



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.



In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus gives us one of His toughest challenges: **"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."** That's not exactly easy, is it? When someone wrongs us, our instinct is to fight back or hold a grudge. But Jesus calls us to something greater—to **break the cycle of hate with love.**

He goes even further: **"If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other."** He's not saying we should be pushovers, but rather that we should respond with mercy instead of revenge. When we do that, we reflect God's own love—a love that goes beyond fairness and into **grace.**

Then comes the Golden Rule: **"Do to others as you would have them do to you."** Imagine if we all lived by that! The world would look a lot different.

Let's ask God for the strength to love like Jesus—especially when it's hardest.

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 of*

Edward (Ted) Smart who died 30th January, aged 85

Bozena Dormer who died 3rd February, aged 73

William Lafferty who died 6th February, aged 92

Allan Brown who died 6th February, aged 79

Margaret McKay who died 7th February, aged 87

Bernard Colvin (Snr) who died on 10th February, aged 100

Jason Steel who died 10th February, aged 36

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish: David Anderson, John Barrett, Irene Bett, Mary Bett, 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, Romie Lesista Jnr, Kevin Mackin, Rosie Mangan, Georges Marquetty, Sally Martin, 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, Jeannette Simpson, Tom Stokes, Tony Stokes, Anna Woods.

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

Date	Plate Collection	Standing Orders (weekly pro-rata)
16 th February	£1114	£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. (Note: there will be no Mass on Wednesday 26th February)

The Parish Prayer Network Need Prayer? Text 07503342275 Anytime anywhere day or night. We are here for you. Thanks, be to God.

Ash Wednesday 5th March - Mass Times:

- St Marys 10.15am and 7.00pm
- Holy Spirit 9.00am
- St Margaret's 11.00am

Hour Eucharistic Adoration Friday 7th March takes place in **St Margaret'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!

Sacramental preparation for children

- February 23rd Rite of Illumination will take place at all masses.
- February 26th 7:00pm Sion House – Parents meeting for First Holy Communion.
- Sunday 2nd March – Presentation of the gospel for children preparing for 1st Holy Communion.

Campaign Against Assisted Dying – Write to your MP. The Leadbeater Westminster Bill, which initially included a safeguard requiring High Court judge scrutiny for each request, has now replaced this with panels. Kim Leadbeater's claim that the bill would be "the most robust legislation of its kind in the world" is now under question. Pro-life organizations are urging people to write to their MPs, who voted for the bill at Second Reading, to reconsider their position and vote against it in the third reading. There are a selection of templates and email tools to make the task easier. and can be found on the CAAD page on the St Mary's Parish website. Next CAAD Stirling Meeting on Tuesday 25th February in Sion House at 7pm

Parish Youth Groups Dates:

➤ 28th February, 14th March, 28th March, 11th April.
(Junior Group 5.00pm to 6.30pm – Senior Group 7.00pm to 9.00pm - St Margaret's Church Hall)

Parish Pastoral Council will next meet on 13th March. Please contact a committee member if you would like anything raised at the meeting.

St Mary's 500 Club: The January draw will take place this weekend.

Bible Study St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 7.00pm for 7.30pm

- What is the Lectionary? Why is it important? • Why do we need a new one?
- What makes a good translation? • The background/history of the ESV Bible
- ESV-CE's translation principles

Race Night Fundraiser St Mary's Primary - School Hall 7th March 6.45pm The Parent Council and school are organising a race night to raise funds for school excursions for all children this school year. The children have already been consulted and agreed on trips to the safari park, Bannockburn Heritage Centre, and Summerlee Museum. The fundraiser will assist with entry fees, buses etc. All school children have been issued letters before the holidays for tickets and horse sponsorship (£2.50 per horse).

Tickets are £5 per person. Anyone from the community wishing to attend or sponsor horses can contact the school office. We are also looking for race sponsorship from local businesses as there are still some spaces available for this. Lastly, we are also asking for raffle and bottle donations as part of prizes which can be handed in to the school office.

Pilgrimage: Camino de Santiago Kevin and Linda Clarke will give an illustrated talk on their pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela which they cycled last year, in support of Strathcarron Hospice. This journey of nearly 900kms along the north coast of Spain and through the mountains of Cantabria took 21 days and was well supported by parishioners. The talk is on Thursday, 6 March 2025 starting at 7.15pm in St Margaret's Church Hall and the doors will be open from 7.00pm. Refreshments will be available after the talk.

Rise in Faith, Live in Hope The Archdiocese invites high school pupils to 'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' at St Francis Xavier's Church, 11am-3pm on Saturday 15 March. The event will provide encouragement and inspiration to help our young people grow in their faith amidst the challenges they face. Includes Mass with Archbishop Cushley. Register at bit.ly/archyouth

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

Schedule for This Week: 23rd February

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 23rd February 7 th Sunday of the Year	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Dr Patrick Stones (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Agnes Oates	9.00am ▪ Marion Bell (RIP)	11.30am ▪ James Friel (RIP) 5.30pm ▪ The People of the Parish		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
Monday 24th February 7 th Week of the Year	10.00am ▪ Mary & Eddie Callaghan (RIP)	No Mass	Private Prayer 7:30pm - 8:30pm		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 25th February 7 th Week of the Year	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Joseph McIvor (RIP)	No Mass		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 26th February 7 th Week of the Year	7:00pm Sion House First Communion Meeting for parents.	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Katie & Malcolm Sinclair (RIP) Private Prayer 7:30pm - 8:30pm		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Thursday 27th February 7 th Week of the Year St Gregory of Narek	10.00am ▪ Marie Lavety 6.00pm Reception Allan Brown (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Friday 28th February 7 th Week of the Year	10.00am Funeral: Allan Brown (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass	St Modan's 8.30am ▪ Sheena Hutchison (RIP)	10.30 am-11.00am after Mass
Saturday 1st March 7 th Week of the Year	10.00am ▪ Frank Simpson (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		
Sunday 2nd March 8 th Sunday of the Year	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Betty Begley (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Margaret Russell (RIP) Month's Mind: Bridget McDonagh	9.00am ▪ Evelyn Welsh (RIP)	11.30am ▪ The People of the Parish 5.30pm ▪ Dr Patrick Stones (RIP)		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass