



## 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!



The Nativity of the Lord [A]

25<sup>th</sup> 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

### PARISH PRIEST ADDRESS

Father Duncan McVicar  
St Peter's Presbytery  
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### WEBSITES

[www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk](http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk)  
[www.saintpeterinchains.net](http://www.saintpeterinchains.net)  
[www.stbrideschurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)  
01563 521832 ext:2

**Ayr:** Fr. Benjamin Mkeri 01655 882145  
[ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto: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

### ✠ A Very Special Christmas Gift

It is the day before Christmas nineteen forty-nine. A young father had just discovered that his five-year-old daughter had wasted an entire roll of rather expensive gold wrapping paper. His daughter had crudely wrapped the paper around a small cardboard box that she had placed behind the family's modest little Christmas tree. Money was very tight at the time and that made the matter seem even worse. The father called the little girl into the room and began to scold her for having wasted the paper on the box. The little girl entered the room and began slowly approaching her father who was standing there holding the small crudely wrapped box. Her father began his verbal reprimand as he watched his daughter run to him. As the father continued with his scolding the little girl quickly approached and placed her tiny hands on the box her father was holding. Then the little girl tenderly said, "This is for you, daddy!" The father's anger was quickly defused, and the matter was dropped as the box was placed back beneath the Christmas tree. However, on Christmas Day the father's anger flared again when he opened the box and found it was empty. He again spoke to his daughter in a harsh manner saying, "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?" The little girl had tears in her eyes as she looked upwards at her father. Then the little girl said, "Oh, daddy, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his little girl, and he begged his daughter's forgiveness for his outburst of anger and for his thoughtlessness. The father always kept that little box beside his bed afterwards. When times were hard or difficult, he would often remember the box full of kisses and could recognise a feeling of deep comfort and love. Often he would look at that small crudely wrapped golden box and again hear the same precious words that his daughter had spoken to him on that Christmas day. "This is for you, daddy!" Indeed, this was a very special Christmas gift. A Blessed and Happy Christmas! God bless us – everyone!



# Christmastide [A] 2022

<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 Marie Monique, Sr Ursula &amp; Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by 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 Sr Marie Monique, Sr Ursula &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>		<b>St Bride's</b>	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Carols at 4.45pm</b> <b>Childrens short Nativity play at 5pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve Masses at 5pm &amp; 8pm</b>	Mass of the Holy Night at 7pm	Vigil Mass at 6pm	Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> (Holy day of Obligation) Mass at 10.30am	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at 9.00am	Mass at 10.30am	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Feast of St Stephen, protomartyr</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am, Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Eddy &amp; Cathy McCabe (A), Margaret Swiertz (SI), Jessie Brown (A)</i>			
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Feast of St John, apostle</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am, Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Marett Main (CB), Anonymous (CB), Katie Cassidy (SI)</i>	Adoration 9.30 Mass at 10am		Mass at 11am (L)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Feast of the Holy Innocents</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am, Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Peggie Duffy (MM), Ennis McHugh (SI), Mr &amp; Mrs Hastings (SI)</i>		Eucharistic Service at 11am	Funeral Mass at 10am (L) <b>Donnie McMillan</b>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Memorial of St Thomas Becket</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am, Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Michael Ferguson (RD), Maralen Cassidy (RD), Agnes Devine (RD)</i>			Mass at 11am (L)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am, Mass at 10am <i>Offered for John Hendry (A), Natalina Farro (MM), Maureen Donohoe (RD)</i>	Adoration 9.30 Mass at 10am	Mass at 11am	
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b> Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Catherine (Kit) Kean (A), Sheila Duffy (RD), Theresa McGuire (A)</i>	New Year's Eve Mass at 10am	Vigil Mass at 6pm	Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	<b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b> Mass at 10.30am	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 10.30am	Mass at 10am (L)

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Beryl Meechan, Ennis McHugh, Tom McGreevy, Paul McNulty.*

### ✦ Those who have died recently:

*Alan Byers, Patricia Power (Giffnock), Sheila Duffy, Maureen Donohoe, Agnes Devine, Maralen Cassidy, Michael Ferguson,*

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

*Bessie Delahunt 2006, Tom McKay, Bessie O'Rourke 2005, George Scott 1973, Jessie Brown 1975, Tom Finn 1993, Anne-Marie Jenkins 2005, Sister Mary McCann, Isobel O'Hare Rae 2004, Patrick Quinn 1969, Margaret Shanks 1966, Margaret Clarkson 2003, Molly Cosgrove 1994, Jim Lindsay 2013, Catherine McEvoy 2009, Arthur Robertson, Arturo Farro 1994, Catherine McCulloch 2012, Rose Murphy 2009, Thomas O'Connell 1957, May Shanks 1990, Maria Tomelty 2014, Patrick Cahill 2010, Kit Keen 2012, Mary Dorian Stirling 1999, Anna Ferrie 2014, John Hendry 2015, May Kelly 2016, Theresa McGarvey 2019, Mary McSpurren 2020, Alice Sibbald 2010, Terence Witt 2010, Alfonso Agostini 1955, Brian Connick 2010, Father Joseph Glendinning 1993, Catherine McAteer 2014, Joleen McIndoe 2015, William Twigg 1983*



*Thank you from Father Duncan, Father Gerry & Canon Matt*  
 We would like to say a big "Thank you": to everyone who sent a card or a gift to the Presbytery for Christmas. It was very much appreciated - Thank you for all your support and friendship and for all the kind thoughts and wishes! God bless and a blessed Christmas!

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

- **EMERGENCY ON-CALL FOR HOSPITALS** Father Duncan will be attending emergencies at the Hospitals from 26th December until 29th December. Please keep all those who are sick or who are in hospital at this time in your prayers.
- **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2022-2023** Congratulations to all the children who made their First Confession last week. Next year they will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

### **Three Tips from Pope Francis on How to Share the Faith This Christmas**

*Pope Francis's document "The Joy of the Gospel" is loaded with great tips on how to share the faith with others. Since the Christmas season gives us plenty of opportunities to talk about our faith with others, I thought I'd share three of my favourite tips from the pope on how to do so.*

#### 1. Appeal to people's deepest desires.

This is the common denominator in our humanity: we are all looking for "something" – some kind of happiness, some kind of fulfilment. All sharing of who Christ is (and why people should care) must begin with an appeal to that longing for life, love, and happiness, witnessing to the eternal banquet that satisfies our deepest hunger. As Pope Francis says... "All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the message capable of responding to the desire for the infinite which abides in every human heart" (Joy of the Gospel 165). "Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, we should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty, and who invite others to a delicious banquet" (Joy of the Gospel 15).

#### 2. Speak of your faith in everyday language.

It's an obvious point that, if we are to communicate, we need to speak in a language that people understand. But it's a point that is often ignored for some reason when it comes to sharing the faith. As Pope Francis says... Today's "vast and rapid cultural changes demand that we constantly seek ways of expressing unchanging truths in a language which brings out their abiding newness. 'The deposit of faith is one thing . . . the way it is expressed is another'" (Joy of the Gospel 41). The language we use "must be one that people understand, lest we risk speaking to a void. ... our greatest risk is that we become so accustomed to our own language that we think that everyone else naturally understands and uses it. If we wish to adapt to people's language and to reach them with God's word, we need to share in their lives and pay loving attention to them" (Joy of the Gospel 158).

#### 3. Remain open to the fire of the Holy Spirit

If evangelization means bringing Christ to the world, Mary was the first evangelist. How did she do it? How did she bring Christ to the world? The Holy Spirit came upon her and she conceived (see Lk 1:34–35). The Holy Spirit—the fire of God—is the very source of evangelization. Hence, evangelization is simply impossible unless we remain open to this fire. As Pope Francis says... Evangelisers must be "fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit made the apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into heralds of God's wondrous deeds, capable of speaking to each person in his or her own language. The Holy Spirit also grants the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness in every time and place, even when it meets with opposition" (Joy of the Gospel 259). "How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realise that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts" (Joy of the Gospel 261).



### **Nicene Creed**

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

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

Offertory Cash Collection 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022: £524.32

Second Collection (Building Fund) £269.41

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

Offertory Cash Collection 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022: £107.00

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