



## PARISH CONTACTS

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

## 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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**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.



The Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday, invites us to rejoice even in the midst of our Lenten journey. Today's readings, especially the parable of the Prodigal Son, remind us of God's boundless mercy.

Like the younger son, we often wander away, seeking fulfilment in fleeting pleasures. Yet, when we return—broken and repentant—our Father runs to embrace us. His love is not earned; it is freely given. The elder son, though faithful, struggles with resentment, forgetting that he, too, is constantly in the Father's love.

This parable challenges us: Do we trust in God's mercy? Do we rejoice in others' reconciliation, or do we, like the elder son, hold onto grudges? Today, we are called to embrace the joy of forgiveness. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us step into the Father's open arms, experiencing true freedom in His love.

**Response to the psalm:** Taste and see that the LORD is good

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**R. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus**

I will arise and go to my Father, and I will say to him,  
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you"

**R. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus**

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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 and George Goodwillie who died recently. May they 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, Edna Copeland, Scott Coubrough, Patsy Docherty, Margaret Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Vera Eastwood, Mark Christian Fernandez, Ava Gordon, Sarah Hart, Lusia Koloczec, 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)
23rd March	£1324	£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 this 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 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> April. Many thanks!

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

**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!

30th March 4th Sunday of Lent

**The Parish Prayer Network** have placed white post boxes in St Mary's, St Margaret's and The Holy Spirit. These boxes are there to receive your prayer requests. We will then place your request before our Loving God every morning and evening asking Him to hear and answer your prayer in Jesus' name. You need only write the first name of the person to be prayed for and a short reason for prayer. All requests will remain strictly confidential within the prayer group. Alternatively, text 07503342275 with your request or to join the group in daily prayer from your own home.

**SCIAF:** Each Lent, parishes across Scotland very generously support SCIAF through collections and filling and returning Wee Boxes. Your kindness changes lives and has done for 60 years now through SCIAF – your agency for relief and development across the world. Thank you!

**SSVP Lunch Club** The next lunch club will take place on Friday April 11th at St Margaret's Hall. Lunch will be served at 12.00 Noon. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the list at the back of the Church, indicating if you require a lift or have any dietary requirements.

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

6<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> April (Palm Sunday), 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Parish Youth Groups Dates:**

11th April (Junior Group 5.00pm to 6.30pm – Senior Group 7.00pm to 9.00pm - St Margaret's Church Hall).

**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](mailto:frrobert.taylor@staned.org.uk).

**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](http://bit.ly/youthpalm)

**Laudato Si'** To mark the 10th anniversary of the Holy Father's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, a Zoom meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday 3 April to share plans for the year. It is your chance to contribute ideas and suggestions on how parishes can be supported. The meeting is coordinated by the Care of Creation Office of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the *Laudato Si'* Movement. Visit [bit.ly/3RltKaB](http://bit.ly/3RltKaB)

**The Mass- What do we do and why do we do it?** Have you ever stopped to think about what we do at Mass and why we do it? Why do we stand, sit or kneel? On Thursday at 7:00 pm in Sion house Fr Jamie will give a presentation helping us to think about how we participate in the Mass and how its various elements are put together.

**Lenten Reconciliation Service.** The Lenten reconciliation service will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in St Margaret's. Please take this opportunity to go to confession in preparation for Easter.

**Schedule for This Week: 30th March**

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

Sundays: Year C. Weekdays: Year 1	<b>St Mary's (SMY)</b>	<b>Holy Spirit (HS)</b>	<b>St Margaret (SMT)</b>	<b>School/ University</b>	<b>Confession and by Appt</b>
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> <b>SCIAF SUNDAY</b>	<b>5.30pm (Vigil)</b> ▪ Mario & Giovanna Lai (RIP)  <b>10.15am</b> ▪ The People of the Parish	<b>9.00am</b> ▪ Marion Bell (RIP)	<b>11.30am</b> ▪ Fr Joe Millar (RIP) 5th Anniversary  <b>5.30pm</b> ▪ Kitty Tierney (RIP)		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> 4th Week of Lent	<b>10.00am Funeral</b> Elizabeth Atkinson (RIP)	No Mass	<b>Private Prayer</b> 7:30pm - 8:30pm		9.30am - 9:50am before Mass
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> 4th Week of Lent St Gilbert of Moray	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ Fiona McDonald (RIP)  Month's Mind: Gerald McGowan  <b>7.00pm</b> Stations of the Cross	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> 4th Week of Lent St Francis of Paola	No Mass	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ Tony McNair (RIP)  <b>7.00pm</b> Stations of the Cross	<b>Stirling University 1.15pm</b>  ▪ Lorna McCabe (RIP)	9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> 4th Week of Lent	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ Michael & Margaret Leyden  <b>7.00pm</b> Talk on The Mass	No Mass	No Mass	<b>St Mary's Primary 8.30am</b>  ▪ The Holy Souls	9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4th Week of Lent St Isidore of Seville	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ Bozena Dormer (RIP)  Eucharistic Adoration  <b>10.00pm</b> Night Prayer	No Mass	No Mass	<b>St Modan's 8.30am</b>  ▪ Special Intention	10.30 am- 11.00am after Mass
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4th Week of Lent St Vincent Ferrer	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ May Flynn (RIP)	No Mass	No Mass		9.30am- 9:50am before Mass
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>5.30pm (Vigil)</b> ▪ Tom And Bridie Young (RIP)  <b>10.15am</b> Lorna McCabe (RIP)	<b>9.00am</b> ▪ Carol Ogilvie (RIP)	<b>11.30am</b> ▪ The People of the Parish  <b>5.30pm</b> Bernard Colvin Snr (RIP)		5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass