

ST PETER IN CHAINS ■ ARDROSSAN ST BRIDE'S ■ WEST KILBRIDE

"Meeting people where they are - leading them to where God calls them to be!"



Parish Bulletin ■ First Sunday of Lent [C] ■ 9th March 2025

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESS

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.
Telephone: 01294 464063

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS

Telephone: 01294 46063
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
St Peter's Centre:
Fiona Brown 07907 389703
stpetersparishcentre1@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITES

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

07825 726904 (Ardrossan)
07586 433032 (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
ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
01655 882145

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**St. Peter in Chains
and St. Bride's,
are Parishes in the
RC Diocese of
Galloway.
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"The Master's Touch"

The old violin sat battered and worn, a relic of a forgotten time. Its strings were loose, and the wood was scarred, and the auctioneer's voice was filled with apathy as he tried to sell it to the highest bidder. But no one wanted it; it was barely worth five pounds, the crowd murmured. The auctioneer smiled and raised the instrument up high. "Who will start the bidding for me?" he cried out. "A pound, a pound... Two! Only two? Two pounds, and who'll make it three? Three pounds, once; three pounds, twice; going for three." The room was quiet except for the sound of the auctioneer's voice, until a grey-haired man emerged from the back. He walked slowly to the front and picked up the bow. The man wiped the dust from the old violin and tightened the strings until they were just right. Then, he began to play a melody pure and sweet, as sweet as a carolling angel sings. The sound filled the room, and it was as if the violin had come alive once again. The crowd listened in amazement, moved by the man's touch. The auctioneer's voice broke the spell. "What am I bidding for the old violin?.. A thousand pounds, and who will make it two?" Two pounds! Who will make it three? Three thousand once; three thousand, twice; And going, and gone!" he said. The crowd cheered and cried out, stunned by the transformation of the old violin. "We don't understand. Why has its value changed?" they asked. And then came the reply: "The touch of the master's hand." *How many of us are like that old violin, battered and bruised by life's struggles and pains? But if we dare to open our hearts to the Master's touch, we too can be transformed, made new and whole again. And if we reach out to others, sharing the love and mercy that has touched us, then they too can know their worth and value, that they were created with a purpose and that Jesus died for them so they could receive eternal life. Let us remember the power of the Master's touch this Lent and share it with those around us.*



"The people of every age yearn for God. We have a longing to draw nearer to and a desire to be in communion with God. My favourite passage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) appears as the first line of the first chapter, and it reads, "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for" (CCC, 1)". [Matthew Kelly]

Liturgy for the Week - First Week of Lent [Year I]

ST PETER IN CHAINS <i>Father Duncan McVicar Canon Matt McManus Sister Ursula, Sister Anna</i>	ST PETER'S MASS INTENTIONS	ST BRIDE'S <i>Fr Duncan McVicar Fr Gerry Hamill</i>	ST MARY'S <i>Canon Martin Poland Canon Matt McManus Sister Ursula, Sister Anna</i>	ST JOHN'S <i>Canon Martin Poland Canon Matt McManus Sister Ursula, Sister Anna</i>
SATURDAY, 8TH MARCH First Sunday of Lent Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>Frank Freel (RD)</i>		Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	
SUNDAY, 9TH MARCH First Sunday of Lent Holy Mass at 10.30am	<i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Peter's</i>	<i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Bride's</i>	Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 11.30am
MONDAY, 10TH MARCH Feast of St John Ogilvie Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Cosimo, Arturo and Natalina Farro (A)</i>			
TUESDAY, 11TH MARCH First Week of Lent Stations of the Cross at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Mary Hutson (A) Alistair Ramsay (RD)</i>	Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass At 10am	
WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH First Week of Lent Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Annemarie Dickie (A)</i>			Holy Mass At 10am
THURSDAY, 13TH MARCH First Week of Lent Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Eileen Coppola (RD)</i>		Eucharistic Service at 10am	Funeral Service At 10am For Michael Norwood
FRIDAY, 14TH MARCH First Week of Lent Rosary 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am Benediction at 10.30am St Peter's Cafe afterwards	<i>Patrick J. Barrett (A) William McCann (A)</i>	Stations of the Cross at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am		Holy Mass at 10am
SATURDAY, 15TH MARCH 2nd Sunday of Lent [C] Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>Brendan Dorrian (A)</i>		Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	

