



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 ■ Epiphany ■ 4th January 2026

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www.saintpeterinchains.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.

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A Beautiful Philosophy of Life



The Magi are pagan astronomers who risked much to bring gifts to the Lord. There is much we can learn from their lives. **First**, we can consider the way of life of these men from the east. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read words from the lips of the Magi themselves, "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Matthew 2:2) We can simplify the statement to read: "We saw and we came." In this, we have a beautiful philosophy of life. These Magi are people who received a sign from heaven and heeded its call. So few men and women today are apt to do this. **Second**, the Magi were willing to embark on a life journey that was very unclear. The time it would take, the destination of the journey, the ups and downs and perils of travel, especially through the night, should have been enough to persuade even a staunch-hearted person to disregard the sign, thinking to themselves that no event should be worth so much trouble. And yet despite the uncertainty, they said yes to God. **A final lesson** can be wrought from the Magi. They are men who worship. The greatest act a human person can do this side of heaven is to bend the knee in love and honour to God. Worship, or communion with God, is the very why of our existence. To not worship is in a sense to not exist. As Christians, we have a call to be like our Master, who at Christmas is humble and poor and childlike. All of these qualities are found in the Magi, and thus become for us today guides to follow and imitate as we journey through the night of life on earth.



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

Liturgy of the Week - Christmas Time

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, 3RD JANUARY '26 Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>Larry McGuire (RD) June Doherty (A)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	
SUNDAY, 4TH JANUARY Epiphany of the Lord (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, 5TH JANUARY Christmas Time Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Catherine Kean (A)</i>			
TUESDAY, 6TH JANUARY Christmas Time Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Delma and Patsy (SI) Pearl and Sean (SI)</i>	Morning Prayer at 9.40am Holy Mass at 10am	Holy Mass at 10am	
WEDNESDAY, 7TH JANUARY Christmas Time Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Mary, Michael and Seamus Snr. Reilly (A)</i>			Holy Mass at 10am
THURSDAY, 8TH JANUARY Christmas Time Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am	<i>Geraldine Gartland, James Crichton (A)</i>		Holy Mass at 10am	
FRIDAY, 9TH JANUARY Christmas Time Rosary at 9.30am Holy Mass at 10am Benediction at 10.30am	<i>Gwen and Bert Body (A) James Chaman (A) Owen Bogue (A)</i>	Holy Mass at 10am		Holy Mass at 10am
SATURDAY, 10TH JANUARY The Baptism of the Lord (A) Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	<i>Billy and Celia (SI)</i>		Holy Mass at 4.30pm	

"I wish you a year filled with serenity and happiness: may you always be certain of God's love for us. As he did two thousand years ago, Christ comes today with his saving Gospel to guide the uncertain and faltering steps of peoples and nations, leading them towards a future of true hope. I ask him to bless this moment of festivity and good wishes, that it may be a year filled with joy and peace. Let us enter the Year 2026 with our eyes fixed on the mystery of the Incarnation. Christ, yesterday, today and for ever. To him belong time and the ages. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen! Happy New Year to all. Praised be Jesus Christ!"



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Jim McEwan, Peter
Brawley, Margaret
Hanna, Monica Taylor,
Father John Sweeney.

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Jane Thornton

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

Gerry Brown 2010, Betty Craig 2025, Tom McAvennie 2011, Charles Retzbach 2000, Kathleen Tracy 2025, Karen Wardrope 2025, Patrick Braniff 1991, Gary Cahill 2012, Margaret Griffin 1997, Isabella Keenan 1939, James Monan 1969, Celia Ralston 2007, Leda Biagioni 2007, James Burns 1955, Patrick Cawley 2001, Canon Peter Fitzpatrick 1952, Helen McCluskey 2004, John McMillan 2022, Cornelius Welsh 2021, John Cahill 1989, Danny Higgins 2009, Frank Kelly 2013, Patricia Brennan 2005, Robert Colvin 1998, Jimmy Crichton 2019, Gerard Fairhurst 2003, Catherine Finnegan 2025, Bernard McLaughlan 1984, Derek Tomelty 2003, Joseph Gibbons 1973, Hugh Henry 2008, Jean Lamont 2016, Jimmy McAloon 2020, Jennifer McGregor 2014, George Nicol 1983, Joan McCallum 2001, William McLaughlin 2018, Rosina McPeake, Terry Murphy 1989, Annie Taylor 2021.

