



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!



4th Sunday of Advent Year B

20th December 2020

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESSES

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Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

St. Bride's Church
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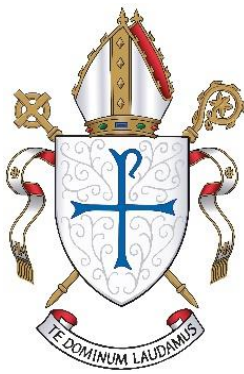
07722 246 169 (*Ardrossan*)
07585 656 229 (*West Kilbride*)

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

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Reflection

Sometimes a story is so well known we stop thinking about it – and that can be true of the story of Jesus' birth. From early childhood we have heard this story, and it can become too familiar. It is worth stopping this week, if we can, and reading through it with new eyes, to see where we may have missed some of the power of God's love revealed in the coming of Jesus. Today is a perfect example – the story of the Annunciation is so well known! So let's just pause for a moment and listen again. It begins with a visit from an angel: was that "disturbing" for Mary? How exactly did the angel appear? Or was it just the words that were "deeply disturbing" – and if so, why? "Rejoice, so highly favoured!" is hardly a scary sentence! This is Mary's own recollection, shared with Saint Luke, so years later she must still have held on to the memory of that "disturbing" greeting. It's important to remember this when we get to the other end of the story, when Mary says "Let what you have said be done to me." Sometimes we can assume it was easy for her to say "yes" – but remember how "deeply disturbing" this all was! It took great faith and great courage for Mary to agree to God's plan, and we should never underestimate this. What went through her mind – the promises of the Old Testament, coming true in her womb? How she would tell Joseph, her family and friends? Concern for Elizabeth? Spend a moment, if you can, with Mary in this moment. And allow her strength, faith and love of God to guide you in your choices today and throughout this week.

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.



Fourth Week of Advent [B] 2020

December 2020	St Peter-in-Chains Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	St. Bride's West Kilbride <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	St John's Stevenston <i>Canon Martin Poland</i>	St Mary's Saltcoats <i>Canon Martin Poland</i>	St Peter's Parish Centre <i>Fiona Brown</i>
Saturday 19 th December	Our Lady's Day for Advent Mass at 10am – Live Streamed <i>Offered for Sweeney Family (Wexford), Richard Haswell (RD)</i> Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Kilbane Family (A) Eric & Dorothy Waters (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
Sunday 20 th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B Mass at 10.30am - Public <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 12.15pm <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass at 11.30am	Mass at 10am	
Monday 21 st December	Advent Feria by Date Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Gwen Body (A), Janet Chaman (A), Owen Bogue (A)</i>				
Tuesday 22 nd December	Requiem Mass for Mary Finnigan Mass at 10am – Private	Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am	
Wednesday 23 rd December	Advent Feria by Date Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Michael Wire & Family, Anne Bull (SI) Geraldine & Mickey Collins, Mary & John Finnigan (RD)</i>		Mass at 10am		
Thursday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Mary Madden & Esther Madden, Stephen Weideger (RD), Charles Machetti (RD), Ignatius Dougan</i> Mass at 5.30pm <i>offered for William Henry (RD) Dan Carroll (RD)</i> Mass at 8.30pm <i>offered for John Clarke (RD), Boyle Family (SI)</i>	Mass of the Holy Night at 7pm	Mass at 4.30pm and 7pm	Mass at 5pm and 8pm	
Friday 25 th December	Christmas Day Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at 11am (Public)	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at 9.30am	Mass at 9.30am and 11am	Mass at 9am and 11am	
Saturday 26 th December	Feast of St. Stephen Mass at 12 noon– Live Streamed <i>Offered for George McGeehan (RD), Jessie Brown (A),</i> Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Tom McKay (A), John Dolan (A)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
St Peter's Parish Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703					

Pope Francis Proclaims Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honour of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the universal Church. The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021. The decree said that Pope Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will." "Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," he wrote. "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation... In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way... Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction... I would also like to tell you something very personal," he said. "I have great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength... On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!"

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anthony Brennan, Jim Boyle, Bernard and Margaret McIlvennie, Robert Montgomery.

✚ Those who have died recently:

Mary Finnigan, Joseph McKeraghan, Francis Fitzpatrick, Harry McKeachan. Stephen Weideger, Charles Machetti, George McGeehan Eric & Dorothy Waters, Willie Henry, Dan Carroll (Canada), John Clarke, Matt Donnelly.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

Theresa McGuire 1989, Anne-Marie McMail 2018, 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, Ellen Barrett 1984, Ted Boyle 1975, Tom Braniff 2003, Gerry Coogans 2015, Doris Coulter 2012, Jenny McAree 2003, Andrew McAteer 1983, Anne McGowan 2019, David Mills 2014, Jean Orr 2008, Peggy Hamilton, Patrick McLaughlin 1998, Father George Thompson 2016, Theresa Tumilty 2016, Mereno Berti 2003, Jack Collins, Sister Anne Delahunt 2011, Peggy McLaughlan 2006, Samuel McMail 2016, 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.

