



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!



Feast of the Holy Family [B]

27th December 2020

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESSES

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1 South Crescent Road
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

St. Bride's Church
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WEBSITES

www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk
www.saintpeterinchains.net
www.stbrideschurch.co.uk

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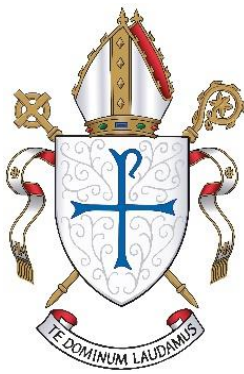
07722 246 169 (*Ardrossan*)
07585 656 229 (*West Kilbride*)

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 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Reflection

The "Season of Christmas" would better be called the "Season of Epiphany or Revealing", since over the next two weeks we have a set of feasts which show the "unfolding" of the mystery, of the answer to one simple question: just WHO IS this baby born in Bethlehem? It started on Christmas Night, when the angels announced to shepherds that the baby born down in the village was their saviour. It continues today, as Simeon and Anna recognise who this baby is – salvation and light and deliverance! There are more "revelations" about this child to come – to wise men from the East and in the waters of the river Jordan at his Baptism – as this Season unfolds. As we continue to think of Christ's coming among us, let us ask ourselves what we recognise in him: how is he our salvation, our light and our deliverance?

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.



Christmas Time [B] 2020

December 2020/ January 2021	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 26 th December	Feast of St. Stephen Mass at 12 noon (Live Streamed) <i>Offered for George McGeehan (RD), Jessie Brown (A), Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Tom McKay (A), John Dolan (A) June Doherty (A)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
Sunday 27 th December	Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 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 28 th December	Feast of the Holy Innocents Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Arturo & Cosimo Farro (A), Catherine (Kit) Kean (A), Chrissy, Winnie & McDonagh Family</i>				
Tuesday 29 th December	Memorial of St Thomas Becket Mass at 10am (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Matt Domnelly (RD), Monica Nicholson (CB), Grant Mitchell (SI)</i>	Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am	
Wednesday 30 th December	Christmas Octave by Date Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for John Hendry (A), Theresa McGuire (A), Joanne & Neil Kirk (CB) Anthony & Theresa McGarvey (A)</i>		Funeral Mass		
Thursday 31 st December	Requiem Mass for Robert Montgomery Mass at 10am				
Friday 1 st January 2021	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass at 10am (Public) <i>Offered for Lawrence & Theresa Tumilty (A), Seamus Reilly Snr. (D) Agnes Madine, Dundee & Katie McDonagh</i>	Mass at 12 noon	Mass at 11am	Mass at 11am	
Saturday 2 nd January	Memorial of Ss Basil and Gregory Nazianzen Mass at 12 noon (Live Streamed Only) <i>Offered for Brian & Lorna (CB), Collette & Mark (CB), Kathleen Harkness (RD) Joe & Andrea Hulley (CB)</i> Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass at 5.30pm (Public) <i>Offered for Fiona & Andrew Upton (CB), Joe McGhee (RD), Caleb Forrest (A) Maureen McGarvey (CB)</i>		Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
St Peter's Parish Centre: Fiona Brown 07907 389703					

New Year Hope for 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, we are a community of memory that looks back; we are a community of Spirit that looks forward. It's important, though not easy, to look back with kindness and to look forward in hope. Let us hand over the past to God for his healing blessing. Let us ask the Lord to face the future with us, because we do not want to face it alone.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany

Next Sunday, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we will bless the chapel for our traditional House Blessing. A blessing we really need at the beginning of a new year.

Thank you from Father Duncan

*I would like to say a really big "Thank you": to everyone who sent a card or a gift to the Presbytery for Christmas. It was very much appreciated - Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for your generosity!
God bless!*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anthony Brennan, Jim Boyle, Bernard and Margaret McIlvennie.

✚ Those who have died recently:

Joseph McKeraghan, Francis Fitzpatrick, Harry McKeachan, Robert Montgomery, Matt Donnelly, Joe McGhee, George McGeehan.

✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

Margaret Clarkson 2003, Molly Cosgrove 1994, Jim Lindsay 2013, Catherine McEvoy 2009, Arthur Robertson, Arturo Farro 1994, Catherine McCulloch 2012, Rose Murphy 2009, Thomas O'Connell 1957, May Shanks 1990, Maria Tomelty 2014, Patrick Cahill 2010, Kit Keen 2012, Mary Dorian Stirling 1999, Anna Ferrie 2014, John Hendry 2015, May Kelly 2016, Theresa McGarvey 2019, Alice Sibbald 2010, Terence Witt 2010, Alfonso Agostini 1955, Brian Connick 2010, Father Joseph Glendinning 1993, Catherine McAteer 2014, Joleen McIndoe 2015, William Twigg 1983, June Doherty 2010, Isabella Dougherty 2010, Charles Patrick Hendry 1967, Father Andrew Karwemera 2002, Lizzie Macnamara, James Murphy 1997, Thomas Bell 2019, Hugh Brown 1980, Susan Burns 1986, Maura Lapsley 2019, May Rollie 2007.

St. Peter's Notices

► **REQUIEM MASS FOR ROBERT MONTGOMERY** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Robert Montgomery, who died on 18th December 2020, aged 86 years. His Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 31st December 2020 at 10am, followed by Interment at Ardrossan Cemetery. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

► **SINCERE THANKS FOR DONATIONS FOR THE CHURCH REPAIRS**

I am very grateful to acknowledge the generous donations to St Peter's in the last weeks: £1200, £1000, £200, £200, and £200. Please accept my sincere thanks for all you do for our Parish and for the upkeep of God's House. There are many lights burning brightly in the dark and gloom.

► **USED POSTAGE STAMPS** We have been asked to donate our used postage stamps to fund Medical Science. Please hand your used stamps in to the Parish Office or give them to Alfie Agostini.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 20th December 2020: £673.06

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

The Offertory Collection 20th December 2020: £195.00

Many Thanks for your support and generosity!

Emergency On-Call for the Hospitals

Father Duncan will be on the emergency on-call for the hospitals from 30th December until 3rd January. Please keep all those in hospital in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

St. Bride's Notices

► **WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPES** The envelopes will be available for collection from Sunday 27th December. They are on the tables in the Hall, please pick them up on your way out of Mass either on Sunday, Tuesday or Friday. Thank you.

► **BOOKING FOR MASS** Due to Tier 4 regulations of a maximum of 20 people, from 26th December (Boxing Day) it has become necessary to book for Mass. To book a Mass for next week please call Phyllis on Saturday, **26th December between 7pm and 9pm** on 01294 822320 or 07843 602745



JUST FOR A LAUGH...

Hamish was in New York. He was patiently waiting, and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay pedestrians". Then he'd allow the traffic to pass. He'd done this several times, and Hamish still stood on the pavement. After the cop had shouted "Pedestrians" for the tenth time, Hamish went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"



Mustard Seeds

✚ **Will The Christ Child Come?**

One Christmas we had an interesting experience that I would like to share. Halfway through December we were doing the regular evening things when there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find a small package with a beautiful ceramic lamb inside. We looked at the calendar and realised that the twelve days of Christmas were beginning! We waited excitedly for the next night's surprise and only then, with the gift of a matching shepherd, did we realise that the lamb was part of a nativity set. Each night we grew more excited to see what piece we would receive. Each was exquisitely beautiful. The children kept trying to catch the givers as we slowly built the scene at the manger and began to focus on Christ's birth. On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, but the Baby Jesus. My 12 year-old son really wanted to catch our benefactors and began to devise all kinds of ways to trap them. He ate his dinner in the mini-van watching and waiting, but no one came. Finally we called him in to go through our family's Christmas Eve traditions. But before the children went to bed we checked the front step -- No Baby Jesus! Somehow something was missing that Christmas Eve. There was a feeling that things weren't complete. The children went to bed and I put out Christmas, but before I went to bed I again checked to see if the Baby Jesus had come -- no, the doorstep was empty. Missing that piece of the set seemed to have an odd effect. At least it changed my focus. I knew there were presents under the tree for me and I was excited to watch the children open their gifts, but first on my mind was the feeling of waiting for the ceramic Christ Child. We had opened just about all of the presents when one of the children found one more for me buried deep beneath the branches of the tree. He handed me a small package from a former parishioner. This lady used to come to Church now and again. She had no family and she didn't get many gifts to open, so I had always given her a small package - new dish towels, a good book - not much, but something for her to open. I was touched when at Church on the day before Christmas, she had given me this small package, saying it was just a token of her love and appreciation. As I took off the ribbon, I remembered my friendship with her and was filled with gratitude for knowing her and for her kindness in giving me a gift. But as the paper fell away, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box was the Baby Jesus. He had come! I realised on that Christmas Day that Christ will come into our lives in ways that we don't expect. The spirit of Christ comes into our hearts as we serve one another. We had waited and watched for him to come, expecting the dramatic "knock at the door and scurrying of feet" but he came in a small, simple package that represented service, friendship, gratitude, and love. This experience taught me that the beginning of the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and actively focus on the Saviour. More than that I want to open my heart to him all year that I may see him again.

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