



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr Jamie Boyle Tel. 01786 473749

Email: frjamie.boyle@staned.org.uk

Assistant Priest

Fr Gabriel Emeasoba

Email: FrGabriel.Emeasoba@staned.org.uk

Parish Website – stirlingstmarys.org

Facebook: [St Mary's Catholic Parish Stirling](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCatholicParishStirling)

FORTH VALLEY ROYAL HOSPITAL

Co-ordinating Chaplain

Canon Pat Boylan

Tel. 01324 823310 / 07731763228

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.



Today's readings, beautifully highlight God's promise and His presence among us. In *Micah 5:1-4*, we hear of a ruler to come from Bethlehem, a small and humble place. God often works through what seems insignificant to reveal His glory. In the Gospel of *Luke 1:39-45*, Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, visits Elizabeth, whose child leaps for joy at the presence of the Savior. This encounter reminds us that Christ's coming stirs hope, joy, and transformation, even in the quiet moments of our lives.

Like Mary, we are invited to bring Christ to others—through our words, actions, and love. Advent calls us to prepare our hearts, not with grandeur, but with humility and faith. As Christmas draws near, let us recognize Christ's presence, especially in life's small, ordinary moments, and rejoice, saying, "*Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled.*"

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

Christmas Message from Fr Jamie As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of the incredible truth that God became one of us - entering our world with love, humility, and hope. In the simplicity of the manger, we see God's profound closeness to each of us. This Christmas, let us welcome Christ into our hearts, homes, and parish community, allowing His light to shine through us in kindness, generosity, and forgiveness. May the joy of the Christ Child bring peace to your families and hope to our world. Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Christmas. **Fr Jamie**

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)
15 th December	£1194.50	£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.

Justice and Peace Sunday 5th January A second collection for the work of justice and peace will be taken up.

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

The Parish Prayer Network In our daily prayers for you we approach the throne of grace with confidence knowing that we have a great high priest who has gone before us to make intercession for us.

Hour Eucharistic Adoration Friday 3rd January takes place in **St Mary's** after 10.00am Mass through to 10.00pm. We will conclude with Night Prayer and Benediction. You can register as normal with the parish office, on the list at the back of the church, or directly with Pat Nicol!

St Margaret's Children's Liturgy Dates 11.30am Sunday Mass:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ▪ January 12th | ▪ February 9th | ▪ March 9th | ▪ April 6th |
| ▪ January 26th | ▪ February 23rd
(Rite of Illumination) | ▪ March 23rd
(Rite of the Creed) | ▪ April 27th |

St Mary's 500 Club - Congratulations to all our winners:

November Draw

- 1st Prize £153.00 David Dunbar
- 2nd Prize £76.50 Genia Graham
- 3rd Prize £25.50 Kathleen Knight

2024 Annual Draw

- 1st Prize £300 Edna Strang
- 2nd Prize £180 Dolores Hughes
- 3rd Prize £120 Anne Finn

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.

Merry Christmas from all at SCIAF: The time of Advent often brings with it a time of reflection. We would like to extend our gratitude of our supporters in Parishes across Scotland for their unwavering support of SCIAF throughout the year. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, our King, we pray that your Christmas surrounded by love, light, joy, and peace and wish you all the best for 2025.

Tuesday Teas at Holy Spirit. are now paused for the holidays.

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.

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh Directory 2025 These are now available in the Piety Stalls – Cost £3.

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 22nd December

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

Sundays: Year C. Weekdays: Year 2	St Mary's (SMY)	Holy Spirit (HS)	St Margaret (SMT)	School/ University	Confession and by Appt
Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ John Lawless 10.15am ▪ Veronica Pow and Mary Doyle (RIP)	9.00am ▪ People of the Parish	11.30am ▪ Lily and Tommy Nevin (RIP) 5.30pm ▪ Dennis, Mark, Ruth, and Paul Canavan (RIP)		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
Monday 23rd December Advent Feria by Date St John of Kanty	10.00am ▪ Bobbi Dawson (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 24th December Advent Feria by Date		10.00am ▪ Mandy Malcolm			9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – SOLEMNITY Holy Day of Obligation	6.00pm (Tues) Christmas Eve Children's Vigil ▪ Ellen & Gerry Dickson (Christmas Gift) 12.00am Midnight Mass ▪ The People of the Parish 10.00am Christmas Day Mass ▪ Chilsong Kohler (RIP)	9.30am Christmas Day Mass ▪ John & Joan Flaherty	9.00pm (Tues) Christmas Eve Vigil Mass ▪ Cullen & Stevenson Family (RIP) 11.00am Christmas Day Mass ▪ The People of the Parish		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Thursday 26th December St Stephen - Feast	10.00am ▪ The Holy Souls	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Friday 27th December St John - Feast	10.00am ▪ James & Catherine Lindsay (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		10.30 am- 11.00am after Mass
Saturday 28th December The Holy Innocents Feast	10.00am ▪ Alex McQuillian	No Mass	No Mass		
Sunday 29th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Feast	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Caterina Lai (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Cathie Graham (RIP) Birthday Remembrance	9.00am ▪ Jean Cooper (RIP)	11.30am ▪ The People of the Parish 5.30pm ▪ The People of the Parish		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass