



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

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FORTH VALLEY ROYAL HOSPITAL

Co-ordinating Chaplain

Canon Pat Boylan

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Thurs - 10am-3pm

Phone: 01786 473749 Email: admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Upper Bridge Street, Stirling, FK8 1ES (SMY) 01786 473749

Church of the Holy Spirit, McGrigor Road, Stirling, FK7 9BL (HS)

Church of St Margaret of Scotland, Drip Road, Stirling, FK9 4UA (SMT) 01786 474883

Hospital Stay: If you or your loved ones are admitted to Hospital, please let the Parish Office know and we will arrange for the Hospital Deacon to visit with Holy Communion and to provide spiritual support.



How am I preparing my heart and mind to receive Christ this Advent season, and what obstacles might be hindering me from fully embracing His presence?

John the Baptist calls us to “prepare the way of the Lord.” What specific actions can I take to remove distractions or barriers in my life to make room for Christ?

In the Gospel, the people of Jerusalem are called to repentance. How does this call to conversion speak to me today, and what areas of my life need healing or renewal?

Advent is a time of waiting and hope. How can I cultivate patience and trust in God's timing, especially in moments of uncertainty or struggle?

The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, charity no. SC00854

Please submit any items for the Newsletter by Wednesday Noon. Many Thanks!

To add a name to either the Prayer List or the Book of Remembrance complete the appropriate form (which you will find at the back of the Church) and pass to the Parish Office.

PARISH NEWS

May the choirs of Angels come to greet you; may they speed you to paradise



Of your charity
please pray for the soul o

Alexandra Cherubim who died 8th November, aged 74

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish: David Anderson, John Barrett, Irene Bett, Mary Bett, Allan Brown, Bobby Brown, Derrick Bruce, Mary Burns, Baby Carter, Donald Copeland, Scott Coubrough, Patsy Docherty, Margaret Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Vera Eastwood, Mark Christian Fernandez, George Goodwillie, Ava Gordon, Sarah Hart, Lucia Koloczek, Romie Lesista Jnr, Kevin Mackin, Rosie Mangan, Georges Marquetty, Sally Martin, Cathy McIvor, Margaret McKay, James (Jim) McMenemy, Beth Meldrum, Joe Meldrum, May Millar, Jessie Mitchell, Margaret Neilson, Annie Theresa Nevin, Margaret O'Rourke, Theresa Pierce, Carolanne Quinn, Ruby Quinn, May Robinson, Cheska Mary Rose, Tom Stokes, Tony Stokes, Anna Woods.

Weekly Sunday Collection (Note: Combined total across all 3 Churches)

Date	Plate Collection	Standing Orders (weekly pro-rata)
1 st December	£1564	£1200

Many thanks for your continued generosity!



Contactless Payment The Contactless Payment Machine in St Mary's can be used to make online donations/collection money to the Church and also for Stall purchases. This QR Code can also be used to make online payments and is displayed on the Notice Boards in each Church.

Stirling University Mass for students Wednesdays (term time) 1.15pm in the University Chaplaincy.

Advent Candlelit Masses Wednesdays 7.00pm:

- 11th December – St Margaret's
- 18th December – St Mary's

Our Parish Reconciliation Service is in St Margaret's Tuesday 17th December 7pm.

Christmas Masses

- St Mary's – Christmas Eve Children's Vigil 6.00pm, Midnight Mass 12.00am & Christmas Day 10.00am
- Holy Spirit – Christmas Day 9.30am
- St Margaret's – Christmas Eve Vigil 9.00pm & Christmas Day 11.00am

Children's Liturgy at St Margaret's will take place on 15th December.

The Parish Prayer Network Never underestimate the power of a single prayer offered in faith in the name of Jesus. If you are in need of prayer let us know and we will pray for you every day. Txt 07503342275 to join us in prayer.

Parish Youth Group: Christmas Party 20th December – details to follow.

St Mary's 500 Club The November Draw and the Annual Draw will take place next weekend - 15th December. The prize fund operates with 40% of income going to the Church and 60% paid in prizes as follows:

- 50% of the prize-fund paid out in monthly prizes
 - 1st Prize 30%
 - 2nd Prize 15%
 - 3rd Prize 5%
- 10% carried forward to the Annual Prize Draw

If you would like to join for 2025, please complete the form which you will find at the back of the Church and return to the Parish Office – if paying by standing order you should set this up directly with your bank – the more players who join, the greater the prize fund will be, with more money coming to the Church. The cost is £5 per month per ticket payable by monthly standing order or annually in January £60 - we can accept a cheque or cash. Note this is open to everyone across the Parish.

