



# 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 ■ Exaltation of the Cross ■ 14th September 2025

### PARISH CHURCH ADDRESS

St Peter in Chains Church  
1 South Crescent Road  
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

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West Kilbride, KA23 9EX

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### PARISH WEBSITES

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

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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  
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*Ayr:* Fr. Benjamin Mkeri  
ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk  
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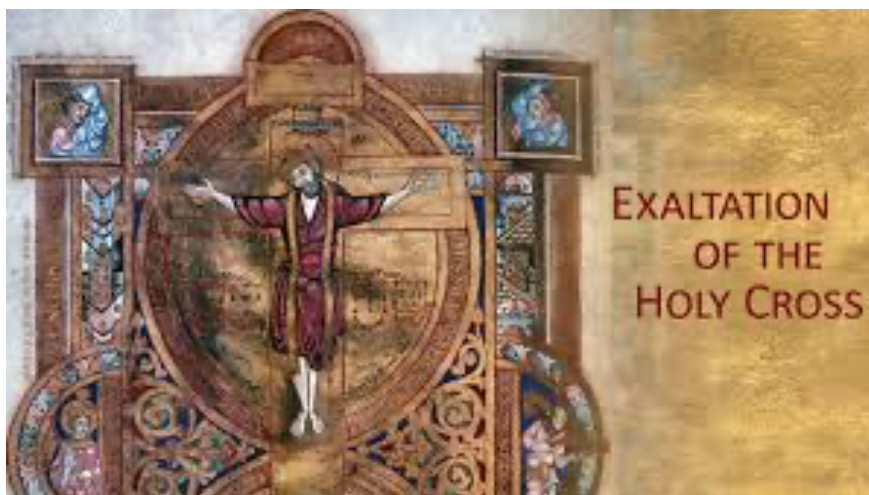
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and St. Bride's,  
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Galloway.  
Scottish Charity  
Registration  
SC010576*

## The Power of the Cross



Today, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, recognising the cross as the very instrument of our salvation. Once an instrument of torture, designed to degrade the worst of criminals in Roman times, it has become the life-giving tree and enduring symbol of our faith. This day also commemorates the historical event of the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine. According to tradition, first mentioned by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem in 348 AD, Saint Helena, inspired by divine guidance, travelled to Jerusalem in 326 AD to excavate the Holy Sepulchre and locate the Cross on which Jesus died. She unearthed three crosses. One tradition holds that the inscription "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum" (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews) remained attached to the True Cross. Another tradition suggests that the True Cross was identified when a dead youth, being carried past on a stretcher, was miraculously brought back to life after each of the three crosses was laid over him in turn—the third cross being the one that restored him to life. In honour of this sacred discovery, Constantine ordered the construction of two churches at the sites of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary. These churches were dedicated on September 13 and 14, 335 AD, and shortly thereafter, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross began to be celebrated on the latter date. The feast gradually spread from Jerusalem to other churches, becoming a universal celebration by the year 720 AD. The original structure, known for its grandeur, underwent various modifications over the centuries, particularly after it was damaged by Persian forces in 614 AD and later destroyed by the Fatimid Caliph Al-Hakim in 1009 AD.

## This Week is Vocations Awareness Week DAILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve us as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth. Amen.

# Liturgy of the Week - Twenty-Fourth Week of the Year

ST PETER IN CHAINS <i>Father Duncan McVicar Canon Matt McManus Sister Ursula, Sister Anna</i>	ST PETER'S MASS INTENTIONS <i>RD = Recently Died, A = Anniversary, T = Thanksgiving; SI = Special Intention</i>	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>
<b>SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> <b>Mass at 5.30pm</b>	<i>Jim Conlan (A) Ronnie Cairns (A)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	
<b>SUNDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>24th Sunday of the Year (C)</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10.30am</b>	<i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Peter's</i>	<b>Mass at 12.15pm</b> <i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Bride's</i>	Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 11.30am
<b>MONDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Mary Byars</i>			
<b>TUESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>Feast of St Ninian</b> <b>Morning Prayer at 9.40am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Joseph Mallon (A)</i>	Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 10am	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>24th Week of the Year</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b> <b>at 10a</b>	<i>Ann (Nancy) Sheehan (A) In Thanksgiving from the Donohoe Family</i>			Holy Mass at 10am
<b>THURSDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>24th Week of the Year</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Jim Igor (RD)</i>		Holy Mass at 10am	
<b>FRIDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>Memorial of St Januarius</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b> <b>Benediction at 10.30am</b> <b>Afterwards Refreshments in St Peter's Cafe</b>	<i>For the Intentions of the Collins and Upton Families</i>	Holy Mass at 10am		Holy Mass at 10am
<b>SATURDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER</b> <b>25th Sunday of the Year (C)</b> <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b>	<i>Marie Cairns (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	

## OUR LADY OF SORROWS ON MONDAY

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's role in the Church: She symbolises the Church; the disciple represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all his followers. Furthermore, as Jesus died, he handed over his Spirit. Mary and the Spirit cooperate in begetting new children of God—almost an echo of Luke's account of Jesus' conception. Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK  
Archie Blades, Jim McEwan, Peter Brawley,  
Joe Cahill, Sean Connell, Margaret Hanna.



