



# ST. PETER IN CHAINS • ARDROSSAN

'Family of Parishes'

# ST. BRIDE'S • WEST KILBRIDE

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



Third Sunday of Advent, Year C [Gaudate Sunday]

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## PARISH CHURCH ADDRESSES

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

St. Bride's Church  
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## WEBSITES

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

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

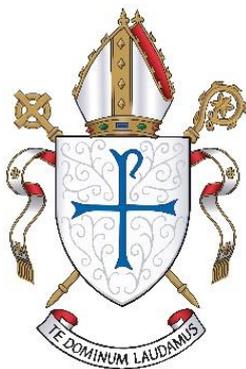
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07585 656 229 (West Kilbride)

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**St. Peter in Chains:** Saturday  
between 4.45pm-5.15pm.

**St. Bride's:** Friday  
between 11am-12noon  
And by request.

**St. Peter in Chains,  
and St. Bride's,  
are Parishes  
in the RC Diocese  
of Galloway.  
Scottish Charity  
Registration Number:  
SC 010576**



## Mustard Seeds

### ✠ The Man Who Hated Christmas

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching football, and rugby. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting shop and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me. Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a football game, another year a donation to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF THE  
BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU OR PASS  
IT ON TO SOMEONE ELSE. THANKS!



# Third Sunday of Advent [C] 2021

December 2021	<b>St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan</b> <a href="http://www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk">www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.stbrideschurch.co.uk">www.stbrideschurch.co.uk</a> <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	<i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill</i> <i>(Retired)</i>	<a href="http://www.stevenstonstjohns.com">www.stevenstonstjohns.com</a> <a href="http://www.rcsaltcoats.com">www.rcsaltcoats.com</a> <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by Fr. Benjamin Mkeri</i> <i>and Canon Matt McMamus (Retired)</i>	
	<b>Please note all Masses in St. Peter's are Live Streamed</b>	<b>St Bride's</b>	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (C)</b> Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Caleb Forrest (A), Jean White (RD)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)
<b>Sunday</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (C)</b> Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our parishes</i>	Mass at 12.15pm	Mass at 11.30 (L)	Mass at 10am (L)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Memorial of St. Lucy</b> Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Noel Hughes (RD), Emma Hackett (A)</i>			
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Memorial of St. John of the Cross</b> Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Andy Mitchell (A), Cathie &amp; Eddie McCabe (A)</i>	Adoration 9.30 Mass at 10am		Mass at 10am (L)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent</b> Mass at 10am <i>Offered for The Findlay Family (SI), Keith Urquart (RD)</i>	Mass at 10am	Funeral Mass at 10am <b>Brian Molloy</b>	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent</b> Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Karen Lee (RD), Bridgette Jannetts (RD)</i>		Vigil Reception at 6pm <b>Noel Hughes</b>	Mass at 10am (L)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Advent Feria by Date</b> Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Mary Reilly (SI), Frances Kilbane &amp; Family (A)</i> <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 10.30 – 11am</b>	Adoration 11.30 Mass at 12 noon	Funeral Mass at 10am (L) <b>Noel Hughes</b>	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (C)</b> Vigil Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for The Ferguson Family (SI), Betty Craig (SI)</i>			Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L)

## SYNOD TOPIC FIVE - SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

Every baptised person is called to use their natural and supernatural gifts and talents to participate in the life and missionary service of the Church. *Do we understand what this means? What stops us from giving our gifts and talents to the Church? How does the Church community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment, etc.)?* Fr. Stephen Latham has created a short video reflection, which is available on the diocesan webpage [gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news](http://gallowaydiocese.org.uk/synod-news), and at <https://youtu.be/7NNDFWEhO7s> to help you consider these questions. The diocesan team will be pleased to receive all feedback on these questions at [synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:synod@gallowaydiocese.org.uk). These questions will also be addressed during parish synod encounters in the coming weeks.

Next week: Synod topic six - Dialogue in Church and Society

## Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present  
in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things  
and I passionately desire  
to receive you into my soul  
Since I cannot now  
receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you  
now and forever. Amen.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

*Jim Boyle, Harry Sammons, John Quinn, Peter McEvoy (Blackpool).*

### ✚ Those who have died recently:

*Sarah McLaughlin, Gordon Burns, Jean White, Noel Hughes, Bishop John Cunningham, Karen Lee, Bridgette Jannetts, Keith Urquart.*

### ✚ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Bruna Conn 2009, Mary Hall 1999, John Ireland 2017, Maria Monaghan 1998, Margaret Newall 1994, Margaret Spencer 1992, Alexander Stewart 1982, James Taylor 2002, Desmond Walsh 2007, John Welsh 2017, Mary Branchfield 2003, Kenny Brown 2015, Mary Dunn 2002, Sam Ferguson 2008, Catherine Graham 2015, George Kelly 2011, Norman Lamont 2009, James McIntosh 1998, Catherine McMahan 2005, Ina McKay 1998, John Taylor 2002, Annie Thompson 2016, Dr Matt Carty 2008, Monsignor Peter Murphy 1999, 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.*