■ **Refreshments TODAY after Mass - St Peter's**

This Sunday, the SVDP will be serving tea, coffee, and light refreshments in the Parish Centre after the 10:30am Mass. Please come along and support.

■ **Knit and Natter and Chair Dancing**

The Knit & Natter and Chair Dance with Louie Groups have now closed for the festive season and will re-open again on 7th January (Knit & Natter) and 8th January (Chair Dance with Louie) Thanks to everyone who came and supported both Groups in 2025. Your support and generosity allowed us to donate £1,000 towards the Church Restoration fund.

■ **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!*

■ **Pilgrim of Hope Play**

If you missed the play "Pilgrim of Hope" in St Peter's Church Hall here's another chance to see it for NOTHING, and in the comfort of your own home. Go to YouTube and search for "AGAP Theatre Presents Pilgrim of Hope". Actor Stephen Callahan at his very best. Enjoy. After viewing, let us know your thoughts.

VERY IMPORTANT

■ **Blessing of our Homes for the New Year**

In various parts of the world, the Epiphany is marked with the time-honoured tradition of "chalking the doors." Chalk will be blessed today at Mass. we take the chalk home with the blessing prayer and write above the entrance of your home, or in some appropriate place: 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus in the place where he was born. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which translates as "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represents the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "26" at the end mark the year. This inscription is a request for Christ to stay with those who dwell or work in our homes.

■ **Epiphanies Big and Small**

"Manifestation" or "revealing" is the meaning of the Greek word "epiphany." The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem on Christmas night was unnoticed by the world. Yet God the Father did not want the arrival of Jesus to be hidden. Rather, it was necessary that the arrival of the Messiah be "un-hidden", and that his divinity be revealed. These moments of "un-hiding" who Jesus truly was are moments of "epiphany." Today we recall the arrival of the Magi, who came to worship the newborn King. This is the moment of the Epiphany. Yet this glorious moment of Jesus was not the only epiphany. The whole life of Jesus reveals who God is, and thus, alongside the big epiphanies, there are also the little, daily epiphanies of Jesus. And here is an important aspect of Christian living: it is these little epiphanies that Christians are called to recognise in their own lives. Every new Christian throughout history begins a new life at baptism. In this new life, a person is freed from the bondage of sin and is ushered into a new

way of life that points toward heaven. A slow process of transformation is now underway, and each day the person is becoming more Christ-like. As the days of the earthly exile pass by, a slow revelation is emerging as the individual Christian is shaped more and more into the person of Jesus Christ. Thus, a Christian life should be a slow epiphany, a manifesting to the world of another "Christ." As the work of grace begins to accomplish its task, Christian life on earth becomes more and more like the life of heaven. Heaven and earth do touch. There, in the circle of family life, as in the hidden years of Nazareth for Mary and Joseph, God's presence makes itself clear in a myriad of little epiphanies. What are some of the little epiphanies of Christian living? For a Christian, a shared family meal, with the joys and interactions that come from simply being together as family, becomes a foretaste of what heaven will be. Every time spouses love each other, there is a foretaste of something even greater yet to come: the wedding feast of heaven. Losing oneself in awe before a sunrise or sunset is another moment in which our soul recognises God's grandeur. A quiet moment in our Parish Church alongside a flickering candle where we bow our heads to acknowledge God's presence. In these little epiphanies, we are recognising that God is with us. Indeed, the epiphanies of God are a daily gift to those who live faithful Christian lives.



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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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