



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

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FORTH VALLEY ROYAL HOSPITAL

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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.



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel invites us to stand beside Joseph — the quiet man who did the right thing when life didn't make sense. He discovers Mary is pregnant, his plans collapse, his heart is sore, and yet he refuses to shame her. Then God speaks in a dream: "Do not be afraid."

That's the Advent message in a nutshell. God doesn't wait for perfect conditions; he enters the mess, the worry, the unanswered questions. Joseph can't see the whole picture, but he chooses trust. He takes Mary into his home, and he makes space for Jesus — not just in his house, but in his future.

Many of us arrive at Christmas carrying uncertainty: family tensions, financial pressure, health concerns, or simply exhaustion. Today, Joseph whispers: keep going. Listen. Trust. Make room. Emmanuel is closer than you think — God with us, right here, right now.

Response to the psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

R. Alleluia, alleluia

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which means God is with us.

R. Alleluia

Christmas Message A very happy Christmas to you all. May the joy of Jesus' birth bring light into your homes, warmth into your hearts, and hope for the days ahead. As ever, thanks to all those who serve our parish community in so many ways. God bless you this Christmas and always. Fr Jamie.

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 **John Stewart Henderson Sharp** who died recently.
May he 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, Anne Chadband, Donald Copland, Scott Coubrough, Patsy Docherty, Margaret Doherty, Patricia Doherty, Mark Christian Fernandez, Ava Gordon, Robert Graham, Sarah Hart, Lusja Koloczec, Romie Lesista Jnr, Kevin Mackin, Rosie Mangan, Sally Martin, Beth Meldrum, Joe Meldrum, Jessie Mitchell, Margaret Neilson, Annie Theresa Nevin, Margaret O'Rourke, Catherine Philomy, Theresa Pierce, Cheska Mary Rose, Jeannette Simpson, Annmarie Stokes, Tom & Tony Stokes, Anna Woods, Eman Guerrero, Vanesa Mazo, Bernadeth Mellina, Ruby & Carolanne Quinn.

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.

Sick and Housebound: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to receive Holy Communion and we will co-ordinate with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Team to arrange this for you.

Weekly Sunday Collection (Note: Combined total across all 3 Churches - Many thanks for your continued generosity!)

Date	Plate Collection	Standing Orders (weekly pro-rata)
14 th December	£1438.50	£1200

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be extended after morning Mass on 20th December to 11.30am.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 24th December

6:00pm Vigil of Christmas (Children's Mass) – St Mary's

10:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Vigil at 11:00pm – St Margaret's (followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall)

11:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Midnight Mass – St Mary's

Christmas Day

9:30 am Mass – Holy Spirit

10:00 am Mass – St Mary's

11:00 am Mass – St Margaret's

Note: Weekday Masses will follow the normal weekday schedule except:

New Year's Day

10.00am Mass – Holy Spirit

10.00am Mass – St Mary's

11.00am Mass – St Margaret's

Annual Parish Seniors Lunch takes place **Friday 9th January 11.30am for 12.00 Noon King Robert Hotel.**

If you intend to go please add your name to the list at the back of the Church and the number in your party.

Note: This year we are not requesting a deposit - the cost will be covered by the Parish. We would however ask that you add your name only if you definitely intend to come – this will ensure we can accurately gauge numbers. Many thanks!

St Mary's 500 Club: Both the November Monthly Draw and the Christmas Annual Draw will be made this weekend. If any new members would like to join for 2026 please contact the Parish Office. Ticket price is £5 per month payable by monthly standing order or cash quarterly or annually up front.

12 Hour Eucharistic Adoration Please note this is cancelled for January.

Lourdes Coffee Morning will resume from Thursday 8th January 2026 after Mass in St Margaret's Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Advent Rosary for Life This Monday at 7:45pm to pray for unborn children, their mothers, and all pro-life intentions. Each session is on Zoom and lasts about 30 minutes. Following the Rosary there is a short reflection from a guest speaker: Fr Jamie McMorris (15 Dec, St Margaret's, Edinburgh), and Archbishop Leo Cushley (22 Dec). Register at bit.ly/rosary25

Campaign Against Assisted Dying The proposed assisted suicide Bill fails to establish clear, objective criteria for eligibility, leaving enormous room for interpretation, coercion, or discrimination, especially when practitioners are allowed to raise the option with patients unprompted. This is ethically and legally indefensible and will worry many MSPs who thought the Bill was tightly controlled. Write to your MSP and make them aware of your concerns. Template and briefing information available at www.carenotkilling.scot

Shalom World Shalom World has 400+ hand-picked Christmas TV shows, including inspiring talks, music, children's stories, and reflections for all ages. It's completely free - no pay walls or adverts - simply a gift to help families experience Christ this season. Go to shalomworld.org/christmas

Diploma in Catechetics Explore the richness of the Catholic faith in 2026 by taking the Diploma in Catechetics. The course is run by the Archdiocese and takes place at 7:30pm each Thursday on Zoom, starting 22 January. Cost £220. Register at bit.ly/diploma2026. Promo reel at bit.ly/diplomareel

Justice & Peace Justice & Peace Scotland's latest newsletter is now available www.jandpscotland.org.uk. Read about the latest advocacy and actions on the situation in the Holy Land, at-home poverty, and the disregard for human dignity in the UK's immigration detention practices.

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

Schedule for This Week: 21st December

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

Sundays: Year A Weekdays: Year 2	St Mary's (SMY)	Holy Spirit (HS)	St Margaret (SMT)	Confessions
Sunday 21st December 4 th Sunday of Advent	5.30pm (Sat Vigil) ▪ Gerald Stark 10.15am ▪ People of the Parish	9.00am ▪ Mary & Pat McGuigan	11.30am ▪ People of the Parish 5.30pm ▪ Stephen Lahbib (RIP)	5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
Monday 22nd December Advent feria by date	10.00am ▪ Violet and Hugh Bonner	No Mass	No Mass	9.30am -9:50am before Mass
Tuesday 23rd December Advent feria by date St John of Kanty	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Bobbi Dawson (RIP)	No Mass	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Wednesday 24th December Advent feria by date	6:00pm Vigil of Christmas (Children's Mass) ▪ Chilsong Kohler (RIP) 11:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Midnight Mass ▪ People of the Parish	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Dennis, Mark, Ruth, and Paul Canavan (RIP) 10:30pm Carols followed by Christmas Vigil at 11:00pm <i>(followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall)</i> ▪ People of the Parish	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Thursday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – SOLEMNITY	10:00am ▪ Alex McQuillian	9:30am ▪ People of the Parish	11:00am ▪ Gerry Dailly	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
Friday 26th December ST STEPHEN - FEAST	No Mass	No Mass	10.00am ▪ Joanne McQuillian (RIP)	10.30am-11.00am after Mass
Saturday 27th December ST JOHN – FEAST	10.00am ▪ May Reade	No Mass	No Mass	9.30am-9:50am before Mas
Sunday 28th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH - FEAST	5.30pm (Sat Vigil) ▪ Giuseppe, Caterina, Antonio, and Salvatore Lai (RIP) 10.15am ▪ Kathleen Lawson (RIP) Birthday Remembrance	9.00am ▪ People of the Parish	11.30am ▪ June Devin 5.30pm ▪ Susan McCabe (RIP)	5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass