



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 [B] Gaudete Sunday

17th December 2023

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
01294 464063
duncan.mcvicar@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

Telephone: 01294 464063
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
westkilbride@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

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

✝ Legend about Christmas Trees

There is an old legend about the origin of the Christmas tree that brings Advent joy to mind. The legend says that when Jesus was seven-years-old his mother Mary gave a birthday party for him and he received loads of presents. When Mary put Jesus to bed that night, he started to think of all the other poor children of Nazareth who had so few toys, and who never had birthday parties. So he called some of his angels to help him, and when everyone in Nazareth was asleep, he went from house to house leaving the presents he had received for the poor children. Then he told the angels to gather shoes and clothing for the children too. These he hung from an evergreen tree in front of one of the humble homes. The angels helped hang the gifts even from the tops of the tree, and in doing so some of their golden hair caught on the needles of the branches. The strands of gold shined and glittered, giving the tree a beautiful appearance. Then Jesus went home and sent the angels back to heaven. The next morning, the children woke up and were overjoyed to find presents for everyone. Since they didn't know who had given the gifts, they thanked God. Through the years, they kept on telling the story over and over again, so that after a while people started using evergreen trees to celebrate the birthday of Christ. It's only a legend, of course, a nice story. But it certainly is true that on Christ's birthday, the first Christmas, God gave to this world its most wonderful gift, that of a Saviour capable of bringing to every human heart boundless mercy and everlasting joy.

The 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.

3rd Week of Advent 2023 [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 16 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Gaudete Sunday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Kilbane Family, David Kiltie (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 17 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Gaudete Sunday Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 18 th December	Advent Feria by Date Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Delie Knight (RD), M Nicholson (CB) M McGarvey (CB), Sylvia & Lawrence McGarvey (CB)</i>			Funeral Service at 1pm Graham Rafferty
Tuesday 19 th December	Advent Feria by Date Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Edmund Lang (SI), C&J Nicholson (CB), Margaret (T), Megan Sherrit (CB), Dillon Sherrit (CB)</i>	Morning Prayer of the Church at 9.40am Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 20 th December	Advent Feria by Date Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Mia, Eva, Alexy Hulley (CB), J&A Hulley (CB) Liz & Martin McGarvey (CB), C&A McCabe (A)</i>		Mass at 10am (L)	
Thursday 21 st December	Advent Feria by Date Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Bert & Gwen Body (A), Owen Bogue (A), Janet Chaman (A), Bruce & Ross McGarvey (CB)</i>			Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 22 nd December	Advent Feria by Date Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Daniel McMail (A), Annemarie McMail (A), Anne Kennedy (A), Marie Anderson (A) Emma Upton (CB)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am	Mass at 10am	Mass at 10am with St John's PS	
Saturday 23 rd December	4th Sunday of Advent (Year B) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Sandra Cassidy (RD), Kathleen Moran (CB), Lawrence & Theresa Tumilty (A), Geralyn McGarvey (CB)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 24 th December	4th Sunday of Advent (Year B): Mass at 10.30am <hr/> Christmas Eve: Mass of the Holy Night at 5.30pm	Mass at 12.15pm Mass of the Holy Night at 6pm	Mass at 11.30am (L) Christmas Vigil at 6pm	Mass at 10am (L) Christmas Vigil at 4.30pm (L)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Tony Smith, Maria Hilferty, Betty Fitzpatrick, Maria Dorrian.

✚ Those who have died recently

Delie Knight, Sandra Cassidy.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year

*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, Maureen Adamson 2014, Alan Byers 2022, Bobby Edwards 2014,
 Manus Gallagher junior 2016, Alice Grogan 2003, Father Peter Sweeney 2001, May Wilson 2006, Theresa McGuire 1989,
 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,
 George Scott 2022, Ellen Barrett 1984, Ted Boyle 1975, Tom Braniff 2003, Gerry Coogans 2015, Doris Coulter 2012,
 Anne Kennedy 2022, Jenny McAree 2003, Andrew McAteer 1983, Anne McGowan 2019, Davie McIlroy 2020,
 David Mills 2014, Jean Orr 2008, Peggy Hamilton, Patrick McLaughlin 1998, Father George Thompson 2016,
 Ann Ward 2022, Theresa Tumilty 2016.*

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

► **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR ST PETER'S & ST BRIDE'S** please make sure you pick up your leaflet. Available today.

