



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!



First Sunday of Lent [B]

18th February 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
1 South Crescent Road
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU
01294 464063
duncan.mcvicar@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

Telephone: 01294 464063
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
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

✝ Daddy's Empty Chair

A man's daughter had asked the priest to visit her sick father. The priest found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I suppose you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The priest told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was coming." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, he shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Prayer is just having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not weird because he promised, 'I will be with you always'. Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.' "So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown, or send me off to the funny farm." The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue. Then he heard his confession, anointed him, and returned to the parish. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her dad had died that afternoon. "Did he die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the shops an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The priest wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that." Our faith in Christ brings God that close to us.



First Week of Lent [B]

St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk www.stbrideschurch.co.uk <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>& Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>		<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill (Retired)</i>	www.stevenstonstjohns.com www.rcsaltcoats.com <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Sr Ursula, Sr Anna</i> <i>& Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i>	
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 17 th February	First Sunday of Lent Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Dennis Atkins (A), Alison Trayner (MM)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
Sunday 18 th February	First Sunday of Lent Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our Parishes.</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30am (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 19 th February	1st Week of Lent Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Michael Leonard (SI)</i>			Funeral Mass at 12.45pm Eddie Clarke
Tuesday 20 th February	1st Week of Lent Stations of the Cross 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for John Collins (A), John & Catherine Cahill (A)</i>	No Mass Today		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 21 st February	1st Week of Lent Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Gerry Fitzpatrick (S)</i>		Mass at 10am (L)	
Thursday 22 nd February	Feast of the Chair of St Peter the Apostle Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Ellen Grant (RD)</i>			Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 23 rd February	1st Week of Lent Prayer of the Rosary 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Michael Falsay (RD), William Sheehan Jnr (A)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am	No Mass Today	Mass at 10am (L)	
Saturday 24 th February	Second Sunday of Lent Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Mary Hutson (A)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)

Lenten Penance Services in the Three Towns

We've heard the phrase, "What would Jesus do?" As we start the season of Lent, a better question is, "What did Jesus do?" Jesus, about to transition from the hidden mission of home to the public mission of proclaiming the Good News of God's love, was drawn to pray and fast for 40 days in the desert. The desert. Why would Jesus go there – on purpose? Though preparing for a big life-change, his instinct wasn't to busy himself. It was to retreat. To quiet himself. To listen. To allow himself to be tested in his core. To encounter the Father and let his heart be focused, nourished, and shaped for his mission. We are invited to metaphorically enter the desert each Lent. But how do we enter the "desert"? We have three Lenten Penance Services in the Three Towns this Lent:

- Monday, 18th March at 2pm
at St Mary's Saltcoats,
- Tuesday, 19th March at 7pm
at St John's Stevenston,
- Wednesday, 20th March at 7pm
at St Peter in Chains Ardrossan.

Though going into the desert implies some discomfort. . . go for it. Embrace it. It is purposeful. It is the Lord we seek. . . and the truth about ourselves... so that God can heal what is broken. So... live this Lent.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Harry Sammons, Peter Ross, Ellen Quirk,
Tony Smith, Freddy Kean, John McKenna.*

✦ Those who have died recently:

*Denis Edney, Debra Crawford,
Ellen Grant (Mother of Fr Jim Grant, Carfin).*

✦ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Dennis Atkins 2023, Jack Conlan 2013,
Robert Ferguson 2021, Nathan Murray-Collier 2005,
Ellen Reilly 1954, Eileen Watkins 2015, Jean Wylie,
Francis Clark 1953, Helen Clark 1973,
Hugh McGinn 2013, Kelly Smith 2007,
Norma Clarke 2018, John Patrick Collins 2012,
Rose Folan 2012, Patrick Haggarty 2017,
George Monaghan 2004, Margaret McCarroll 2015,
Patsy McDonald 1993, Frank Coulter 2018,
Guilia Marchetti 1998, Justine McAllister 2000,
Brian O'Reilly 1993, Robert Stevenson 2021,
Mary McCluskey 1980, Bessie Murphy 2008,
Margaret Mary Adamson 2005,
Brendan Dorrian 2001.*

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

- ▶ **REQUIEM MASS FOR DEBRA CRAWFORD** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Debra Crawford, who died on Sunday, 28th January 2024, aged 62 years. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday, 27th February at 10am, followed by Interment at Ardrossan Cemetery. May she rest in peace and rise in glory!
- ▶ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** You are invited to the World Day of Prayer, hosted this year by the Park Church in Ardrossan, on Friday, 1st March 2024 at 2pm. The theme this year is "I beg you to bear with one another in love", written by the Christian women of Palestine. All are welcome!
- ▶ **THE RITE OF ELECTION IN THE CATHEDRAL** The Rite of Election will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, on Sunday 18th February, at 3pm. We wish Liz, from St Bride's, every blessing and joy and also to her Sponsor, Jeanette.
- ▶ **"LET YOUR LIGHT SHRINE" THIS LENT 2024** Please make sure you get your Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer as a possible resolution for Lent this year. The specially made cards will be available after Mass. You are welcome to take some along for neighbours, friends and family.
- ▶ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR VOCATIONS** The Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb are a popular devotion in our parishes during Lent. In the 16th century, this pathway was officially entitled the "Via Dolorosa" (Sorrowful Way) or simply Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross. We can pray the Stations together this Lent every Tuesday at 9.30am at St Bride's and also at St Peter's.
- ▶ **BIG "THANK YOU" FOR SOUP SUNDAY** A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped and donated to Soup Sunday. The soup was delicious and the friendship palpable. £460 of donations were raised on the day and a further £115 has since been added to that sum, all to support Child Poverty in North Ayrshire. Thank you.

Eucharistic Revival this Lent - "I have a Dream"

These are among the most quoted words in the English language outside of the Bible. They are the words of Martin Luther King Jr. If he had stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on that hot summer's day in 1963 and said, "I have a plan," would the speech have become one of the most memorable speeches of all time? I don't think so. The ability to dream is uniquely human and an extraordinary gift. This God-given ability to look into the future and imagine something better, then return to the present and work to bring about that better future, is remarkable. And yet, sadly, it is massively underemployed in most people's lives. Think on it for a moment. When was the last time you used your God-given ability to chase down a personal dream? When was the last time, together as Catholics, we had a common dream and pursued it with relentless passion? I have a dream that the whole world would be consecrated to the Eucharist. One person at a time, one marriage at a time, one family at a time, one neighbourhood at a time, one parish at a time, one diocese at a time,



one country at a time. The whole world consecrated to Jesus in the Eucharist. Join me in this dream and together we can do something bold and visionary. It is a bold dream. But isn't that what is needed? "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid," was Goethe's insight. Those mighty forces are Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and all their angels and saints. Isn't it time Catholics did something bold? It is my fervent hope that my dream will help fuel your dreams and together as Catholics we will become a people of possibility again. [Matthew Kelly]

Diocesan Youth Ministry

Youth Evening Sunday 18th February 2024 at St Matthew's, Grassyards Road Kilmarnock KA3 7SH. Begins with Mass at 6:00pm followed by pizza and activities finishing with Night Prayer at 8:30pm. All welcome.

Holy Week Meditations with the Ardrossan Churches

The Ardrossan Churches are offering a daily, short Meditation at the Park Church, Dalry Road, Ardrossan KA22 7LD during the Holy Week at 11am. This is a great opportunity for Christians in our town to come together and celebrate the greatest week of our faith.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 11th February 2024: £568.95

Second Collection (Building Fund): £284.37

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 11th February 2024: £167.10

STANDING ORDERS - PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT

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 your support and generosity!



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