## *St. Bride's & Peter's Notices*

- ▶ **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** We welcome to the Family of the Church Aurelia Kayes who will be baptised this Sunday. Congratulations to her parents and Godparents.
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AT ST BRIDE'S** St Bride's will be hosting a Christmas Carol Concert on Thursday, 16th December at 7pm with mince pies, mulled wine and refreshments. Pre-booking necessary.
- ▶ **BIG "THANK YOU" TO JIM DONNELLY FOR OVER 70 YEARS OF SERVICE** St Peter's would like to thank Jim Donnelly for over seventy years of dedicated service to the Church's ministry and liturgy. Jim has served at the altar and sung at Mass and at also at Funerals and other celebrations, being a tremendous support to the Parish and to so many families over the years. We would like to thank him in a special way for all he has given and wish him good health in the future.
- ▶ **BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS** We would like to wish Mary Reilly every joy and blessing on her 90th Birthday on Friday, 17th December. We wish Mary God's special blessing on her birthday and a happy celebration with family and friends.
- ▶ **IN AND AROUND THE CHURCHES** Our Nativity scene this year is particularly beautiful and many have already commented on how special it looks. I'm very grateful to Bill and Paul Usher who pieced everything together and fitted the spotlights, and made the new wooden base, etc. Clyde Studios in Saltcoats helped us with the background of Arran that draws the miracle of Christmas into our own homes and neighbourhoods. Evelyn and Anne have worked very hard to decorate the Church this Advent with the flowers and the beautiful Advent Wreath. A sincere thanks to all our helpers and all who have given their time and talents to get St Peter's ready for Christmas!
- ▶ **LEPRA** is an international charity working to beat Leprosy and will be making an appeal this weekend (11th/12th December) at all Masses. All monies from the second collection will go towards this important Charity.
- ▶ **SINGING AND MUSIC AT ST PETER'S** The Choir has been meeting regularly in Church with David. If you would like to join in and get involved either by singing or with an instrument, please come along: Tuesday at 7pm.

### **Advent Reconciliation Services**

There hasn't been many opportunities for Confession in the last 18 months, so this is our chance to prepare well for Christmas by confessing our sins. There will be three Advent Services offered in the Three Towns: Monday, 13th December at 7pm at St Peter's; Tuesday, 14th December at 2pm at St Mary's Saltcoats and Tuesday, 14th December at 7pm at St John's Stevenston. Come along to the "place of victory".

### **Nicene Creed**

*(for Advent and Christmastide)*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
Through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
**All bow:** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
He suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

### **ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Collection 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021: £594.26  
Second Collection (Building Fund): £226.74

### **ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory Collection 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021: £90.00  
*Many Thanks for your support and generosity!*

### **What Does Christmas Really Mean?**

First of all, don't worry about Santa Claus. He is just a modern description of St. Nicholas and makes specific the general ideal of generosity and charity. This holy season is not just about humanitarian efforts. It is firstly about the worship of God entering our world in an amazing way. It is a great shame that most adaptations of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol remove the part about Ebenezer Scrooge going to church on Christmas morning, as if conversion and charity did not have their beginning and end in God. The most profound meaning of Christmas is that the one who created the cosmos, the all-powerful Lord of the universe, demonstrates his love for humanity by becoming human. This can be stated with the distinction that the Nativity is not the beginning of the Incarnation (that is marked by the Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25), but the continuation of the Incarnation. Despite having been celebrated for two millennia, the Annunciation and Nativity have lost none of their ability to inspire awe at the mysterious yet palpable love of God for each one of us. Love is on the way!

### **Just for a Laugh...**

The president of the Festive Foods Company was included in a papal audience, and he took the opportunity of making a business proposition to the Pope; that if he could arrange for the Lord's Prayer to be changed from "Give us this day our daily bread" to "Give us this day our daily turkey" throughout the whole of Advent and Christmas. In exchange the Festive Foods Company would give £20 million to Catholic charities. The Pope declined his offer. A few weeks later the man called the Pope and upped the offer to £50 million; but once again it was turned down. A few weeks before the beginning of Advent the man came back to the Pope with an astonishing offer of £100 million. The Pope considered all the good works that could be done with such a large amount of money and decided to go ahead. The next day he called a special meeting of the Cardinals to let them know about the situation. "Well" said the Pope. "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we are to receive £100 million. The bad news is that we have lost the Hovis Bread account."

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