

14<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A



**PARISH CONTACTS**

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**FORTH VALLEY ROYAL HOSPITAL**

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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)

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**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.

**3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday**

Today the Church invites us to *rejoice*. Not because everything in life is perfect, but because God is close. John the Baptist sends his followers to Jesus with a simple question: "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus responds not with theories but with signs of hope—healing, forgiveness, restoration, and new beginnings.

Advent can feel rushed and pressured, yet Gaudete Sunday encourages us to pause and notice where God is quietly at work in our lives. Joy often appears in small ways: a kind word, a moment of peace, an unexpected generosity, a prayer that brings comfort.

As we light the rose candle today, we remember that Christian joy is not noisy or forced—it is the steady confidence that God is walking with us. May we carry that joy into the coming week and share it with those who need it most.



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

**Response to the psalm:**

Come, Lord, and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

**R. Alleluia**

PARISH NEWS



*Of your charity, please pray for the soul of **John Stewart Henderson Sharp** who died recently.  
May he rest in peace.*

*May the choirs of Angels come to greet you; may they speed you to paradise*

**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, Lusia 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 <i>(weekly pro-rata)</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> December	£1305.50	£1200

**Advent Candlelit Masses Wednesdays 7pm:**

17<sup>th</sup> December – St Margaret's

In addition to the normal schedule, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available after each Candlelit Mass and also extended after morning mass on 20<sup>th</sup> December to 11.30am. Please note there is no separate Reconciliation Service.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> 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

11:30 pm 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

**Lourdes Coffee Morning** Please join us for our Lourdes Coffee Morning each Thursday after Mass in St Margaret's Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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**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 McMorrin (15 Dec, St Margaret's, Edinburgh), and Archbishop Leo Cushley (22 Dec). Register at [bit.ly/rosary25](https://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.carenokilling.scot](http://www.carenokilling.scot)

**Archdiocesan Directory** The new edition of the Archdiocesan directory is available in the church stall priced £3.

**Advent Rosary for Life** Continues this Monday at 7:45pm to pray for unborn children, their mothers, and all pro-life intentions. Includes reflection from Fr Jamie McMorrin (St Margaret's in Davidsons Mains). Register at [bit.ly/rosary25](https://bit.ly/rosary25)

**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](http://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](https://bit.ly/diploma2026). Promo reel at [bit.ly/diplomareel](https://bit.ly/diplomareel)

**Stella Maris Carol Service** Join Archbishop Cushley for an evening of carols, readings and celebration, on Wednesday 17 December at 7:00pm, followed by reception. St Mary's Star of the Sea, 106 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6AW. Please RSVP to [info@stellamarismail.org](mailto:info@stellamarismail.org).

**Justice & Peace** Justice & Peace Scotland's latest newsletter is now available [www.jandpscotland.org.uk](http://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.

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**Schedule for This Week: 14<sup>th</sup> Decmber**

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
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A	<b>5.30pm (Sat Vigil)</b>  ▪Patrcia Phimister (RIP)  <b>10.15am</b>	<b>9.00am</b>  • Maureen Preston – (Get well wishes)	<b>11.30am</b> ▪People of the parish  <b>5.30pm</b> People of the Parish	5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> Monday of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of advent.	<b>10.00am</b> ▪Charles Devine (R.I.P)	No Mass	No Mass	9.30am -9:50am before Mass
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> Tuesday of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Advent	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b>  ▪Adelaida Granada	No Mass	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	No Mass	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b> ▪David Mitchell (R.I.P.) <b>7:00 pm</b> Candlelit Mass ▪Victor Hargreaves (R.I.P.)	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	No Mass	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b> ▪Jackie Ross (RIP)	9.30am-9:50am before Mass
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	No Mass	No Mass	<b>10.00am</b> ▪ Jim McKenzie (RIP) <b>11:45 am</b> ▪Funeral John Sharp. R.I.P.	10.30am-11.00am after Mass
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00am</b> ▪Eileen Gallagher (RIP) ▪Rosie Mongan (anv)	No Mass	No Mass	9.30am-9:50am before Mas
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>5.30pm (Sat Vigil)</b>  ▪Gerald Stark <b>10.15am</b> ▪People of the parish	<b>9.00am</b>  • Mary & Pat McGuigan	<b>11.30am</b> ▪ People of the parish.  <b>5.30pm</b> ▪ Stephen Lahbib	5.00pm to 5.20pm before Vigil Mass

**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