► **CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE AT ABBOTSFORD CARE HOME** Father Duncan and George McGrattan will be leading the annual Christmas Prayer Service at Abbotsford Care Home on Tuesday, 19th December at 11.30am.

► **CHRISTMAS MASS IN SCHOOL** The special Christmas Mass for St Peter's Primary School will be on Wednesday, 20th December at 11.30am in School.

► **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Christmas concert with the 'Young Voices'. Monday 18th December at 6.30pm in St Peter's Church.

► **CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN AID OF HCPT LOURDES GROUP 376** Featuring Theresa Morrison, Paul Hume and friends. Sunday 17th December at 2pm in St Peter- in-Chains Church. Ticket £6 includes afternoon tea. Tickets available after Sunday morning Mass at St Peters or contact Esther Coulter 07772433070.

► **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE WITH ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL** Please join us at 6pm on Wednesday, 20th December in St Peter's church for a carol service with the pupils of St Peter's Primary School.

► **CHRISTMAS CARDS** There is a wide selection of beautiful Christmas Cards available now at St Bride's & St Peter's stall. Also available are a wonderful selection of cards, candles, statues, Mass cards and gifts etc.

► **CANCELLED - CHRISTMAS FAYRE** Ardrossan Winton Rovers Football Club were having a Christmas Fayre in St Mary's Hall on Saturday 16th December. **THIS HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED.**

► **HCPT LOURDES GROUP 376** Esther Coulter will be taking part in the New Year Day dip in the sea at 12noon in Ardrossan Bay, opposite the church. If you wish to sponsor her or give a donation, she will be at the back of the church after morning Mass on Sunday.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 10th December: £543.22
Second Collection (Building Fund): £270.02

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 10th December: £97.00

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

Just for a Laugh... A man walking along a beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden he said out loud, "Lord, grant me one wish." Suddenly the sky clouded above his head, and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want to." The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the logistics of that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish, a wish you think would honour and glorify me." Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing,' and how I can make a woman truly happy." After a few minutes God said, "You want two or four lanes on that bridge?"

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Sincere thanks to Marcia and Anne for decorating our Christmas Tree and beautiful flower arrangements this year. And for Bill, Paul and Michael for preparing the stable and Nativity at St Peter's. Also, Sincere thanks to Betty, Phyllis, Paul and Lorraine for decorating our Christmas Tree, beautiful flower arrangements and for preparing the Nativity at St Bride's.

SAINT PETER'S WEBSITES

Parishioners recently trying to access SaintPeterInChains.net will have noticed that it has closed, and they are directed to the new website, SaintPeterInChains.co.uk. The old website was launched in 2005 and, although much content has been added over the years, its basic structure has remained unchanged. It was designed for desktop computers and is not 'friendly' to smartphones and tablets. It is hoped, however, that it will be subsumed into the new website and that its content, including over 1000 bulletins and 1800 pictures, will be preserved and accessible. In the meantime, bulletins and funeral arrangements will be uploaded only to the new website.

Many thanks to George McGrattan for administering the old website for the last 18 years.

THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST

I was asked once: What would have to happen for you to leave the Catholic Church? I thought about the question for a long time. I combed through the lowest moments in Catholic history, testing each to see if one of them would have been the breaking point that made me leave. But after thinking it through I decided I could never leave the Catholic Church. The reason is because I believe that Jesus is truly present - body, blood, soul, and divinity, in the Eucharist. Where else can I get the Eucharist? Sure, some other churches might have better music, but in the whole scheme of things music is trivial compared to the Eucharist. Other churches might have more engaging preachers, but these are trivial compared to the Eucharist. When we go to Mass on Sunday the danger is in thinking that the music and the homily are the most important things. Don't take the trivial and make it important. That's the way of the world. Get clear about what's really important, what matters most, and life will be a lot simpler and more joyful. At Mass on Sunday, the homily could be in a language I don't understand, the music could be a complete train wreck, there could be kids running up and down the aisles screaming at the top of their lungs, throwing crayons and eating snacks (or eating crayons and throwing snacks), and that's OK - because the moment when I receive the Eucharist is a pivotal moment in my week. It's a moment of transformation, a moment when I get to receive who and what I wish to become. And I could never leave - that. It doesn't matter how good the music or preaching is elsewhere; I cannot leave the Eucharist. I will not leave Jesus. I hope you won't either. [Matthew Kelly]

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