



PARISH CONTACTS

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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.



On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are invited to rejoice as the coming of Christ draws near. In **Luke 3:10-18**, John the Baptist challenges the crowd to prepare their hearts by living lives of generosity, justice, and compassion. When asked, "What must we do?" he responds with practical advice: share your excess with those in need, act with honesty in your dealings, and avoid using power for personal gain. These instructions are not only for his listeners but for us today.

Advent is a season of preparation, not just through prayer and reflection, but by allowing our faith to shape our daily actions. John's call to repentance reminds us that true joy comes when we align our lives with God's will, bearing the fruits of love and service. As we anticipate Christ's arrival, let us rejoice in His nearness and commit to living the Good News in concrete ways.

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

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 Mclvor, 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)
8 th December	£1082.50	£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.

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

Advent Candlelit Masses Wednesdays 7.00pm:

- 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

The Parish Prayer Network Dear friends, with all that we are and all that we have , we pray with boldness and perseverance and an unwavering assumption that our God is able, willing, and eager to transform our lives and our world.

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.

Parish Youth Group Christmas Party St Margaret's Church Hall 20th December 6-8pm for P4-7 children and all are welcome. If any children are coming for the first time, parents need to fill out a consent form. The teens (S1-6) are invited for Christmas bowling on the 19th. Anyone interested can contact John Paul at +44 7521 283637.

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

- 50% 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.

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.

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

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

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

Good Samaritan Thanks to the Good Samaritans who helped the lady who had a fall after the Vigil Mass last week.

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

Schedule for This Week: Sunday 15th 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 15th December 3rd 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
Monday 16th December 3rd Week of Advent	10.00am ▪ Jim Donnelly (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 17th December Advent Feria by Date	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Christine Calikes (RIP)	7.00pm Parish Reconciliation Service		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 18th December Advent Feria by Date	7.00pm Advent Candlelit Mass ▪ Patricia Phimister (RIP)	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Stephen Lahbib (RIP)		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Thursday 19th December Advent Feria by Date	10.00am (RIP) ▪ John & Nan Lindsay (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Friday 20th December Advent Feria by Date	10.00am ▪ Marie Scullion	No Mass	No Mass	8.30am St Modans ▪ Thanksgiving	10.30 am-11.00am after Mass
Saturday 21st December Advent Feria by Date St Peter Canisius	10.00am ▪ George & Elizabeth Bell (RIP) - Christmas Remembrance	No Mass	No Mass		
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