



# 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!



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord [B]

7<sup>th</sup> January 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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01294 464063  
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## PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

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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

### ✚ The King with empty Hands

A few young people had got together and planned to put on a Nativity Play. Very soon lots of people became involved: Someone wrote the script, others practiced eagerly, scenes and backdrops were made and painted, and a few mothers made the costumes. However, the evening before the first performance, something quite unusual and unfortunate happened - they had all forgotten about the parts of the Three Kings. They couldn't just leave them out altogether. The Kings simply belong to the Nativity Story. The Director of the play had an idea. He would telephone three people from the neighbourhood and ask them if they wouldn't mind standing in as one of the Three Kings. They should just bring a personal gift with them for the Child in the Manger - a gift, that means something special to them. The first "king" was found quite soon. He was a man, aged fifty years, with five children and he worked for the Town Hall. He didn't have to think too long about what gift he would like to bring. He brought along the crutches, that had been lying in the loft. Years ago, he had had a serious car accident and for weeks he had to stay in hospital after a long operation. It had been a very difficult time for him, as after the accident, it wasn't so clear if he would ever walk again. Day after day and night after night, he would lie in his bed and think about his life. He became thankful for all the little things around him. This experience had changed him completely and he wanted to say this as he brought these crutches to the Manger. The next "king" was actually a queen. A young mother of two children. She had thought long and hard about what gift she could bring to the Christ Child. After her marriage a deep hole started to form all around her. Then the children came along and she realised that self-pity was not the answer she needed. She took an interest in different things and got involved in the offers around her. She began to understand that bringing up children in a loving family atmosphere wasn't something secondary or worthless, but had a deep and lasting meaning for a better world. What could she bring to the Manger to express all this? A sweeping brush? Nappies? In the end she decided on something that no-one could see, but was alive in her like never before in her life. Her gift was the "yes" of her Wedding Day! The third king was something completely different. A seventeen year old had offered to take part in the Play. He had sat for hours and hours in his room and couldn't make up his mind what he should bring to the New-Born King. He found only a bit of confusion in himself, a bit of searching, a bit of doubt, a bit of loneliness - a bit of yearning for something, for someone? He wasn't so sure himself. In fact, he knew that he didn't have anything really worth bringing. His hands were empty. His heart was just full of a kind of sadness and a longing to be happy and fulfilled and to understand the meaning of his own life. And who wants to make sadness and longing a gift for anyone? Then the thought came to him. If the Christ Child is born again so that he can bring us something, then it would be alright that our hands are empty and our hearts open wide for his peace and healing. Wouldn't it be possible that he just come as a king with empty hands? The question didn't give him any rest. Isn't it true that each and every one of us could be the "king with the empty hands".

# First Week of the Year [B]

<b>St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan</b> <a href="http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk">www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.stbrideschurch.co.uk">www.stbrideschurch.co.uk</a> <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>&amp; Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		<a href="http://www.stevenstonstjohns.com">www.stevenstonstjohns.com</a> <a href="http://www.rcsaltcoats.com">www.rcsaltcoats.com</a> <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>&amp; Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		
<b>Please note all Masses in St. Peter's are Live Streamed.</b> <b>Masses may be subject to change.</b>		St Bride's	St. John's	St. Mary's
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany</b> (Day of Prayer for Justice & Peace) <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b> <i>Offered for Howie Family (CB), Murphy Family (CB),                      Mary &amp; Pete Byrns (SI)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany</b> (Day of Prayer for Justice & Peace) <b>Mass at 10.30am</b> <i>Offered for our Parishes.</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b> (End of Christmastide) Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10.00am</b> <i>Offered for Sr. Ursula &amp; Sr. Anna (CB),                      Nan Donohoe (CB), Canon Matt &amp; Canon Poland (CB)</i>			
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year</b> Morning Prayer of the Church 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Stephanie, Donald &amp; Archie Fisher (SI),                      Father Gerry (CB) Minnie Campbell</i>	Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40am  Mass at 10am		Funeral Mass at 10am (L)  <b>Francis Shields</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Mary Fraser (A), Michael Callaghan &amp; Fred Miller</i>		Mass at 10am (L)	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Delia Knight (RD),                      Seamus Reilly (CB), Kenneth Traynor (RD)</i>			Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week of the Year</b> Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am <b>Mass at 10am</b> <i>Offered for Michael (Mick) Reilly (A), Catherine (Kit) Kean (A)</i> <b>Exposition and Benediction 10.30am</b>	Mass at 10am	Mass at 10am (L)	
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year (B)</b> <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b> <i>Offered for Stuart Neely (RD), McHugh Family (SI)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)



### House Blessing on Epiphany

Today chalk will be blessed at the end of all Masses for the traditional House Blessing on the Feast of the Epiphany. We ask God's blessing and protection for our homes and businesses.



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Maria Hilferty, Betty Fitzpatrick, Maria Dorrian, Dawn Clark, Ellen Quirk, Paul McNulty.*

#### ✚ Those who have died recently:

*Kenneth Traynor, Stuart Neely, Delia Knight.*

#### ✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Patrick Quinn 2023, Dorothy Welsh 2014, William Twigg 1983,  
 John Cahill 1989, Danny Higgins 2009, Frank Kelly 2013,  
 Patricia Brennan 2005, Robert Colvin 1998, Jimmy Crichton 2019,  
 Gerard Fairhurst 2003, Bernard McLaughlan 1984, Derek Tomelty 2003,  
 Joseph Gibbons 1973, Hugh Henry 2008, Jean Lamont 2016,  
 Jimmy McAloon 2020, Jennifer McGregor 2014, George Nicol 1983,  
 Joan McCallum 2001, William McLaughlin 2018,  
 Rosina McPeake, Terry Murphy 1989, Annie Taylor 2021,  
 Mario Marchetti 2013, Kathleen McSkimming 2019,  
 Hugh Adams 2019, John Aitken 2001, Anne Bowles 2017,  
 John Butcher 2017, Kathleen Brown 2012, Christine Cassidy 1998,  
 Mary Donnelly 2006, Eamon Lennon 2009, Kathleen Tritschler 2006,  
 Roy White 1993, Cecilia McCurdie 2005, James McNamara 1982,  
 Archbishop Philip Tartaglia 2021.*

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

- **ST PETER'S 50/50 CLUB** Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our members. Our annual membership fees of £15 are now due. 'Sign up' will be in the Parish Centre on the 13<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> January. Good luck and thank you for your continued support.
- **ANNUAL JUSTICE AND PEACE COLLECTION** Our annual collection for Justice and Peace will take place this weekend 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January. Please collect the letter from Archbishop Nolan, President of Justice and Peace Scotland.

### **End of the Christmas Season**

On Monday 8th January 2024 we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Then on Tuesday, Ordinary Time begins with the unfolding of the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. Green is the colour of the season.

### **Here's the Only New Year's Resolution You'll Ever Need**

It started with the Babylonians. They are the ones who initiated the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. Today, it's a tradition that some take more seriously than others, and yet almost everybody thinks about. Many of us scramble last-minute to come up with something – anything – to resolve and feel guilty if we don't. I've always found it intriguing that New Year's Day, with its call to resolutions, lands right between Advent and Lent – both penitential, soul-searching liturgical seasons. Depending on how you look at it, it can either give you a chance to make up for what you're Advent lacked or gear up for what your Lent will hold. Or, maybe it's neither. Instead, perhaps it's a chance to kick bad habits and pick up good ones. Either way, the emphasis is on wanting to do better and that's what all Christians are called to do anyway. Let me propose something different this year. In fact, let me propose the best New Year's resolution you could ever make. Maybe it's the only one you'll ever want to make. Ultimately, it's God who should decide the what, why, and how of our New Year's resolutions. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and he knows what we need to do to prepare ourselves for what he holds in store for us in the coming year. The problem is, we're often too busy deciding things for ourselves to ask and then listen to what he has rightfully decided for us. It's all about listening. That, I believe, is the best New Year's resolution you or I could ever make. Listen. Just that. That's THE New Year's resolution. Listen to God, to his voice within you and to his Word in Scripture. Any other resolution, compared to this one, is trivial. Because, when you consider its potential impact, this resolution encompasses all the others. Listen to God in 2024. Don't just say you're going to do it, DO it. Make time and space for it. Listen to him. It's the only resolution you or I will ever need.

### **ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Cash Collection 31<sup>st</sup> December: £589.27  
Second Collection (Building Fund): £296.36

### **ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Cash Collection 31<sup>st</sup> December: £176.00

*Many Thanks for your support and generosity!*

### **Ordination of our New Bishop**

St Peter's has been asked to host the Ordination of the Bishop Elect Frank Dougan to the Episcopate. This is a great honour for St Peter's and the new Bishop will find a very warm welcome. Let's pray that all the preparations and planning go well. Watch this space for further updates.

### **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.



### **Just for a Laugh...**

The Parish Priest is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the Parish Priest moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the Parish Priest smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

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