 6: Welcoming others: "Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn 15:16b) Day 7: Growing in unity: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5a) Day 8: Reconciling with all of creation: "So that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11).

Keep the Courageous Spirit going!

Dear Parishioners! Like most of 2020, this year is already providing more than its fair share of challenges, setbacks, and disappointments. As part of suffering humanity, we can be overwhelmed by the experience of fear, helplessness, and discouragement, which can lead to a hardening of our hearts. Worse still, we might be distracted or paralysed from engaging in the work of evangelization we committed to. But we cannot turn from our mission; it would be infidelity to the grace of God and the complete opposite of what he desires for us. The Church of Christ is always marked by those who are willing to go where Jesus leads. So how do we engage in this crazy world? How do we stay the course in witnessing to our life of hope with Christ? Jesus himself gives us sure but straightforward words of encouragement. "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33) We will have trouble. It may look different, but every generation faces its challenges of overcoming evil and strife. We all have problems; it is part of our human condition. Humanity will disappoint, and circumstances won't always meet our expectations. Being a Christian doesn't make us immune from suffering and trials. Instead, we must be fully present precisely amidst the circumstances bearing witness to our faith and hope in Jesus. Jesus is more significant than our problems. No matter what comes our way today, Jesus can handle it. He is all-powerful and permits everything for his glory. Jesus can do the unimaginable in showing us what he is willing to do to conquer the world. If he can perform miracles and rise from the dead, he can assist us in whatever we need. Find your peace and security in Him alone. The closer we are to Jesus, the more peace we will experience. When we make time to pray, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, and if you can, tune in to daily Mass, live-streamed from our Church. Have a look at our websites. My hope is that all the spiritual resources and services we offer will help give and encouragement as we face the ups and downs in life. The more you click around the site, the more aids to spiritual growth you will find. So please, click away! And when you find something you like, share it with someone. Thank you for continuing to support our Parishes with your prayers, suggestions, and donations. You help us to spread the Good News. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

JUST FOR A LAUGH...

Ten Things You Will Never Hear in Church:

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front seats!
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed, Father, that your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find going to Mass much more enjoyable than watching football.
4. I've decided to give our Parish the £60 a month that I pay regularly for Sky TV.
5. I volunteer to be a permanent helper for our Sunday children's liturgy.
6. Forget the official clergy allowance. Let's pay our priest so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the Mass early.
9. Father Duncan, we'd like to send you to this new Bible Seminar in the Bahamas for two weeks.
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like supporting our Fund Raising in the Parish!

Did You Know?

- Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 117
Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible? A: Psalms 119
Q: Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible? A: Psalms 118
Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118. Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118. Add these numbers up and you get 1188.
Q: What is the centre verse in the Bible? A: Psalm 118:8
Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word! Psalm 118:8 reads: "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the centre of it)? When things get tough, always remember... Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it!

Mustard Seeds

✠ I Cannot Pray

I cannot say OUR if my faith has no room for others and their needs. I cannot say FATHER if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life and trust Him as His child. I cannot say WHO ART IN HEAVEN if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly and material things. I cannot say HALLOWED BE THY NAME if I, who am called by his name am not holy and don't try to be holy. I cannot say THY KINGDOM COME if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the will and wishes of God in my life. I cannot say THY WILL BE DONE if I always do everything "my way". I cannot say ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now. I cannot say GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of the people around me. I cannot say FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US if I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone and refuse to forgive. I cannot say LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted. I cannot say DELIVER US FROM EVIL if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapons of prayer and the sacraments. I cannot say THINE IS THE KINGDOM if I do not give the King of my heart and life the joyful obedience of a loyal subject. I cannot say THINE IS THE POWER if I fear what my neighbours and friends may say or do if I truly follow God's Plan. I cannot say THINE IS THE GLORY if I am seeking my own glory and advantage first. I cannot say FOREVER if I am too anxious about each day's affairs and forget the gift of eternity. I cannot say AMEN unless I can honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

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