SURVIVING THE STORMS OF LIFE

"Every now and then we read about natural disasters like tsunamis or hurricanes that devastate cities with enormous waves. Watching the television footage, I am always amazed that some trees are able to withstand the wind and waves while everything else is blown away. How do they do it? With strong, deep roots. A tree with deep roots can weather any storm. In your life and mine it is only a matter of time before the next storm gets here: an illness, the death of a loved one, unemployment, financial difficulties, a troubled child, a natural disaster, marital strife, or any number of other things. The storms of life are inevitable. And so the question is not whether there will be another storm. The question is: When will the next storm get here? And when the next storm gets here, it's too late to sink the roots. When the next storm gets here, you either have the roots or you don't. Sink these roots of Catholic spirituality deep into your life, and you will weather any storm. But more than that, so much more than surviving the storms of life, you will come to know the abundant life that Jesus invites us to experience both here and in eternity."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Michael McCulloch, Jim Donnelly, Veronica McAuley, Jim McEwan, Grant Mitchell, Cathie Currie, Angela Doherty, Louise Milligan, Claire Devine, Caroline Reynolds. Raymond Porter, Mary Brogan.



THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Rosemary Smith, Tony Smith, Gordon Hamilton, Patricia O'Neil.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

Luke Gargan 2001, Father Jerry Sheehy SCJ 2012, Frances Stannisforth 2017, Jim Watt 2021, Alice Bell 2005, May Bell 2003, John Carroll 2004, John Kyle 2009, Pat Logan 2021, Myles McDonald, Monsignor Archibald McSparran 1950, Stephanie Hope Turner 2001, Helen Brown 2013, Francis Ferguson 2022, Peter McGlone 2016, Agnes Scott 1990, Monsignor Edward Traynor 2006, Lilia Agostini 1969, Mary Andrew 1957, HESSIE HYSLOP 1998, Jean Walker 2001, Aldegonda Brogi 1971, Susan Morgan 2012, Frances Smith 2019, Louis Ferguson 2020, Grace Jamieson 2005, Canon Charles Matthews 1996, Doris McNamara 2010, Catherine Stewart 2004

■ Latest News from the Ardrossan Churches Group

There will be the Holy Week Meditations 2025, all taking place at the Ardrossan Parish Church at 11am: Monday, 14th April - led by Rev. Nathan, Tuesday, 15th April - led by Rev Marion, Wednesday, 16th April - led by Father Duncan, Thursday, 17th April - led by Andrew Bruce or Rev Nigel, Friday, 18th April - led by Rev Jim. The minster at the Three Town Tabernacle on Princes Street, Rev James Dever will be invited for the next Meeting on Tuesday, 2nd September at 7.30pm in the Church of the Nazarene, Glasgow Street. Easter praise on Canon Hill at 8am on Easter Sunday morning, 20th April, followed by breakfast at the Church of the Nazarene. Pentecost Songs of Praise on Pentecost Sunday, 8th June at 2pm at the Dasher Memorial led by Rev Nigel and Stuart.

■ In Aid of the Storm Damage at St Peter's

Next Sunday 16th March, after the Confirmation Mass with Bishop Francis. Mrs. McInally's Hospitality Class from St Mathews Academy will be serving teas, coffees, soups, sausage rolls and a variety of home baking. Please come join us and support the event.

■ Chair Dance with Louie at St Peter's

Chair Dance on Thursdays at 12.15pm till 1pm in the Parish Centre, £3.00 entry.

■ Knit and Knatter at St Peter's

Come and join us on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is very welcome!

■ Stations of the Cross at St Peter's & St Bride's

On the Tuesdays of Lent, before Mass at 9.30am, we will have the Stations of the Cross at St Peter's and on Fridays at 9.30am at St Bride's. The Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb are a popular devotion 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. This year we will be using the texts from SCIAF, written by Canon Michael Hutson, from the Isle of Benbecula.

■ West Kilbride Village Larder Collection

The SSVP will have a collection box at the back of the Church from Sunday 2nd March until the 30th March. Favourite items are: Tins of Meat, Jars of Coffee (small), Tea Bags. Other items welcome. *Thank you!*

■ Sacrament of Confirmation

There will be a Meeting of the parents of our Confirmation Children for this year on Wednesday, 12th March at 6pm in St Peter's Centre. The children will be confirmed by Bishop Francis on Sunday, 16th March at 10.30am. Please keep the children and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

■ Big "Thank you for the Parish Fun Night

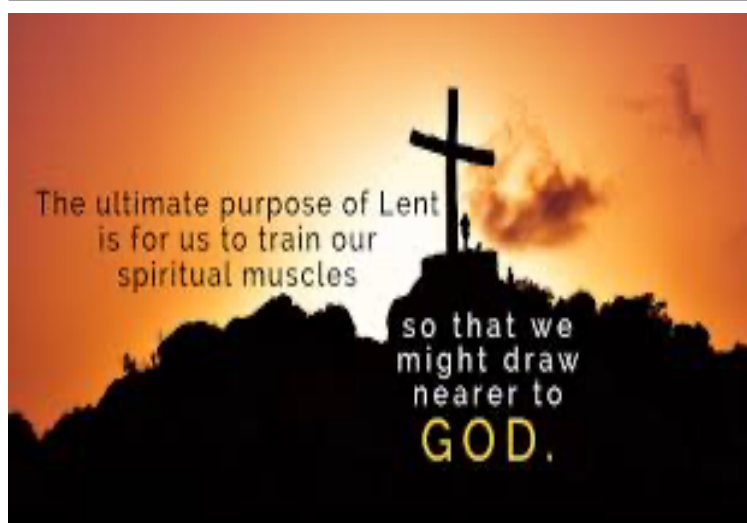
Sincere thanks for raising £1070 to all who supported the Fun Night in the Parish Centre last Saturday, it was enjoyed by all, a special "Thank You" must go to George McGrattan for all the preparation and work he put into ensuring it was a huge success. The money raised will help with the much needed repairs to the Church. *[Margaret Munn]*

■ Funeral Service for Tony Smith

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Tony Smith, who died on 28th February, 2025, aged 81 years. His Funeral Service will be on Tuesday, 11th March at 12 noon, at the Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium. Many he rest in peace and rise in glory!

■ Important Message from Bishop Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, you may have seen news in the past week of a civil action taken by a survivor of abuse against the Diocese. Firstly, it is essential that the survivor's anonymity is preserved, so I can only say so much. I have made the following statement: "No words of mine can erase the suffering of the survivor in this case. But I hope and pray that they will be able to find some healing following the resolution of this case. While the events of the past may be beyond our control, as a Church we can and must ensure that children and vulnerable groups are kept safe, and I renew our commitment to do so." Please keep everyone involved in your prayers. + *Bishop Francis*



Just for a Laugh...

Here are some things that the Parish Priest dreams of hearing in church.

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Forget the Diocesan Clergy Allowance, let's pay our priest so he can live like we do.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
5. Father, we'd like to send you for your annual Retreat in the Bahamas this year.
6. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our appeal for Standing Orders.

→ St Peter's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 2nd March: £517.06
Building Fund: £309.31

→ St Bride's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 2nd March: £193.30
Church Organ Collection: £1254.35

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