St. Peter's Notices

► **REQUIEM MASS FOR MARY FINNIGAN** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mary Finnigan, who died on 3rd December 2020 aged 71 years. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 22nd December at 10am, followed by interment at Ardrossan Cemetery. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOSEPH MCKERAGHAN** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Joseph McKeraghan, who died on 21st November 2020, aged 59 years. His Funeral Service will be held at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn, on Wednesday, 23rd December 2020 at 3.30pm. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR FRANCIS FITZPATRICK** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Francis Fitzpatrick, who died on 8th December 2020, aged 71 years. His Funeral Service will be on Wednesday, 23rd December at 12pm at Clyde Coast Crematorium, Dalry. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **WEDDING BLESSINGS** We are delighted to announce the Wedding Ceremony of Andrew Gorman and Katie Davidson on Christmas Eve at 1pm. We wish them both a love for a lifetime!

► **CHANA@Christmas** CHANA (Churches Homelessness Action North Ayrshire) would like to thank those who donated to the Christmas appeal for those who are in need. Thank you.

► **CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY** Are you weighed down by debt? CAP can help. See posters at back of Church. Call 0800 328 0006

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 13th December 2020: £740.26
Second Collection (Building Fund): £200.00

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 13th December 2020
Not Available at time of publishing

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

St. Bride's Notices

► **DONATION** Our sincere thanks to our anonymous and generous benefactor for their donation. It is greatly appreciated.

► **CHURCH HALL** Our hall has been given a new look with a lovely coat of paint. Please take a look, you will be impressed.

SYMPTOMS? For the safety of everyone, and to prevent spread of the Covid-virus, please do not attend Church over Christmas if you have any unusual symptoms e.g. headache/cold or flu-like symptoms. Of course if you have any of the three classic symptoms of corona-virus – high temperature, persistent cough, loss of or change in sense of taste or smell – please self-isolate immediately and book a test. Thank you for your cooperation with all the public health measures in place.



JUST FOR A LAUGH...

Ducking into confession with a turkey in his arms, Brian said, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I stole this turkey to feed my family. Would you take it and settle my guilt?" "Certainly not," said the Priest. "As penance, you must return it to the one from whom you stole it." "I tried," Brian sobbed, "but he refused. Oh, Father, what should I do?" "If what you say is true, then it is all right for you to keep it for your family." Thanking the Priest, Brian hurried off. When confession was over, the Priest returned to his residence. When he walked into the kitchen, he found that someone had stolen his turkey.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

A teacher from a primary school asks her students to write an essay about 'family time', and what they would like God to do for them. In the evening while marking the essays, she read one that made her very emotional. Oh God, tonight I ask you something very special: make me into a television. I want to take its place. Live like the TV in my house. Have my own special place, and have my family around ME. To be taken seriously when I talk. I want to be the centre of attention and be heard without interruptions or questions. I want to receive the same special care that the TV receives when it is not working. Have the company of my dad when he arrives home from work, even when he is tired. And I want my mum to want me when she is sad and upset, instead of ignoring me. And I want my brothers to fight to be with me. I want to feel that the family just leaves everything aside, every now and then, just to spend some time with me. And last but not least make it that I can make them all happy and entertain them. Lord I don't ask you for much. I just want to live like every TV!! After reading it her husband said "Who are his parents? Poor child" She looked up at him and said: "We are his parents, our son wrote that"!



Mustard Seeds

✠ The Best Gift of All

It was nearing the holiday season in Rumania, time for our orphans to hear, for the first time, the traditional story of Christmas. We told them about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room in the inn, they went to a stable, where the baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Completing the story, we gave the children many things to build their own manger. The orphans were busy assembling their manger as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat. He looked to be about 6 years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for the translator to ask the boy why there were two babies in the manger. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at this completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously. For such a young boy, who had only heard the Christmas story once, he related the happenings accurately - until he came to the part where Mary put the baby Jesus in the manger. Then Misha started to ad-lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said, "And when Maria laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mamma and I have no papa, so I don't have any place to stay. Then Jesus told me I could stay with him. But I told him I couldn't, because I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. I thought maybe if I kept him warm, that would be a good gift. So I asked Jesus, 'If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?' And Jesus told me, 'If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me.' So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with him - for always." As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon him, someone who would stay with him - for always. I've learned that it's not what you have in your life, but who you have in your life that counts.

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