St Mary's Parish Lunch Club The lunch club will take place on 13th December at St Margaret's Church Hall. Lunch will be served at 12.15pm. Please indicate on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to attend. Lifts are available and dietary requirements accommodated.

Tuesday Teas at Holy Spirit. The last Tuesday teas at Holy Spirit before Christmas will be on 10th December. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Seniors Lunch Friday 10th January King Robert Hotel Arrival by 12.00 noon with lunch served at 12.30pm. To book a place please add your name to the list at the back of the church along with a deposit of **£5 by Sunday 22nd** so we can confirm final numbers to the hotel. Many thanks! The Parish will subsidise the remaining cost.

New Sunday Missal Standard Edition If you ordered a copy, these can now be collected from the Piety Stalls. Discounted price to pay is £17.96.

30th Anniversary Reunion of St Margaret's Music Group: The Reunion was a great success. In all 26 current and past participants attended, someone even coming all the way from London. It was great to meet friends old and new. A fun quiz was followed with a lively music session enhanced by the excellent musicianship of the current young music group members. A big thank you to Fr Jamie for all his support!

Christmas Display of the Nativity at the Thistle Centre The Legion of Mary will display the Christmas Crib on Sunday 8th December from 10am-4pm at the Thistle Centre. It will be located outside of the M&S entrance inside the centre. Everyone is invited to come along, bring the children and pay a little visit throughout the day.

Fundraising for Strathcarron Hospice Update The Hospice team interviewed Kevin and Linda Clarke for their newly launched podcast series before they left for the Camino. The episode has just been published and can be accessed at: <https://www.strathcarronhospice.net/News/strathcarron-stories-podcast-with-ward-manager-susan-bateman> The podcast is in two parts, and Kevin and Linda's interview lasts at around 32.5 minutes. The parish community has been hugely supportive, and Kevin and Linda so far have raised more than £8,000. As we know, in present times, the work of the Hospice is of even greater significance, given proposed changes in legislation.

Prayer and Carol Singing Group We pray to bring awareness to those suffering from mental health issues within our parishes so that we may give heed to our neighbours needs and not be indifferent to their pain and suffering. The group will meet at the bottom of King Steet in Stirling to pray the Rosary and sing Christmas Carols from 6:30pm until 7:45pm on: December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th.

Diploma in Catechetics Take the Diploma in Catechetics and make the Holy Year 2025 a time of discovery and deepening in your life of faith. The course is run by the Archdiocese and starts in January. It consists of a weekly lecture on Zoom, guided reading from the Catechism and regular 1-to-1 support. To mark the Holy Year the course is being offered at £125 (normally £200). Find out more and register at bit.ly/diploma2025

For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese visit <https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>

Schedule for This Week: Sunday 8th December

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am before weekday Mass except Fridays when is after Mass

Sundays: Year C. Weekdays: Year 1	St Mary's (SMY)	Holy Spirit (HS)	St Margaret (SMT)	School/ University	Confession and by Appt
Sunday 8th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Salvatore Lai (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Chilsong Kohler (RIP)	9.00am ▪ People of the Parish	11.30am ▪ Bertie Franchi (RIP) 5.30pm ▪ People of the Parish Month's Mind: Alexandra Cherubim		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
Monday 9th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity	10.00am ▪ Nan Lindsay (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 10th December 2 nd Week of Advent – The Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Stephen Lahbib (RIP)	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 11th December 2 nd Week of Advent St Damasus I	No Mass	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Jim McKenzie (RIP) 7.00pm Advent Candlelit Mass ▪ Charles Devine (RIP)	1.15pm Stirling University ▪ Special Intention	9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Thursday 12th December 2 nd Week of Advent – Our Lady of Guadalupe	10.00am (RIP) ▪ May Reade (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Friday 13th December St Lucy - Memorial	10.00am ▪ Campbell Graham (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass	8.30am St Modans ▪ The Holy Souls	10.30 am- 11.00am after Mass
Saturday 14th December St John of the Cross - Memorial	10.00am ▪ Jimmy Walker (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		
Sunday 15th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Jean Begley (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Matthias & Chibuzor ▪ Onwumere (RIP)	9.00am ▪ J Urbanska	11.30am ▪ Edith Chesney (RIP) 5.30pm ▪ People of the Parish		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass