



# 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 ■ Gaudete Sunday ■ 14th December 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 464063  
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk  
St Peter's Centre:  
Fiona Brown 07907 389703  
stpetersparishcentre1@gmail.com

### PARISH WEBSITES

[www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk](http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk)  
[www.stbrideschurch.co.uk](http://www.stbrideschurch.co.uk)

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### 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  
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## Following the Star - The Long Way Home



The Magi had to face a major difficulty. This one showed up after they thought they had reached their goal. They made their way to Bethlehem, found Jesus in his mother's arms, and joyfully worshipped him by offering their treasures — precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. At that point, deeply content, they surely thought that their quest was complete; their journey was a success. But God had a different idea. He had more for them to do, to experience, and to suffer. Because they had become subjects and friends of Christ, the new-born King, they had also made new enemies: Any enemy of Christ was now their enemy as well. And King Herod had made himself an enemy of Christ. He feared that a new-born King of the Jews would usurp his power and disrupt his plans, so instead of welcoming Jesus, Herod sought to destroy him. We know from other historical sources that this Herod was a bloody and unscrupulous tyrant. He was expecting the Magi to report back to him after finding Jesus. But the Magi were warned in a dream not to do so. In the end, the Magi obeyed God's warning and protected the new-born King, putting their own lives at risk. But to do so, St. Matthew tells us, they had to "depart for their country by another way." They had to take another way home, a longer way, an unfamiliar way, a riskier way: instead of their adventure coming to an end after their joyful encounter with Jesus, it was just beginning. And the same thing is true in our pilgrimage of faith. We find ourselves moved to continue a difficult pilgrimage, led to follow an unfamiliar and risky path instead of the easier one we already know, asked to put with the discomforts and injustices of a fallen world in spite of having discovered and encountered and worshipped the world's Redeemer. Whenever we find ourselves in that situation, we need to follow the example of the Magi, trusting in God's providence, obeying his voice, taking the risk of being faithful to our friendship with Christ, even if it means laying our lives on the line.



*St. Peter in Chains  
and St. Bride's,  
are Parishes in the  
RC Diocese of  
Galloway.  
Scottish Charity  
Registration  
SC010576*

# Liturgy of the Week - Third Week of Advent

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 DECEMBER</b> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> <b>Mass at 5.30pm</b>	<i>Margaret Gribben (A) K. Moran (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	
<b>SUNDAY, 14TH DECEMBER</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent (A)</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 DECEMBER</b> <b>3rd Week of Advent</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Stephen McEwan (A) Hamish Fraser (SI) Geraldyn McGarvey (S)</i>		Prayer of Reception for Joe McAuliffe At 5.30pm	
<b>TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER</b> <b>3rd Week of Advent</b> <b>Morning Prayer at 9.40am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Anne Kennedy (A) Alex Templeton (A)</i>	Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	Funeral Mass for Joe McAuliffe at 10am	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER</b> <b>Advent FERIA by Date</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Kilbane and Carroll Families (A) Brian and Lorna Nicolson (SI)</i>			Holy Mass at 10am
<b>THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER</b> <b>Advent FERIA by Date</b> <b>Rosary at 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am</b>	<i>Kate and Winston Atkins (SI) Martin Vernon (A) Megan and Dillon Sheraton (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 10am	
<b>FRIDAY, 19TH DECEMBER</b> <b>Advent FERIA by Date</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>Edmund Lang (SI) Barrett Family (A) Brian Philips (RD)</i>	Holy Mass at 10am		Holy Mass with St John's School at 10am
<b>SATURDAY, 20TH DECEMBER</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)</b> <b>Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</b>	<i>Craig Sutherland (RD)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	

## THE O ANTIPHONS FROM 17th-23rd DECEMBER

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They use the biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Jim McEwan, Peter  
Brawley, Sean Connell,  
Margaret Hanna,  
Monica Taylor, Father  
John Sweeney,  
Augustine Coe.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE  
DIED RECENTLY**  
Father Johnny Kinstler.

### THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

Ina McKay 1998, John Taylor 2002, Annie Thompson 2016, Dr Matt Carty 2008, Monsignor Peter Murphy 1999, Margaret Gribben 2024, Mary Magee 1997, Robert McKay 1993, Denis McLaughlin 2008, Harry McNamara 2000, Sally Quigg née Gilmour 1984, Anne Warden née McNamara 2012, Chris Casey 2006, Susan Jones 1996, James Kernahan 1998, Frances Kilbane 1978, Roseanne Kirkwood 1991, Esther Madden 1981, Jimmy Robertson 2017, Mark Shanks 2008, Mary Catherine Wishart 2002, Margaret Bennie, Annie Boyle, Kitty Boyle 2007, John Campbell 1997, John Carolan 2017, John Dolan 2007, Sheila Douglas 2014, Annie Farmer 1984, Pat Haggarty 2015, Rose Leonard, William Martin 1974, Jean McCluskey 2015, Robert Montgomery 2020, George Poole 1991, Maureen Adamson 2014, Alan Byers 2022, Bobby Edwards 2014, Manus Gallagher junior 2016, Alice Grogan 2003, Thomas Peter McCann 2023, Father Peter Sweeney 2001, May Wilson 2006, Theresa McGuire 1989, Ann Ward 2022.



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

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

**VERY IMPORTANT**

### ■ Changes to the Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Dougan has announced that the normal practice for the celebration of Confirmation will no longer be before the reception of First Holy Communion (P4). It will be celebrated at a later age. He has yet to decide what that age will be and will enter a process of consultation and discernment over the coming months. He will also publish a fuller explanation of his decision in the coming weeks.

### ■ St Bride 100 Club Winner

The winner of the Monthly Draw for December is No. 48 Maureen Watson. *Congratulations!*

### ■ Christmas Collection for the Village Larder

The SSVP Christmas Collection for the Village Larder at St Bride's will run from 1st December to 21st December. There will be a suggestion list at the back of the Church. Thank you for all your support!

### ■ Date for your Diary - St Peter's

We will be holding a Bingo Night on 28th February 2026 to raise funds to send children to Lourdes. Further information will be published in due course. Watch this space!

### ■ Date for your Diaries - St Bride's

Please save the date the Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday, 17th December at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome - please spread the word.

### ■ H.C.P.T. Lourdes Group 376

Esther Coulter is taking part in the New Years Day dip at 12 noon, across from the church. She will be collecting at the back of the church for the event this weekend and at the Christmas Masses. Thanks to everyone who helped the group in any way over the past year by donating money or goods or attending fundraising events. It is very much appreciated.

### ■ Christmas Nativity at St Peter's

Come and join the children of St Peter's Primary, who have prepared for us a Christmas Nativity again this year, on Tuesday, 16th December at 6pm in St Peter's Church.

**VERY IMPORTANT**

### ■ Knit-And-Natter at St Peter's

The Knit and Natter get together on Wednesdays. We meet in the Church Hall at St Peter's from 1 till 3pm. Everyone is very welcome.

### ■ St Peter's Christmas Raffle

We are holding a Christmas raffle to help raise funds for our ongoing repairs to our Church with great prizes on offer. Raffle tickets go on sale this weekend with the draw being made after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday 21 December 2025.

### ■ Christmas Programme for St Peter's and St Bride's

Please make sure you get the Card with all the details for the Masses and Services at St Peter's and St Bride's for the Festive Season. You are very welcome to take some extra ones along for family members, neighbours and friends. *Christmas is a time to come home!*

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



**Monday, 15th December at 7pm**  
**Peter in Chains, Ardrossan**



**Tuesday, 16th December 2pm**  
**St Mary's, Saltcoats**

**Thursday, 18th December at 7pm**



Every Christmas Eve, the monks of the Dormitio Abbey in Jerusalem walk to Bethlehem (6 miles) carrying thousands upon thousands of our names to the place of the Birth of the Saviour. Just as the shepherds did it! They offer to collect the names of the people who are "going to Bethlehem": You can send the monks your names, and they write them on a big and long scroll. "When we write your names on a long scroll in the Holy Night, we take with your names also yourselves with us to Bethlehem: in our walking and praying, and in our joy for the newborn child in the crib and in our hope for salvation and peace." Go directly to the participation form online on [www.dormitio.net](http://www.dormitio.net) or send them via Email to [weihnachtsaktion@dormitio.net](mailto:weihnachtsaktion@dormitio.net)



## JUST FOR A LAUGH



Serious message: With Christmas upon us I would like to share a personal experience about drinking and driving. Don't do it! To be honest I have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time on the way home after a "social session" out with friends. Well two days ago I was out for an evening with friends and had several beers followed by some excellent red wine. Feeling jolly I still had the sense to know that I may be slightly over the limit. That's when I did something that I've never done before - I took a taxi home. Sure enough on the way home there was a police roadside check but since it was a taxi they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident. This was a real surprise, as I had never driven a taxi before, I don't know where I got it from, and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it, if you hear someone has lost a taxi can you let me know.

### → St Peter's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 7th December: £683.62  
Building Fund for 7th December: £282.66



### → St Bride's Parish Stewardship ←

Offertory for 7th December: £223.70



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**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**  
Monica Taylor would like to thank Fr Duncan and the family of St Peter's in Chains for all your support and prayers recently. I want to wish my family, friends and the parish community a Blessed Christmas and all the graces of the season for 2026.

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