ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN

'Family of Parishes'

ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE

1st Sunday of Advent Year B — 29th November 2020

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www.stbrideschurch.co.uk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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 Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Reflection

There can be something of a disconnect with the Word of God this Sunday: all around us people are putting up Christmas decorations, preparing as best they can for a festive season in the midst of a pandemic, and looking for moments of "comfort and joy"! And then we get a Gospel about the end of the world and the Second Coming of Jesus – and a stern warning to "Stay awake"! Is the Church so out of step with the real world? Not at all: we often hear people talking about the "real meaning of Christmas". While for many that simply means Nativity Plays and religious Christmas cards, we believe that the real meaning of Christmas is much more profound: Jesus is real, he has walked among us, and he will come again. This is the "real meaning" we must hold on to: the overpowering power of Christ's love is not something to fear, but something to long for. And it is something that no virus, no pandemic, no tragedy or disaster, not even death itself can take from us. This is what we must be awake to, filled with longing, love and expectation. In a year when we may be without many of the elements that we think make for a joyful Christmas, let us focus more and more on those things that are always with us – the love of God revealed in Jesus. Let us long for him more and more!

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.

First Week of Advent [B] 2020

November/ December 2020	St Peter-in-Chains Ardrossan *Father Duncan McVicar*	St. Bride's West Kilbride *Father Duncan McVicar*	St John's Stevenston *Canon Martin Poland*	St Mary's Saltcoats *Canon Martin Poland*	St Peter's Parish Centre *Fiona Brown*	
Saturday 28th November	**Our Lady's Day** Mass at 10am – Live Streamed *Offered for 'Wee' Joe McIver (2020)* **First Sunday of Advent, Year B** Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) *Offered for Maria Reid (A) and K. Collins in Thanksgiving*			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm		
Sunday 29th November	**First Sunday of Advent, Year B** Mass at 10.30am - Public *Offered for our Parishes*	Mass at 12.15pm *Offered for our Parishes*	Mass at 11.30am	Mass at 10am		
Monday 30th November	**Solemnity of St. Andrew, Patron of Scotland** Mass at 10am (Public) *Offered for Michael Doherty (A) Alan Whitelaw (RD) and Theresa Loudon (RD)*	Mass at 10am				
Tuesday 1st December	**Requiem Mass for Margaret Tracey** Mass at 10am - Private			Mass at 10am		
Wednesday 2nd December	**1st Week of Advent** Mass at 10am (Public) *Offered for John Finnigan (RD) Margaret McGregor (SI)*		Mass at 10am	Funeral Private		
Thursday 3rd December	**Memorial of St. Francis Xavier** Mass at 10am - Live Streamed *Offered for Sadie McAtee (SI) Hugh Toye.*					
Friday 4th December	**1st Week of Advent** Mass at 10am (Public) *Offered for John Higgins (MM), Emma Hackett (A)*	Mass at 12.00pm	Mass at 10am	Funeral Private		
Saturday 5th December	**Our Lady's Day for Advent** Mass at 10am – Live Streamed *Offered for Alistair MacMillan (D)* **Second Sunday of Advent, Year B** Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) *Offered for Kathleen Fraser (RD), Jean Strachan (RD)*			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm		
St Peter's Parish Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703						

Watching, Waiting, Desiring

This weekend marks the start of Advent. The word "advent" refers to the coming or arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. In the Christian sense of the term, of course, it refers to the coming of Christ – both his first coming in Bethlehem and his second coming when all will be consummated in the eternal Marriage of the Lamb. "Be watchful! Be alert!" says Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel. "You do not know when the time will come." What keeps us alert and watchful? Desire. The final words of the Bible express the summation of human longing: "The Spirit and the bride say come!" Great saints like Augustine, Gregory, and Bernard all tell us that Christ keeps his bride waiting to increase and stretch her desire. Desire is the faculty that not only pines after the divine gift, but also receives it when it is given, so the wider our desire, the more we are capable of receiving. Christ wants us to be as wide open to his gift as possible, stretched in our desire unto infinity, because that's what he has to offer us: the wild ecstasy of Infinite bliss in union with him. Come Lord Jesus, come!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anthony Brennan, Cathie Currie, Maria Hilferty, Cathie Slimman.

✚ Those who have died recently:

John Clarke, Margaret Tracey, Stephen Weideger, Alan Whitelaw (Glasgow), Jean Strachan, Kathleen Fraser, Charlotte Hutchison, Margaret Marshall, Theresa Loudon, John Finnigan, May Bruin, Jane McNeil.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

James Allen 2003, Molly Ball née Cahill 2011, Ann Hackett 1998, Andy Stevens 1995, Gribben family, Janie McGonigle 2012, Mary Bridget Timmons, Jack Collins 1970, Margaret Hamilton 1992, Collette McKibben 2003, John McNamara 1997, Elizabeth Theresa Walsh 1970, Jim Wallace 2014, Brian O'Hare 2009, Tom Reid 2006, Monica Tipping 2010, John Welsh 2009, Jim Delahunt 2014, Martin Lehane 2015, Mary Martin 1983, Isabella McGoogan 1998, Gordon Alexander Smith 1997, John Hughes 2010, Margaret Anne Shanks 1994, Rose Smith 1999, Anne Thompson 1986, Robert Walker 2012.

St. Peter's Notices

► **REQUIEM MASS FOR MARGARET TRACEY** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Tracey, who died on 15th November 2020, aged 70. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 1st December at 10am, followed by Interment at Ardrossan Cemetery.

► **THERESA LOUDON** Anne and George McGrattan and the Loudon family send thanks for the many Mass cards and expressions of sympathy on their loss of Theresa. We are very grateful. God bless.

► **DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD:** Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2021? The Catholic Church in Scotland is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr. Martin Chambers by email: martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

► **CHANA@Christmas** CHANA (Churches Homelessness Action North Ayrshire) has teamed up with the Ayrshire based charity Night Before Christmas. CHANA is asking people to support Night Before Christmas by donating to the Just Giving page https://www.justgiving.com/nb4cc or people could put cash in an envelope marked CHANA and put it in the church collection. It would be good to have all donations by 7th December. Night Before Christmas will provide Christmas boxes for 46 children under 12, 10 teenagers and 60 adults who are in Supported Accommodation or the Hostel in North Ayrshire. CHANA has donated £400. Many thanks to those who have donated to CHANA and to the Just Giving Page.

MASS LIVE-STREAMING access by going on the Parish Websites. saintpeterinchains.co.uk - Click SERVICES on the red menu bar. Then MASS TIMES on the menu. Website: saintpeterinchains.net - Go to top right-hand corner of the screen. Click "Live Streaming at Mass Times" Website: www.stbrideschurch.co.uk Click on Live Streaming button at bottom right of the Home page.

St. Bride's Notices

► **ADVENT BOOKLET** We are delighted with the response to the booklet and so far 80 have been distributed. If for any reason you haven't received one, please get in touch. It is also available on our website.

► **EXTRA MASS** Fr. Gerry Hamill has very kindly offered to celebrate Mass on Monday 30th November as it is St. Andrew's Day and from next week, he will celebrate Mass on a Tuesday at 10am. Any Mass attended throughout the week (during COVID19) counts as your Sunday obligation.

JUST FOR A LAUGH...

- Hamish says to Wullie, "Christmas is on a Friday this year"... Wullie says "Let's hope it's not the 13th."
- Hamish spies a letter lying on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND ". Hamish spends the next two hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 22nd November 2020: £437.80

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 22nd November 2020: £174.00

STANDING ORDERS - PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT

The Parishes have taken quite a "knock" through the Lockdown when public Mass was not available for sixteen weeks. This has had a huge impact on our Parishes Finances. Please consider taking out a Standing Order?

It would be of great benefit to our Parishes.

Forms are available from the Parishes Office:

ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or call 01294 464063.

Many Thanks for all your support and generosity!

Mustard Seeds

✞ The Innkeeper's Tale

They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all. People say I'm an innkeeper. Then came that census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth. But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "Mary." Well, when I saw Mary she was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day." That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry." By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had prepared some soft, clean hay for Mary and wrapped her up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her. Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said. We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing, I tell you. Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek. The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn. I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces. I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-Child." The Christ-Child? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a manger. My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-Child was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth. The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they departed. I know I did. I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean innkeeper. I was there. I saw him. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.

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