



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!



Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday [C]

15th December 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
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
westkilbride@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
St Peter's Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703
stpetersparishcentre1@gmail.com

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

✠ When Fighting Paused for Christmas

On Christmas Eve 1914, in the dank, muddy trenches on the Western Front of the first world war, a remarkable thing happened. It came to be called the Christmas Truce. And it remains one of the most storied and strangest moments of the Great War—or of any war in history. British machine gunner Bruce Bairnsfather, later a prominent cartoonist, wrote about it in his memoirs. Like most of his fellow infantrymen of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, he was spending the holiday eve shivering in the muck, trying to keep warm. He had spent a good part of the past few months fighting the Germans. And now, in a part of Belgium called Bois de Ploegsteert, he was crouched in a trench that stretched just three feet deep by three feet wide, his days and nights marked by an endless cycle of sleeplessness and fear, stale biscuits and cigarettes too wet to light. "Here I was, in this horrible clay cavity," Bairnsfather wrote, "...miles and miles from home. Cold, wet through and covered with mud." There didn't "seem the slightest chance of leaving—except in an ambulance." At about 10 p.m., Bairnsfather noticed a noise. "I listened," he recalled. "Away across the field, among the dark shadows beyond, I could hear the murmur of voices." He turned to a fellow soldier in his trench and said, "Do you hear the Germans kicking up that racket over there?" "Yes," came the reply. "They've been at it some time!" The Germans were singing carols, as it was Christmas Eve. In the darkness, some of the British soldiers began to sing back. "Suddenly," Bairnsfather recalled, "we heard a confused shouting from the other side. We all stopped to listen. The shout came again." The voice was from an enemy soldier, speaking in English with a strong German accent. He was saying, "Come over here." One of the British sergeants answered: "You come half-way. I come half-way." What happened next would, in the years to come, stun the world and make history. Enemy soldiers began to climb nervously out of their trenches, and to meet in the barbed-wire-filled "No Man's Land" that separated the armies. Normally, the British and Germans communicated across No Man's Land with streaking bullets, with only occasional gentlemanly allowances to collect the dead unmolested. But now, there were handshakes and words of kindness. The soldiers traded songs, tobacco and wine, joining in a spontaneous holiday party in the cold night. Bairnsfather could not believe his eyes. "Here they were—the actual, practical soldiers of the German army. There was not an atom of hate on either side."



3rd Week of Advent [C]

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)		<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> assisted by <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill</i> (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 14 th December	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] (GAUDETE SUNDAY) Vigil Mass 5.30pm <i>Offered for Tony McGarvey (A), Kate Collins List (SI)</i>			Vigil Mass 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 15 th December	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] (GAUDETE SUNDAY) Mass 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass 12.15pm	Mass 11.30am (L)	Mass 10am (L)
Monday 16 th December	3rd WEEK OF ADVENT Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Theresa Weideger (SI), George Doherty (SI)</i>	Mass 10am		
Tuesday 17 th December	ADVENT FERIA BY DATE Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Mike & Monica Morrison (SI), Kate Collins List (SI)</i>	Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Máire McCaffery (RD)</i>		Mass 10am (L)
Wednesday 18 th December	ADVENT FERIA BY DATE Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Jim Timmonney (RD), Kate Collins List (SI)</i>		Funeral Mass 10am (L) Sadie Hannah	
Thursday 19 th December	ADVENT FERIA BY DATE Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Carolyn McGinn (SI), Tommy Cunningham</i>			Mass 10am (L)
Friday 20 th December	ADVENT FERIA BY DATE Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Tommy Clarke (RD), Mary McGlenn (RD)</i> Benediction 10.30am (<i>Refreshments in our Café afterwards</i>)	Mass 10am <i>Offered for Derek McLean (A)</i>	Mass 10am with St John's PS	
Saturday 21 st December	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] Vigil Mass 5.30pm <i>Offered for George Scott Snr. (A) George Scott Jnr. (A), Anne Kennedy (A), Alex Templeton (A)</i>			Vigil Mass 4.30pm (L)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Michael McCulloch, Jim Donnelly, Veronica McAuley, Angela Clark, Ryan Maher, Tony Smith, Rosemary Smith, Sr. Margareta, Jim McEwan, Wynter McNabb, Betty Craig, Jim McEwan, Carolyn McGinn, Alan & Margaret McDonald, Cathie Currie, Grant Mitchell,

✚ Those who have died recently:

Máire McCaffery, Jim Timmonney, Tommy Clarke, Antonietta Gillies (Kilmacolm).

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

Dr Matt Carty 2008, Monsignor Peter Murphy 1999, Mary Magee 1997, Robert McKay 1993, Denis McLaughlin 2008, Harry McNamara 2000, 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, Robert Montgomery 2020, George Poole 1991, Ann Ward 2022, Maureen Adamson 2014, Alan Byers 2022, Bobby Edwards 2014, Manus Gallagher junior 2016, Alice Grogan 2003, Thomas Peter McCann 2023, Father Peter Sweeney 2001, May Wilson 2006, Theresa McGuire 1989, George Scott 2022, William Armstrong 2021, Gwen Body 1966, Janet Chapman 2004, Charles Fisher 2014, Jane Gallagher 2011, Sister Hilda CP 2000, Edward Keogh 2007, John McCourt 2010, Josephine McGeachy 2003, Anne-Marie McMail 2018.

OUR CHRISTMAS CARD INVITATION - NOW AVAILABLE

Please make sure you get your copy of the Mass Times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You are welcome to take our Parish Invitation for family and neighbours. Catholics can always come home for Christmas!

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 8th December 2024: £429.76
 Second Collection (Building Fund): £240.20

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 8th December 2024: £118.90

Many thanks for your support and generosity!

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

- ▶ **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST PETER'S** Please join the children from St Peter's Primary for their Christmas Concert and Nativity on Tuesday, 17th December, beginning at 6pm. It is a great opportunity to share our Christmas joy this week and support our young people. Everyone is very welcome!
- ▶ **CHAIR DANCE WITH LOUIE AT ST PETER'S** has now stopped and will restart Thursday 16th January at 12.15pm till 1pm in the Parish Centre, £3.00 entry.
- ▶ **KNIT & KNATTER AT ST PETER'S** has now stopped and will restart Wednesday, 15th January at 1pm.
- ▶ **NATIVITY & CAROL SERVICE AT ST BRIDE'S** All welcome to join us for our Nativity and Carol Service Wed., 18th Dec. at 7pm.
- ▶ **ST BRIDE'S MONTHLY DRAW** Congratulation to No. 56, Katharine Kelley who wins £31.50 in the December draw.
- ▶ **LARDER COLLECTION AT ST BRIDE'S** The last uplift for the Village Larder will be Monday 17th December.

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

1. A jubilee year, also known as a "holy year," is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years.

2. Jubilee 2025 opens Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican immediately before Pope Francis celebrates midnight Mass. Holy Doors will also be opened at Rome's three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran on Dec. 29, St. Mary Major on Jan. 1, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls on Jan. 5. The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity.

3. The theme of the Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled "Spes Non Confundit," or "Hope does not disappoint," drawn from Romans 5:5. "Everyone knows what it is to hope," Pope Francis wrote. "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.

4. Jubilee years emphasise the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ.

5. The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for "signs of hope" in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people "in difficult situations." Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address "ecological debt," which he described as "connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time."

6. Expect an influx of pilgrims in the Eternal City. Italy's National Tourist Research Institute projects 35 million visitors in 2025, nearly triple of its 13 million visitors in 2023. Pilgrimage is a "fundamental" part of jubilee events, Pope Francis said in "Spes Non Confundit." "Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life," he wrote.

7. Major events are happening in Rome, including jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the church. Expect some events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed.

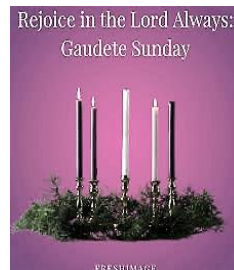
8. Expect Rome to sparkle and shine. Many famous sites and artworks in Rome and at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee.

9. While many jubilee events will take place in Rome and at the Vatican, it's a celebration for the whole church. On Dec. 29, diocesan bishops are expected to open the Holy Year locally with Masses at their cathedrals.

