



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!



Sixth Sunday of the Year [B]

11th February 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
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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

MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND LIFE OFFICE

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

✠ What is Lent?

Lent, the solemn 40-day period before Easter, holds profound significance in the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. Starting on Ash Wednesday, this year on Wednesday 14th February 2024, and concluding on Holy Thursday, it is a season of penitence and preparation. Throughout Lent Catholics engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices serve to deepen our connection with God, our awareness of Jesus' sacrificial love, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Lent is an invitation to reflect, repent, and renew one's commitment to living a life of faith, ultimately leading to the joyful celebration of Easter. There are many ways to live our Catholic faith during the Lenten season! Many people make personal sacrifices and give something up for the entire forty-day period, symbolising self-discipline, and reliance on God's grace. Some engage in acts of service to emulate Jesus' love and compassion towards others. And there are many practices and traditions that take place at our Parish Church! The Stations of the Cross is a revered tradition where Catholics pray and reflect on the journey of Jesus' Passion and death. **This year our Stations of the Cross will be on the Tuesdays of Lent before the beginning of Mass and will be an opportunity to pray for good and holy vocations from our Diocese. We will also receive this Lent a small card with a simple morning and evening prayer that we can pray every day during Lent. The cards will be distributed on Ash Wednesday and on the First Sunday of Lent.**



Our "Lenten Retreat" this Year

Our "Lenten Retreat" this year will be the theme of the Cross - "The Sign of the Cross". Lent is a time where the Good Lord wants to transform our love and invites us to unite our crosses with his. We will consider, on the Sundays of Lent, the Cross from the perspective of different symbols - the Cross as an altar, a mirror, a banner, and then a book.

Sixth Week of the Year [B]

St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk www.stbrideschurch.co.uk Father Duncan McVicar assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna & Canon Matt McManus (Retired)		Fr. Duncan McVicar assisted by Fr. Gerry Hamill (Retired)	www.stevenstonstjohns.com www.rcsaltcoats.com Canon Martin Poland assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna & Canon Matt McManus (Retired)	
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 10 th February	6th Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Sick) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Catherine Sweeney (SI)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 11 th February	6th Sunday of the Year (World Day of the Sick) Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes.</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 12 th February	6th Week of the Year Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Mary Wilson (RD), May Hand (RD)</i>			
Tuesday 13 th February	6th Week of the Year Stations of the Cross 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Pat Barrett (SI), Debra Crawford (RD)</i>	Stations of the Cross 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Henry Ahern (RD)</i>		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 14 th February	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting and Abstinence) Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Masses at 10am & 7pm (Blessing and Distribution of Ashes)	Mass at 10am (Blessing and Distribution of Ashes)	Masses at 11am & 7pm	Mass at 10am (L)
Thursday 15 th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Robert Thomson (RD), Pat Maxwell (A)</i>		Funeral Mass at 10am George Ross	Eucharistic Service at 10am
Friday 16 th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday (Day of Prayer for those who have suffered Abuse) Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Anita Smallridge (MM), Jim Hammond (RD)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am	Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Paul McNulty (MM)</i>	Eucharistic Service at 10am	Funeral Mass at 10am (L) May Hand
Saturday 17 th February	First Sunday of Lent Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Dennis Atkins (A), Alison Trayner (MM)</i>		Funeral Mass at 9am Mary Meechan	Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Ellen Quirk,
Tony Smith, Freddy Kean, John McKenna.*

✦ Those who have died recently:

*Debra Crawford, Mary Wilson, May Hand,
Robert Thomson (Cornwall), Paul McNulty,
Alison Trayner, Jim Hammond.*

✦ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Jim Burns 2011, Catherine Cahill 1977, Sadie Cunningham 2019,
Mary Delahunt 2008, John and Margaret Fitzsimmons 1985,
Father G J Giblin SCJ 2001, Margaret Osprey 2018,
Allan Carrick 2011, Ann Jane Fitzsimmons, Sadie McAloon 2011,
Eliza Jane McKay, Oonagh McVeigh 2011,
Canon Robert McCliment 1967, John McIlhatton 1954,
Chrissie Welsh 2006, Aileen Whiston 2015, Mary Hall 1989,
Patricketta Maxwell 2004, Canon Tom McGread,
Winnie McLaughlin 2015, Catherine Morrison 1977,
John Carrick 2010, Edward McCann 2019, James McLaren 1964,
Isabel Rodgers 2020, Patrick Kelly 1989,
Lucia Valenti 1972, Rose Walker 1985.*

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. It comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes also symbolise grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass. It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

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

- ▶ **ST. BRIDE'S MONTHLY DRAW** Congratulations to Veronica McTeer (No: 20) who wins £26.50 in the February draw.
- ▶ **HCPT LOURDES GROUP 376** Thanks to all who contributed to the sponsored New Years Day dip. The total amount raised by the group was £4,634. Esther Coulter. Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us.
- ▶ **TODAY IS SOUP SUNDAY ST. BRIDE'S** Join us today for "Soup Sunday" at St Bride's after Sunday Mass.

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.

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. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 4th February 2024: £514.59

Second Collection (Building Fund): £288.61

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 4th February 2024: £149.00

**STANDING ORDERS –
PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT**

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

Explaining God

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like priests and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mum and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have. Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Ardrossan. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like on school trips, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you.

I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And... that's why I believe in God. *[Written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton. He wrote it for a homework assignment, to 'Explain God.']*



Just for a Laugh...

A priest visits a man on his deathbed... When the priest walks over to the hospital bed, the man's condition worsens rapidly. He tries to speak, but can only produce a faint wheeze. Realising that the man is trying to utter his final words, the priest reaches for a pen and paper and gives it to him. As the man slowly hands the note back to the priest, he passes away. Rather than read the note there, the priest tucks it away in his pocket. Several days later, while the priest is delivering the eulogy at the man's funeral, he realises that the note is still tucked away in his pocket. "...Just before he passed, Fred handed me a note that I'd like to read to all of you here today. Knowing Fred, I'm sure there's a word of wisdom to be found by us all." The priest unfolds the note and reads aloud, "You're standing on my oxygen tube!"

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