



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 ■ 4th Sunday of Advent ■ 21st December 2025

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESS

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Ardrossan, KA22 8DU

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PARISH WEBSITES

www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk
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

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crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk
01563 521832 ext:2
Ayr: Fr. Benjamin Mkeri
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Adoring the Child of Bethlehem



In our pilgrimage with the mysterious Magi from the East, we have arrived at the moment which St Matthew describes in his Gospel with these words: "Going into the house (over which the star had halted), they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him" (Mt 2: 11). Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal. It was in order to seek this King that they had set off on their journey: deep within themselves they felt prompted to go in search of the true justice that can only come from God, and they wanted to serve this King, to fall prostrate at his feet and so play their part in the renewal of the world. They were among those "who hunger and thirst for justice" (Mt 5: 6). This hunger and thirst had spurred them on in their pilgrimage — they had become pilgrims in search of the justice that they expected from God, intending to devote themselves to its service. The Magi from the East are just the first in a long procession of men and women who have constantly tried to gaze upon God's star in their lives, going in search of the God who has drawn close to us and shows us the way. One need only think of such figures as St. Benedict, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Charles Borromeo, the founders of 19-century religious orders who inspired and guided the social movement, or the saints of our own day — Maximilian Kolbe, Edith Stein, Mother Teresa, Padre Pio. In contemplating these figures we learn what it means "to adore" and what it means to live according to the measure of the Child of Bethlehem. He is present now as he was then in Bethlehem.



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

Liturgy of the Week - Fourth Week of Advent & Christmas

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>
SATURDAY, 20TH DECEMBER Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>Craig Sutherland (RD) Cecilia Templeton & Family (SI) McWhinnie Family (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	
SUNDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 4th Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass at 10.30am	<i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Peter's</i>	Mass at 12.15pm <i>For all the deceased members of our Parish of St Bride's</i>	Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 11.30am
MONDAY, 22ND DECEMBER Advent Feria by Date Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Sarah & Joseph Sammons (A) Mary Sammons (A) Howie Family (SI)</i>			
TUESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER Advent Feria by Date Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Bernadette Black (RD) Laurence & Theresa Tumilty (A) Members of the McEvoy Family (SI)</i>	Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 10am	
WEDNESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 5pm Mass of the Holy Night at 8pm	<i>For the Intentions of our Parishioners</i>	Mass of the Holy Night at 7pm	Vigil Mass at 4.30pm	Vigil Mass at 6pm
THURSDAY, 25TH DECEMBER Christmas Day Holy Mass at 11.00am	<i>For the Intentions of our Parishioners</i>	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at 9am	Christmas Mass at 11am	Christmas Mass at 9.30pm
FRIDAY, 26TH DECEMBER Feast of St Stephen Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am Benediction at 10.30am	<i>Jessie Brown (A) Gough Family (SI) McAulay Family (SI)</i>	Holy Mass at 10am		
SATURDAY, 27TH DECEMBER Holy Family of Nazareth (A) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>George Scott Snr (A) George Scott Jnr (A) S. Reilly (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN ON BOXING DAY

Acts of the Apostles says that Saint Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Saint Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Jane Thornton

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

William Armstrong 2021, Gwen Body 1966, Janet Chapman 2004, Charles Fisher 2014, Jane Gallagher 2011, Sister Hilda CP 2000, Edward Keogh 2007, John McCourt 2010, Josephine McGeachy 2003, Anne-Marie McMail 2018, George Scott 2022, Ellen Barrett 1984, Ted Boyle 1975, Tom Braniff 2003, Gerry Coogans 2015, Doris Coulter 2012, Anne Kennedy 2022, Jenny McAree 2003, Andrew McAteer 1983, Anne McGowan 2019, Davie McIlroy 2020, David Mills 2014, Jean Orr 2008, Peggy Hamilton, Patrick McLaughlin 1998, Father George Thompson 2016, Theresa Tumilty 2016, Mereno Berti 2003, Jack Collins, Sister Anne Delahunt 2011, Peggy McLaughlan 2006, Samuel McMail 2016, Mary McSpurren 2020, Bessie Delahunt 2006, Tom McGreevy 2022, Tom McKay, Bessie O'Rourke 2005, George Scott 1973, Jessie Brown 1975, Tom Finn 1993, James Friel 2022, Anne-Marie Jenkins 2005, Sister Mary McCann, Isobel O'Hare Rae 2004, Patrick Quinn 1969, Margaret Shanks 1966, Margaret Clarkson 2003, Molly Cosgrove 1994, Jim Lindsay 2013, Catherine McEvoy 2009, Arthur Robertson.

■ Bishop Francis' Christmas Message 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as we celebrate the great Feast of Christmas and also to the end of our Jubilee Year, the word that unites both things is Hope, a hope that is not an aspiration, but a sure and certain thing rooted in the presence and love of God. Pope Leo spoke of this in an Advent angelus address: "Sisters and brothers, how much the world needs this hope! Nothing is impossible to God. Let us prepare ourselves for his Kingdom, let us welcome it. The little child, Jesus of Nazareth, will lead us! He who placed himself in our hands, from the night of his birth to the dark hour of his death on the cross, shines upon our history as the rising Sun. A new day has begun: let us arise and walk in his light!" The message the angels give the shepherds is the same message they bring to us: Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. As I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, let our prayer be that the Light of Christ will dispel the darkness of hurt and despair in those who are struggling, and that the hope that only Christ can bring will be felt in the hearts of all people.



Bishop of Galloway



■ Huge "Thank You" from Father Duncan

"Can I give a heartfelt "thank you" to all the Parishioners from St Bride's and St Peters, who made my 40th Anniversary to the Priesthood really special. To be honest, I was frankly overwhelmed by your support and generosity and all the good wishes. The cards and gifts were beautiful and made the day full of joy and gratitude. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers - it is most appreciated and will not be forgotten. I will remember you all at the celebration of Mass."

■ Dates for your Diary - St Peter's

On Sunday 1st February 2026, we will be holding "An afternoon of Scottish Entertainment with a taste of Burns" in the Parish Centre commencing at 2:00pm. Tickets will be available in early in 2026. We will also 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!*

VERY IMPORTANT!

■ 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.

VERY IMPORTANT!

■ Jane Thornton - Rest in Peace

Jane Thornton formally known as Diana, passed away on Sunday 14th December at Morar Care Home, Bridge of Weir. She had lived in Fairlie for many years and when she was fitter, drove in to St Bride's for Mass on Sundays where she assisted with counting the collection and also served as a reader. A cremation service has been arranged for Jane at the Clyde Coast Crematorium on January 9th at 11am and a reception will follow at the Seamill Hydro. Her friend, Dr. Barbara Bond would be grateful for an indication of numbers of friends and fellow parishioners who wish to attend the service. Names can be given to Janette Ferguson or Kate Kelley following the end of Mass. Finally, those attending are asked to wear bright clothes to celebrate her long and well-lived life.

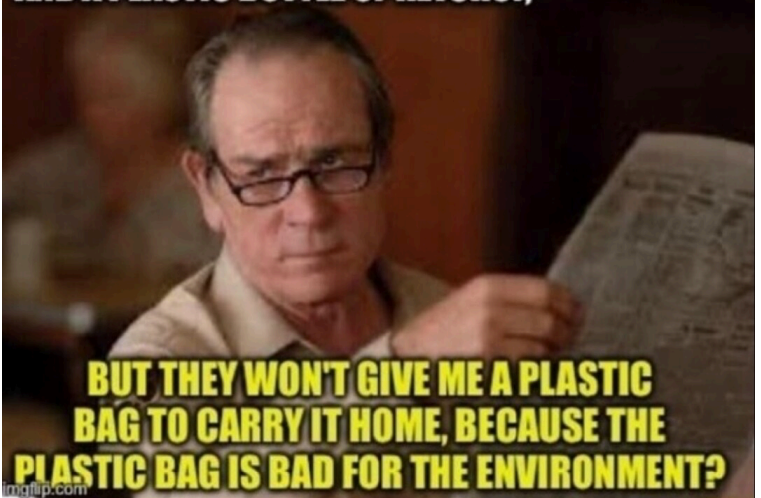
■ Congratulations to December Winners - St Peter's

4 Winners each receive £25 - No.112 Sheila Coulter No.236 Robert Hastings No.243 Anne Henry No.53 Rachel Wilson. The last Bonus Draw which was won by No.215 Jack Madine. Well done. We are happy to present our Parish Maintenance Fund with £1000. This closes our 50/50 Club for the year ending 2025. Sincere thanks to each and every member for their continued support of the 50/50 Club since 1993 and up to 2025. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year 2026.

SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.

I GO TO THE GROCERY STORE AND BUY:

**A POUND OF SLICED
HAM IN A PLASTIC BAG,
A LOAF OF BREAD IN A PLASTIC BAG,
A GALLON OF MILK IN A PLASTIC JUG,
A PACK OF NAPKINS
IN PLASTIC WRAP,
A STORE-MADE SALAD IN A PLASTIC TUB,
A PLASTIC BOTTLE OF MUSTARD,
AND A PLASTIC BOTTLE OF KETCHUP,**



→ St Peter's Parish Stewardship ←
Offertory for 14th December: £686.24
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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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