



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!



Fourth Sunday of Advent [C]

22nd 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
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Ardrossan, KA22 8DU. Tel: 01294 464063
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PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

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St Peter's Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703
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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

✠ The Christmas Candles

Once upon a time, many, many years ago, an old cobbler and his wife lived in a tiny cottage. This humble shoemaker had few worldly possessions, but whatever he owned he shared with others. Symbolic of his generosity and love of his neighbour was a lighted candle he placed in the window of his cottage which, every night, shone forth as a welcome sign of hospitality to any weary traveller in search of shelter. War and near destruction fell upon this little village - but never once did the little candle fail to send its beams as a message of hope and cheer to all. Somehow, the little cobbler and his wife suffered far less than the other villagers. It seemed there was a special love guarding both of them. Discouraged and weary, the village peasants gathered together one evening to discuss the cobbler's fortune. "Surely there is something special about him: He is always spared from all misfortunes. What does he do that we do not do?" "Perhaps it is his little candle!", said one of the villagers. "Let us all put a candle in our windows too, this Christmas, and see if that is the mysterious secret!" Now, it so happened that the day of the peasant's meeting was the day before Christmas, and the first night that a candle was lit in the window of every home was Christmas Eve. The candles burned all that night. When morning came, a soft mantle of snow covered all of the village and an air of hope and contentment filled the hearts of all the villagers. Before the first ray of the morning sun, a messenger rode into the village to bring the great news - the war was over, peace had come! Tiny silver church bells chimed - never before had there been such a feeling of Christmas glory and joy as there was on that day. The peasants were awed: "It was the candles," they whispered. "It was the candles! They have guided the newborn Saviour to our very doorsteps and have brought an answer to all of our prayers. We must never again fail to light our candles when we celebrate the Miracle of the Holy Night!"

Bishop's Christmas Message to Parishes

Brothers and Sisters, God Is With Us.

As we come again to the great feast of Christmas, we all do so with mixed feelings. We hear a message of "Joy to the World" and yet we are faced with so much bad news in our world, in our communities and often in our own families. But, as we celebrate again the birth of Christ, we remind ourselves that the bad news is not the last word. The Prophet Isaiah helps us out in the 1st reading at Midnight Mass: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Is 9:2) That message was true at the first Christmas and is the same today. As pilgrims of hope we are called to remind ourselves and each other that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ, nothing can come between us and the love of God made present in Jesus Christ. Why? Because God Is With Us. I ask the blessing of the newborn Christ on you and your families and invite you to continue to welcome the love of Christ into your hearts and to share that love with others.

+Frank Dougan

4th 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 assisted by Fr. Gerry Hamill (Retired)</i>	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 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)
Sunday 22 nd December	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] Mass 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes</i>	Mass 12.15pm	Mass 11.30am (L)		Mass 10am (L)
Monday 23 rd December	ADVENT FERIA BY DATE Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Lawrence & Theresa Tumilty (A), Kate Collins List (CB), Mc Auley Family (CB)</i>				
Tuesday 24 th December	CHRISTMAS EVE Mass of the Holy Night 5pm and also 8pm (Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope in Rome)	Mass of the Holy Night 7pm	Vigil Mass 6pm		Vigil Mass 4.30pm (L)
Wednesday 25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY Mass of the Nativity of the Lord 11am	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord 9am	Mass 9.30am (L)		Mass 11am
Thursday 26 th December	FEAST OF ST STEPHEN Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Kate Collins (SI), Sylvia Speirs (CB), Kathleen Tracy (S)</i>	Mass 10am			
Friday 27 th December	FEAST OF ST JOHN Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass 10am <i>Offered for Michael Fitzpatrick (CB), Templeton Family (CB), Joe Long & Family (CB)</i> Benediction 10.30am (Refreshments in our Café afterwards)	Mass 10am	Eucharistic Service 10am		
Saturday 28 th December	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH [C] Vigil Mass 5.30pm <i>Offered for Jean Conlan (CB), Ann McDonald (SI), Mary Sammons (RD)</i>				Vigil Mass 4.30pm (L)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

✚ Those who have died recently:

Margaret Gribben, Mary Sammons, Gabrielle Cahill.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

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, Jack Collins, Theresa Tumilty 2016, Mereno Berti 2003, Sister Anne Delahunt 2011, Peggy McLaughlan 2006, Samuel McMail 2016, Mary McSpurren 2020, Bessie Delahunt 2006, Tom McGreevy 2022, Tom McKay, Tom Finn 1993, Bessie O'Rourke 2005, George Scott 1973, Jessie Brown 1975, Tom Finn 1993, James Friel 2022, 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, Rose Murphy 2009, Arthur Robertson Arturo Farro 1994, Catherine McCulloch 2012, Thomas O'Connell 1957, May Shanks 1990, Maria Tomelty 2014.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection
 15th December 2024: £571.17
 Second Collection (Building Fund): £275.60

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection
 15th December 2024: £134.03

Many thanks for your support and generosity!



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

- ▶ **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2024-2025** Please make sure you get your copy off our Christmas Programme for this Year and the New Year. Available in Church today.
- ▶ **OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE IN THE CATHEDRAL** The Jubilee Year will be officially opened for the Galloway Diocese by our Bishop Francis on Sunday, 29th December at 3pm at St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr.
- ▶ **H.C.P.T. LOURDES GROUP 376 NEW YEAR'S DAY DIP** Esther Coulter will be doing the New Years day dip at 12 noon across from the church. Esther and group members will be collecting at all masses this and next weekend for the Lourdes charity. The group are travelling again at Easter with a number of adults who require additional support. Thanks to all who supported the recent festive afternoon and who support the group with donations during the year. Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us
- ▶ **THANK YOU** £230 was raised from the Bric-a-Brac sales which will go towards the building fund for the restoration of the Church. Many thanks to everyone who supported.
- ▶ **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.

SEVEN CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM POPE FRANCIS

Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has highlighted various points and tips in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

1.- THE CELEBRATION THAT GOD LIKES

Pope Francis warned against reducing Christmas to a gift exchange. He says it is so much more.

"The advertisements invite you to always give new gifts to surprise each other. However, I ask myself: is this the celebration that God likes?" 'Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the turmoil of consumerism. This is the invitation for Christmas. Take some time, stand in front of the manger and be silent.'

2.- GOD IS LOVE

Contemplating the Nativity scene in silence gives us a better understanding of God's nature and helps us correct certain distortions of the faith. 'How often do we think that God is good if we are good, and punishes us if we are bad. Yet, that is not how He is.'

3.- CHRISTMAS IS HOPE

Pope Francis explains that once we realise that God is kind and merciful, we are able to see life from a different perspective. He says it's a perspective that opens a door to hope, which helps us face problems with a different attitude. 'Hope is always on the move, and it makes us be on the move. We can ask ourselves, 'Do I journey in hope, or is my interior life stopped, shut down? Is my heart a closed drawer or an open drawer, open to the hope that helps us journey, not alone, but with Jesus?' It is a good question to ask ourselves.'

4.- CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR CHANGE

Christmas is a time for conversion. One has only to look at the messages Pope Francis addresses to the Curia in preparation for this period. He tends to be demanding and asks them to run from the temptation to focus on making a career out of their vocation. He says that feeds the ego and draws them away from God. 'It is the sickness of people who live a double life. People who relentlessly seek to expand their power, even if they have to slander, defame and discredit others, even in newspapers and magazines.'

5.- UNDERSTANDING

Another important aspect of Christmas is spending time with family, but also sharing and accepting opinions different from our own. 'Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek Him.'

6.- AN END TO WAR

Pope Francis frequently, and especially around Christmas time, calls for an end to all war, for example, in the Middle East, Ukraine, Syria and Yemen. He emphasises the need to end war at the global level. 'May Baby Jesus heal the wounds of the beloved Syrian people, who for a decade now have been exhausted by war and its consequences.'

7.- HOLINESS IN DAILY LIFE

The Christmas season also helps Catholics work on the small but profound details to walk toward sainthood in every



moment. 'It is normal to get tired at work. But if one reflects just a little bit on the holiness of Jesus, a little is enough. It is a small ray - a smile, attention, a courtesy, an apology - then the whole work environment becomes more 'breathable.' Isn't it true? We thin out the heavy climate that sometimes we men and women create with our loftiness.' The Pope's presence makes Christmas in Rome particularly special. Through his actions and words, he will again put the profound meaning of Christmas at the centre of this year's celebrations.

JUST FOR A LAUGH

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honour of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolises Christmas to get into heaven." The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said. The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates." The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's glasses. St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolise?" The man replied, "They're Carol's."

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