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Fifth Sunday of Lent [C]

3rd April 2022

PARISH CHURCH ADDRESSES

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

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WEBSITES

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

07722 246 169 (*Ardrossan*)
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

✠ Public Act of Faith

Several weeks ago, I had lunch with one of my new clients, a senior human resources executive of a London-based company. Our working partnership had been very business-focused since the beginning, and I wanted to forge a stronger personal connection, which I enjoy with most of my other clients. We made small talk about a number of subjects until our food arrived. I said I was going to say a blessing over our meal and that she was welcome to join me. As I made the Sign of the Cross and started to pray, I noticed that she also made the Sign of the Cross. I smiled to myself and said a quiet prayer of thanks for the opportunity I had been given. Between bites of salad, I asked her which parish she attended. She gave me a funny look before responding with the name, then added, "That's a long story." I told her I would love to hear about it, and for the next half hour, we talked about her faith journey, how much she loved her parish, her devotion to the Blessed Mother and her prayer life. The awkward business-focused exchange at the beginning of the meal had been replaced by a warm conversation about our shared Catholic faith. I certainly achieved my goal of a stronger personal connection! As we were preparing to leave, she shared that she never spoke of her faith in business settings and really enjoyed our discussion. We speculated on why Catholics don't discuss faith as openly as perhaps our Protestant brethren do. I suggested it may be fear of persecution or lack of confidence in defending the teachings of the Church. She suggested that it all came down to simple courage. I asked her to explain, and her response was, "When you made the Sign of the Cross in a crowded restaurant and said the blessing for all to hear, I realised that I never do that. My fear of saying a simple blessing is a clear reminder to me that I don't have the courage to share my faith outside of my comfort zone. I am grateful that you don't have that issue and also for this wonderful conversation." Driving back to my office, I reflected on countless other business meals over the last few years that had turned into faith discussions, perhaps because of the simple act of making the Sign of the Cross and blessing the meal. I don't know if I see this as courageous as much as following the call of Christ and the teachings of our Church. It is certainly food for thought and worthy of careful reflection. What would happen if everyone who reads this makes a simple commitment to make the Sign of the Cross and say a blessing over every meal from now on, regardless of our companions? How many incredible faith discussions would occur as a result of this simple and public act of faith? I could easily argue the other side and share the possible negative outcomes, but can we live as faithful Catholics if we are paralysed by fear? The answer, I believe, is contained in the words of Jesus: "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others I will deny before my heavenly Father" (Matthew 10:32-33).

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

Fifth Week of Lent [C] 2022

| St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk www.stbrideschurch.co.uk <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> | | <i>Fr. Duncan McVicar</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Fr. Gerry Hamill</i> <i>(Retired)</i> | www.stevenstonstjohns.com www.rcsaltcoats.com <i>Canon Martin Poland</i> <i>assisted by</i> <i>Sr Marie Monique, Sr Ursula</i> <i>and Canon Matt McManus (Retired)</i> | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Please note all Masses in St. Peter's are Live Streamed Masses may be subject to change | | St Bride's | St. John's | St. Mary's |
| Saturday 2 nd April | 5th Sunday of Lent Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Mary Lane (RD),</i> <i>For Peace in Russia and Ukraine (SI)</i> | | | Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L) |
| Sunday 3 rd April | 5th Sunday of Lent Mass at 10.30am <i>Offered for our parishes</i> | Mass at 12.15pm | Mass at 11.30am (L) | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Monday 4 th April | 5th Week of Lent Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Francis Ferguson (RD), Kevin Traynor (RD)</i> | | | |
| Tuesday 5 th April | 5th Week of Lent Stations of the Cross 9.30am Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Ward Graham (RD), Theresa McCann (RD)</i> | Adoration 9.30am Mass at 10am | | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Wednesday 6 th April | 5th Week of Lent Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Anne McLaren (RD), Michael Bradbury (SI)</i> | | Eucharistic Service at 10am | Funeral Mass at 10am Peter Ross |
| Thursday 7 th April | Requiem Mass for Debbie Roy Mass at 10am | | | Mass at 10am (L) |
| Friday 8 th April | 5th Week of Lent Mass at 10am <i>Offered for Sister Brigid Kingston (RD),</i> <i>Ian Hastings (6MM)</i> Exposition and Benediction 10.30am <i>(Refreshments afterwards in St. Peter's Caf )</i> | Stations of the Cross 11.30am Mass at 12 noon Bernard McIlvennie (MM) | Mass at 10am (L) | |
| Saturday 9 th April | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Mass at 5.30pm <i>Offered for Emilia Sallie (A)</i> | | | Vigil Mass at 4.30pm (L) |
| Prayer of the Rosary Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 9.30am in St. Peter's | | | | |

Penitential Services for Lent

"Now is the time of grace, now is the time of blessing!" As we approach the celebration of Easter there are four Penitential Services available next week. Please take advantage and receive God's forgiveness before Easter.

St Peter in Chains, Ardrossan – 7pm Mon, 4th April;
 St Mary's, Largs - Tuesday, 5th April at 2pm;
 St John's, Stevenston - Tuesday, 5th April at 7pm;
 St Mary's, Saltcoats - Wednesday, 6th April at 2pm.

Holy Week begins next Sunday

Next Sunday, 10th April is the beginning of Holy Week with the blessing and distribution of palms at all Parish Masses. Let us pray for a grace-filled preparation for Easter Day.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Please make sure that you get your Easter Card with all the times of Holy Mass and services for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday for St Bride's and St Peter's. Cards will be available as soon as possible.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Janet Brown, Jim Boyle, Harry Sammons.

+ Those who have died recently:

*Debbie Roy, Mary Lane, Anne McLaren, Francis Ferguson, Kevin Traynor (Ireland),
 Ward Graham, Theresa McCann, Sister Brigid Kingston (Columban Sister).*

+ Those who died at this time of Year:

*Archie McFarlane, Harry Quinn 1993, Patrick Tomelty 2004, Thomas Watt 2017, Annie Adam 1997, Mattie Friel 1995,
 Dominic Gribben 2018, Barbara Henderson, Frank McCaffrey 2012, Jane Mullen 2003, Annie Murphy 1981,
 Agnes Ward 2001, Margaret Boyd 2004, George Lee 1992, James Wilson 2013, Daniel Thomas Gilmour 2013,
 Frank Grogan, Michael McNamara 2008, Father Tom McCann 2009, Mary Tinney 2004, Father Jim Boyd SCJ 2002.*

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

- ▶ **REQUIEM MASS FOR DEBRA ROY** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Debra Roy who died on 17th March 2022, aged 57 years. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 7th April at 10am, followed by Cremation at Holmsford Bridge. Her Month's Mind Mass will be on Monday, 18th April at 10am. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
- ▶ **ST PETER'S COLLECTION ENVELOPES** The new collection envelopes for 2022-2023 are now available from the stall. Many thanks for your continued support, it is much appreciated.
- ▶ **EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE** Please give as generously as you can to our appeal for Ukraine. There are designated collection buckets around the Church at St Peter's. Thank you for your support and generosity!
- ▶ **ST. BRIDE'S COLLECTION FOR S.C.I.A.F** Our annual collection will take place this weekend 3rd April 2022.
- ▶ **THE AUTUMN CLUB** The Autumn club meet in the Park Church Hall on alternative Monday afternoons at 2pm. The club serves the local community for social/recreational activities. They are opening to **NEW** members and also inviting existing members who have not yet felt able to attend. The club do adhere to the current restrictions in place. The next meeting is on Monday 4th April.

FAMILY DAY FUN

Family Easter Day - Easter Monday, 18th April from 2-4pm - All families welcome for Easter fun, crafts and Egg Hunt! It will take place in St. Peter's Church Hall. Booking is not necessary but let us know if you're interested in attending or helping by contacting ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk.



We hope you can join us for community fun, celebrating the joy of the risen Christ!



Preparation Packs - now available!

We now have as a Parish a Baptism Preparation Pack and a Marriage Preparation Pack on our website. It contains all the basic information needed for Baptism and Weddings. If you know of any family planning a Baptism soon or a Wedding, please refer them to the website so that they can download the relevant information.

The Magnificat Magazine available online

The digital Holy Week and April issues of Magnificat are now available, free, at the following link: www.magnificat.com/april. This gives us all the information, prayers and readings for the Holy Week and Easter.

Scotland's Churches calls for Government to tackle cost of living crisis.

The leaders of Scotland's three largest Christian churches have called on the Scottish and UK Governments to "set aside political differences" and "seek effective solutions" to the cost of living crisis. Lamenting the tragedy of poverty in the UK in 2022, the Church leaders express serious concerns about the significant increase in energy costs and rising inflation which risk pushing more people into deep poverty and creating for some, "the grim choice between eating or heating." The statement, signed by Rt Hon Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Rt Rev Hugh Gilbert, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland; and The Most Revd Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, urges "pragmatism and compassion to seek effective solutions to this very serious and worsening situation".

Just for a Laugh... Kevin was not always an easy child. He managed to get into mischief frequently, and was always trailed by his younger brother, Ken. Finally, at her wits' end, his long-suffering mother took him to see their parish priest. The father decided to focus Kevin's mind on higher levels. "Kevin," he asked with great seriousness, "where is God?" Kevin gave no reply. "Kevin, where is God?" Again there was silence. For a third time the priest asked the question, and this time Kevin bolted out of the office and ran all the way home. He burst into his brother's room. "Ken," he panted breathlessly, "Father can't find God and he thinks we had something to do with it!"

Catholic Trivia - Did you know?

"The Kiss of Peace" - This is part of the liturgy of the Mass but is omitted on Maundy Thursday to avoid imitation of Judas, who betrayed Our Lord with a "kiss" on that day. In Mediaeval times a "pax brede" was used; this was a representation of the crucifixion or some such scene on a flat object with a handle, and this was passed around for everyone to kiss. Today at Mass, the kiss of peace is called the "sign of peace" and is more often a handshake. "Chapel" - This word originally meant a chest containing relics, or a shrine that housed them. The Word derives from capella ("little cloak"), which was the name given to the piece of cloak which St Martin of Tours had cut off from his own to protect a freezing beggar. This capella was kept as a sacred relic by the French Kings, and the place where it was housed was called a chapel and the keeper a chaplain.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you are trudging seems all uphill;
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit -
Rest if you must, but don't quit.
Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you never can tell how close you are
If may be near, when it seems afar.
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit,
It is when things seem worst you must not quit.

ST. PETER'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 27th March 2022: £527.28
Annual Collection for S.C.I.A.F: £283.26
Emergency Ukraine Appeal: £341.93
Standing Orders for February 2022: £3934.00

ST. BRIDE'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Cash Collection 27th March 2022: £140.60
Emergency Ukraine Appeal: £593
Standing Orders for February 2022: £1197.00

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