10. The Jubilee Year concludes with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, 2026, on the feast of the Epiphany. However, the Holy Doors at Rome's other major basilicas will close Dec. 28, 2025, the same day dioceses are to end local celebrations of the Holy Year.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colours lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a colour seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday in Lent. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-coloured. The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today's Second Reading, from the First



Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy: "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

JUST FOR A LAUGH

◆ "Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Christopher said to his uncle the first time he saw him after Christmas. "It's the best present I ever got." "That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?" "Oh, I don't play it," the little boy said. "My mum gives me a pound a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five pounds a week not to play it at night.

◆ A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent's house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers. Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice. "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play-station, a mountain-bike and a telescope." His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." "I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"

Please Support our Advertisers

 <p>The STUDIO COBBLER 15 Manse Street, Saltcoats Tel: 01294467486 <i>Quality Keycutter</i></p>	<h2>McLAUGHLIN CONSTRUCTION</h2> <p>Construction* Developments* Maintenance* Property 13 Ailsa Road, Irvine Industrial Estate, Irvine, KA12 8LR Telephone 01294 322800 Fax 01294 322700</p>	
<p><i>Would your business benefit from advertising in our bulletin?</i></p> <p>spaces now available</p> <p>Contact St. Peter's Parish Office on 01294 464063 or by email: ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk</p>	 <p>Contact: Peter Walsh Solicitor 01294 464301 Bank of Scotland Buildings, 57 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, KA21 5EH e-mail: p.walsh@jascampbell.co.uk website: jascampbell.co.uk</p>	
<p>TAYLOR AND HENDERSON Solicitors, Estate Agents & Financial Advisors 51 Hamilton Street, Saltcoats Telephone: 01294 464341 www.taylorandhenderson.co.uk</p>	<p>BRENDAN TUMILTY Painter & Decorator Interior and exterior No job too big or too small Telephone 469078 Mobile 07810 148825</p>	<p>48 Princes Street Ardrossan, KA22 8DF Tel: 01294 537900</p> <p>A. & I. INGLIS FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>info@inglisfuneraldirectors.com www.inglisfuneraldirectors.com</p>
<p>PAT McCALLUM JOINERS - GLAZIERS - BUILDERS ALTERATIONS - CONVERSIONS - ROOFWORK TEL: 01294 467495 MOB: 07785 372715</p>	 <p>Tel: 01294 464733 breenroofing@aol.com www.breen-roofing.co.uk 6 Hill Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8HE</p> <p>35^{YRS} TOPSEAL</p>	
 <p>16 - 70 seat coaches Coach & Mini-bus hire</p> <p>Tel: 01294 602669 www.coachtravel.co</p>		<p>PAUL STEVENSON Funeral Directors 24 Hour Service Tel: 607001 Fax: 606407 www.funeral-scotland.co.uk info@funeral-scotland.co.uk</p>
 <p>McMillan Scaffolding Hire & Erect Services</p> <p>To arrange a free quotation please call 01294 463774 - 07966 040823 LABOUR ONLY ALSO AVAILABLE</p>	<p><i>Would your business benefit from advertising in our bulletin?</i></p> <p>Spaces now available</p> <p>Contact St. Peter's Parish Office on 01294 464063 Or by email: ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk</p> <p>ML PLUMBING & HEATING BATHROOM INSTALL HEATING & MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Mobiles: 07546 413961 Telephones: 01294 462858</p>	
<p>Coastal Capers</p> <p>Dog Walking & Pet Sitting Service Let me keep your furry friends active, happy and cared for. Call: Suzanne Shiells 07866 565014 Email: 3townscoastalcapers@gmail.com</p>	 <p>McEvoy Engineering Ltd. Steel Fabrication & Welding Integrated Engineering Solutions</p> <p>Tel: 01294 467677 www.mcevoyengineering.co.uk Unit 53, Stevenston Industrial Estate, Ardeer, Stevenston</p>	
 <p>St Peter's Stall Cards, Candles, Statues, Mass Cards, A wonderful selection of Cards & Gifts Available Now!</p>	 <p>M J McDermott Plumbing & Heating Gas Safe Registered</p> <p>Mob: 07977628117 Tel: 01294 602261 mjmcplumbing@aol.com / Facebook</p>	 <p>St. Peter's Parish Centre</p> <p>Hall Hire Available Weddings, Birthdays, Christenings, Funerals For Booking contact Fiona Brown on 07907 389703</p>