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY  
Avril de Mink, Patsy Power

## THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

Joe Brady junior 1999, Joseph Brady 2006, Elizabeth Cawley 1997,  
Frances Giblin 2017, John Marshall 2000, Patrick Joseph O'Hare 1955,  
Thomas White 1995, Jim Conlan 2023, Mathew Folan 1994, Tom  
Howieson 2007, Walter Jones 1985, James Lawson 1992, Kathleen Mullin  
2012, Hugh Donohoe 2008, George Hall 2007, Alison Lawson née Giebler  
2015, Frances McLaughlin 2008, Mary McLellan 2004, Victor and  
Charlotte Mitchell, Joshua O'Neill 2017, Jim Vernon 2014, Cornelius Burke  
1988, Chris Glenn 2011, Eamon Lennon junior, Margaret Finnegan 2010,  
Patrick Joseph McKay 1989, Sister Pauline Cross and Passion 1999,  
Father Alastair Tosh 2007, Brian Loy 2014, Patricia Trainer 2002, Ronnie  
Cairns 2018, Greta Foran 2002, Kathleen Mullin 2012



### ▪Chair Dance with Louie at St Peter's

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

### ▪Donation to St Peter's Parish

Sincere thanks for an anonymous donation of £100. It is very much appreciated. God bless.

### ▪ Looking for Piety Stall Volunteers

**VERY IMPORTANT**

We are looking for volunteers, on a rota basis to help out at the Stall on Saturday evenings at the Vigil Mass. We are also looking for anyone who can help with the church linens, again on a rota basis. If you can help, please hand your name into the Parish Office. It would be very much appreciated. Thanks.

### ▪Knit-And-Natter at St Peter's

The Knit and Natter will start back again on Wednesday 3rd September. We meet in the Church Hall at St Peter's from 1 till 3 pm.

### ▪Collection for the Village Larder - St Bride's

The SSVP at St Bride's will be collecting for the Village Larder throughout September. They are happy to receive any groceries at this time.

### ▪Vocations Mass at St Mary's Largs

**VERY IMPORTANT**

The second of our special Masses for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life will take place on Tuesday, 16th September at 7pm, at St Mary's, Star of the Sea, in Largs. Please come along and pray for good and holy Vocations.

### ▪ Pilgrimage of Hope Walk - this Sunday

**VERY IMPORTANT**

The parishes of North Ayrshire (St Mary's Deanery) will be joined by people from across the Diocese for our event marking 2025 as a Jubilee under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". On Sunday 14th Sept - the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross - we will walk from St John's Church Stevenston to St Peter's Ardrossan on a 'Pilgrims of Hope' walk and then have a picnic for individuals, groups & families on the grass directly in front of St Peter's (near the HMS Dasher memorial). Those unable to walk the whole distance can choose to walk from St Mary's Saltcoats, or even just meet the 'Pilgrims' at St Peter's. After the picnic we will gather in St Peter's Church for a short service and celebration. Should the weather prove too poor to picnic outside we will 'picnic' in St Peter's Hall instead. Please keep the date and start making your plans for the day. Timings are 2:30pm at St John's, 3:15pm at St Mary's with the closing liturgy starting at 5pm in St Peter's Church. All very welcome, please bring your own picnic and come equipped for the weather on the day.

### ▪ Finance Committee Meeting - St Peter's

The next Meeting of our Parish Finance Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, 18th September at 7pm in the Parish House.

### ▪ Pope Leo to politicians: be true to Christ and have the courage to suffer for his name

This week, MSPs returned to the Scottish Parliament, fresh from their summer recess and ready for another round of debate, argument, scrutiny and lawmaking, including further consideration of a bill that could legalise assisted suicide in Scotland. The return of elected representatives to Holyrood helpfully coincides

with a recent audience Pope Leo held with a group of politicians, during which he urged all Catholic politicians to remain faithful to Christ and to have the courage to suffer for his name. To do this, the Pope suggested politicians should deepen their knowledge of the Church's social doctrine that Jesus taught and put this at the centre of the exercise of their duties, including the drafting of laws. Catholics involved in political life are invited to base their political activity on the fundamental principle of a correct understanding of the human person. This is the understanding that every human person is created in God's image, endowed with dignity and inalienable rights, and also duties. It is recognising that the human person is both the foundation and goal of society, and thus it is the principal task of every society to defend and foster human life and human dignity in its laws and institutions.. Parliamentarians must protect religious freedom, develop an economy that is at the service of the human person and of the common good, with respect for social justice, the principles of human solidarity and subsidiarity, and work for peace and the absolute rejection of violence and terrorism. Moreover, Catholic parliamentarians are called to be faithful to the Church's preferential option for the poor, which is the Church's particular concern for those most in need. The Pope acknowledged that being openly Christian in today's politics is "not easy", especially in the West where "Christ and his Church are marginalised, often ignored, sometimes ridiculed." He also acknowledged the pressures of "party instructions" and "ideological colonisations" to which politicians are subjected. The Pope concluded his address, saying that politicians needed to have the courage to sometimes say "no, I can't", when the truth is at stake. Here, says the Pope, only union with Christ crucified "will give you the courage to suffer for his name."

### ▪ Special Collection for Sick & Retired Priests

This Weekend, there will be a special collection for the sick and retired priests in our Diocese. We remember them all with great love and affection. We thank God for the gift of these priests and keep them in our prayers. *Please give as generously as you can!*



### JUST FOR A LAUGH



The Devil walks into church one day, sits right down in the front row seat. Scares the whole congregation. Everybody flees out all the exits, leaving only two people in the church besides the devil. The Parish Priest and a old man, a farmer. The devil says to the Priest, "now I know why your not afraid of me, because God protects all his priests", then the devil says to the old man the farmer: "But Sir I can't figure out why your not scared of me." So the old man, said to the devil, "Well why should I be scared of you? I've been married to your sister for 47 years!"

#### → St Peter's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 7th September: £538.56

Building Fund for 7th September: £275.79

#### → St Bride's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 7th September: £175.50

*Many Thanks for your support and generosity!*

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