



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

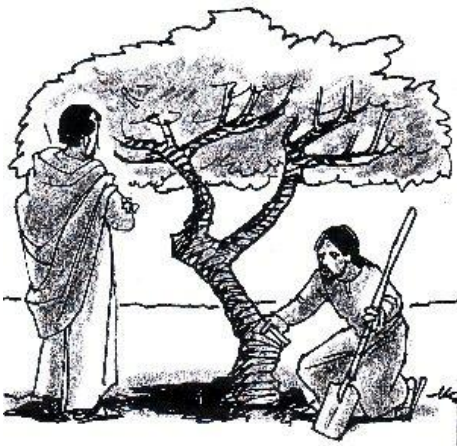
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St Mary's Church, Upper Bridge Street, Stirling, FK8 1ES (SMY) 01786 473749

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

Please note: Fr Jamie's day off is a Monday and the office is closed. Therefore any messages left will not be picked up until Tuesday.



This Sunday's readings remind us that God is patient, but He also calls us to grow. In Exodus, Moses encounters God in the burning bush—a reminder that God sees our struggles and wants to lead us to freedom. Paul, in 1 Corinthians, warns that past blessings don't mean we can just go through the motions—faith requires action. And in Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. It hasn't borne fruit, and the owner wants to cut it down, but the gardener pleads for more time to nurture it. That's God's mercy! He gives us chances to change, but He also expects us to respond. Lent is that extra time—God is digging around our roots, helping us grow. Are we taking His call seriously? Let's not waste this season. What's one thing holding you back? Surrender it, and let God bring new life!

Response to the psalm: The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Gospel Acclamation: R. **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**
Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
R. **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

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 Elizabeth Atkinson who died recently.
May she rest in peace.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish: David Anderson, John Barrett, Irene Bett, Mary Bett, Bobby Brown, Derrick Bruce, Mary Burns, Donald Copeland, Scott Coubrough, Patsy Docherty, Margaret Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Vera Eastwood, Mark Christian Fernandez, George Goodwillie, Ava Gordon, Sarah Hart, Lusia Koloczek, 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, Annmarie Stokes, Tom Stokes, Tony Stokes, Anna Woods.

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.

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

Date	Plate Collection	Standing Orders (weekly pro-rata)
16th March	£1361.50	£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.



A Special Collection will be taken up next Sunday 30th March for the Papal & Episcopal Charities.

A message from Archbishop Cushley "On Sunday 30 March there will be a special collection at all parishes for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). 75 per cent of the collection goes to SCIAF and 25 per cent to the Archdiocesan Care Fund. Last year £38,000 was raised from this collection; £28,500 went to SCIAF and £9,500 went to the Archdiocesan Care Fund. With your kind donations Care Fund grants went to: Bethany Care Trust (Homeless support), Ukraine Project (rehabilitation centre in Ukraine), Across (Pilgrimages for people with severe disabilities) and FAFCE (Promoting Family Life at the UN, EU and Council of Europe). We pray for all those involved in charities which help those in need in the Archdiocese and across the world, including the good work of SCIAF. Thank you for your generosity in almsgiving this Lent.

Gift Aid Envelopes for 2025/26 These are now available for collection at the back of the Churches. Please take the box with your name on. These new envelopes should be used from the weekend of 5th/6th April. Many thanks!

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

The Parish Prayer Network The Holy Spirit is the Master of our prayer. There are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray but it is the same Spirit acting in all of us. To request prayer or to join us in prayer, text 07503 342275

12 Hour Eucharistic Adoration Friday 4th April 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:

23rd March (Rite of the Gospel), 6th April, 13th April (Palm Sunday), 27th April

Parish Youth Groups Dates:

➤ 28th March, 11th April.

(Junior Group 5.00pm to 6.30pm – Senior Group 7.00pm to 9.00pm - St Margaret's Church Hall)

St Mary's Parish 500 Club Congratulations to our February winners:

- 1st Prize £204 - Willie McLaughlin
- 2nd Prize £102 - Colleen Burns
- 3rd Prize £34 - Sylvia Cairns

The Parent Council at St. Mary's Primary School would like to extend a thank you to everyone who offered prizes and donations and to those who bought tickets or raffles at the recent Race Night event. Together we raised over £2,000 for school funds, some of which will be used towards ensuring all children can experience a school excursion this year. We really appreciate all the support from both the school and wider communities.

Men's Group The next meeting will take place on Thursday 27th March at 7pm at St Mary's, beginning with Stations of the Cross in the Church, followed by food in Sion House and concluding with night prayer. Men of all ages are welcome!

Our Lady's Primary School Prize Bingo & Raffle Fundraiser Friday 28th March 6pm, Raploch Community Campus. The Parent Council are holding a fundraiser to raise funds to support the students and enhance their school experience - £1 entry (includes refreshments). We are also asking for any donations that could be used for prizes.

Young Adults' Holy Week event The Archdiocese invites young adults (18+) to prepare for Holy Week and Easter on Saturday 12 April at St Margaret's Chapel at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB from 11:30am-3:00pm. There will be talks from speakers including Fr David Stewart SJ and the event concludes with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cushley. Recollect, pray and celebrate your Catholic faith. Register by emailing frrobert.taylor@staned.org.uk.

Stations of the Cross Monday, 24 March, 7:45pm with a reflection from John Deighan, CEO of SPUC. Join John and Catholics from across Scotland to pray for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register: bit.ly/Stations25

Talk at Carmelite Convent A series of Holy Year talks take place on the last Sunday of each month at the Carmelite Convent, Hot Pot Wynd, Dysart, KY1 2TF. The next one is on Sunday 30 March at 4:30pm when Canon James Tracey discusses *Reconciliation - Forgiveness*. The one-hour event includes evening prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and has been organised by the Fife Deanery. All welcome.

Palm Sunday Youth Day Let your children know about this day of games and inspiring talks hosted by the Archdiocese at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB on Saturday 12 April from 11am-3pm. Includes sessions for primary school pupils (8+) and sessions for high school pupils. Register at bit.ly/youthpalm

Schedule for This Week: 23rd March

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 23rd March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Maureen McColl (Birthday) 10.15am ▪ Cathy McIvor (RIP)	9.00am ▪ Marguerite, James, Michael & Marion Hay (RIP)	11.30am ▪ Norman Galletly (RIP) 5.30pm ▪ The People of the Parish		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
Monday 24th March 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00am ▪ John Kaney (RIP)	No Mass	Private Prayer 7:30pm - 8:30pm		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD - SOLEMNITY	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Lorna McCabe (RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 26th March 3 rd Week of Lent	No Mass	No Mass	10.00am Norman Galletly Jnr (RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	Stirling University 1.15pm ▪ The Holy Souls	9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Thursday 27th March 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00am ▪ George Kaney (RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	No Mass	No Mass	St Mary's Primary 8.30am ▪ Patricia Phimister (RIP)	9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Friday 28th March 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00am ▪ Stephen Lahbib (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass	St Modan's 8.30am ▪ Cecillia Flannigan (RIP)	10.30 am- 11.00am after Mass
Saturday 29th March 3 rd Week of Lent	10.00am ▪ Special Intention: Jim McDonald	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
Sunday 30th March 4 th Sunday of Lent SCIAF SUNDAY	5.30pm (Vigil) ▪ Mario & Giovanna Lai (RIP) 10.15am ▪ The People of the Parish	9.00am ▪ Marion Bell (RIP)	11.30am ▪ Fr Joe Millar (RIP) 5th Anniversary 5.30pm ▪ Kitty Tierney (RIP)		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass