

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Sunday, 18 January 2026 - Year A



Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 18 January	5.30pm	St Mary's		Ian Guthrie (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Mary Rennie - Christmas Gift
	10.15am	St Mary's		People of the Parish
	11.30am	St Margaret's		The Bett Family - Christmas Gift
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		Jean Devine Birthday Celebration
Monday, 19 January	10.00am	St Mary's	St Fillan	The Holy Souls
Tuesday, 20 January	10:00am	Holy Spirit	St Fabian, St Sebastian	Francis & Gerard Kerr
Wednesday, 21 January	10:00am	St Margaret's	St Agnes	Marguerite Boyle - Christmas Gift
Thursday, 22 January	10:00am	St Margaret's	St Vincent	Ellen Thompson
Friday, 23 January	10.00am	St Margaret's	St Francis De Sales	Ronnie Smith
Saturday, 24 January	10.00am	St Mary's		Chil Kohler (RIP)
Sunday, 25 January	5.30pm	St Mary's		Theresa Docherty
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		The People of the Parish
	10.15am	St Mary's		Chinadindu Adibe - Birthday Thanksgiving
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Betty McNally (RIP)
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		Joanna Louisa Thatcher
Confessions:	9.30am - 9.50am Monday to Saturday before Mass except Fridays 10.30am - 11.00am after Mass and also Saturday 5.00pm - 5.20pm before Vigil Mass			
Exposition	Before every weekday Mass from 9.30am - 9.50am, except on Friday when it is between 10.30am - 11.00am.			

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

The Parish Office can be contacted on 01786 473749 or admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk

Parish Office Address: St Mary's Church, Upper Bridge Street, Stirling, FK8 1ES

Holy Spirit, McGrigor Road, St Ninian's FK7 9BL

St Margaret of Scotland, Drip Road, Raploch FK9 4UA

Website: www.catholicstirling.org

Facebook: St Mary's Catholic Parish Stirling

Parish Clergy: Father Robert Taylor (Administrator) FrRobert.Taylor@staned.org.uk
Father Philip Uguru (Priest in Residence)
Father Federico Dundas SOCSJ (University Chaplain) fdundas@socsj.org

Parish Secretary: Margaret-Mary Higgins Working Hours: Tue-Thurs 10.00am - 3.00pm.

Baptisms: To register your child for baptism, email admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk. Baptism preparation courses will be held once every three months (dates will be published via the Parish Newsletter). Baptisms will take place on Saturday or Sunday, by arrangement.

Marriages: Couples resident in the parish should contact the office at least six months prior to their proposed wedding to discuss the required preparations.

Hospital Chaplains: Canon Pat Boylan is the co-ordinating chaplain for the Forth Valley Royal Hospital. He can be contacted on 01324 823310 or 07731 763 228.

Please submit any items for the Newsletter by Wednesday 12.00 Noon, Many Thanks! To add a name to either the Prayer List or the Book of Remembrance please complete the appropriate form (which you will find at the back of the Church) and pass to the Parish Office.

Newsletter available online on the Facebook page or Parish website. The newsletter is produced and printed by St Mary's Catholic Parish, Stirling

The Parish of St Mary's, Stirling is a Parish in the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is a registered charity in Scotland. Charity no. SC008540

'I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him —
for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength —
he says:

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40(39):2, 4ab. 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. R8a, 9a

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

'Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together
with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 1:29-34

'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because
he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he
might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove,
and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to
me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit."
And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

PARISH NOTICES

The Eucharist at the Heart of Parish Life

The Eucharist lies at the very heart of our faith because we believe that in the Mass, in Holy Communion and in the Tabernacle, the Lord Jesus is truly present among us. The tabernacle is, therefore, the living heart of every Church and for this reason it is usually placed in the centre of the sanctuary directly behind the altar. For this reason, also, the Church encourages us to make a gesture of reverence toward the tabernacle – such as genuflection, or a profound bow – whenever we enter or leave the Church (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1378). This same reverence should find expression in our reception of Holy Communion. The Church permits several ways of receiving the Eucharist – standing or kneeling; on the hand or on the tongue. Each is a worthy expression of faith when approached with care, devotion and respect, and each of the faithful has the right to receive Holy Communion in the way that he or she wishes (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 92). To support those who wish to receive communion kneeling - and to save them from having to kneel on hard surfaces - a kneeler will be available at the front of the church in St Mary's from this weekend, and we shall explore the possibilities of making similar provision in St Margaret's and Holy Spirit in due course. In whatever manner we choose to receive Holy Communion, each one of us is invited to approach Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, with humility, gratitude and love.

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



Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Margaret Mailey Malcolmson and William Crossley who died recently.
May they rest in peace.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 11th January was £1447.50. The weekly donations via Standing Orders: £1200. The Crib Offerings totalled £318.50. Thank you for your generosity! There will be a special collection this Sunday 18th for Justice and Peace Scotland as it was missed at the start of the month.

Please pray for the sick and the housebound of the Parish

Please continue to remember in your prayers the members of the parish who are sick and housebound and so unable to join us for the celebration of the Eucharist. If you know of someone who cannot make it to Mass due to sickness, please complete the new form required which you will find at the back of each Church or contact the Parish Office. **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. **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 to arrange this for you.

Volunteers Needed - Your Parish Needs You

There are many ways to help and contribute to the life of our parish, whether quietly behind the scenes or in more visible roles. If you are able to offer some time or talents, please take a moment to look at the parish volunteer poster and see if there is a role that might suit you. To sign up or to find out more, please email admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk. Every contribution, large or small, helps build up our parish community and the Kingdom of God. Thank you!

Parish Prayer Network

Pray simply. Pray together. Pray for others. If you can offer one decade of the Rosary each weekday, we'd love you to join us. We are parishioners from Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart and St Mary's, united in prayer for those going through difficult times. Our small network has become a close, prayerful community. Join us today: Text 07503 342275

Altar Servers

If you have made your First Holy Communion you can serve on the altar during Mass. This is a great way to be more actively involved in the celebration of Mass and helps to foster a deeper devotion to the Eucharist. If you would like to be a server in any of the churches in the Parish, please speak to any members of the clergy today. Training will be provided, so please register today.

St Mary's 500 Club

If you would like to join this club please contact the Parish Office. Ticket price is £5 per month and is payable by monthly standing order, or by cash on a quarterly or annual basis by end January please. Annual payment can also be made via bank transfer. The December draw will be made next weekend. Notification of the draws will be made through the newsletter.

Eucharistic Adoration

Every weekday from 9.30am before Mass, come and spend a few moments in the quiet, peaceful presence of Christ. Eucharistic Adoration is a sacred time in our busy lives where we can come before Our Lord – either in the monstrance or in the tabernacle – to be strengthened, supported and renewed.

OTHER NOTICES

Public Life, Faith and Prayerful Engagement

Several significant matters are currently before the Scottish Parliament which touch closely on life, family and education. These include the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, proposals affecting parental involvement in Religious Education through the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) Bill, and recent recommendations arising from the Government's Review of Abortion Law. Such debates raise profound questions about the dignity of human life, the role of parents, and the values that shape our society. Whilst the Church does not align herself with any political party, she does encourage the faithful to engage prayerfully, thoughtfully and respectfully in public life. In that spirit, we are encouraged to contact our elected representatives to share our views in a measured and courteous way (contact details can be found at parliament.scot/msps). Above all, we must continue to pray for wisdom and integrity for all those entrusted with public responsibility.

Laudato Si'

On Care for Our Common Home is the Catholic appeal addressed to "every person living on this planet". This month's Christian Climate Action Scottish Parliament CCA Vigil is on: Tuesday 27th 12.00-2.00 at Holyrood Praying for Peace. In this fractured and uncertain world, we are starting 2026 with a Peace Prayer Vigil. You're invited to bring along a prayer or meditation on the area or country you would like to pray for.

Job Vacancy

The Archdiocese is seeking to appoint an Administrator to provide support to the Property Director and general administrative support within the Archdiocesan offices. Job description at bit.ly/adminarchdiocese. To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter detailing how your skills and experience make you suitable for this role to recruitment@staned.org.uk by Friday 23 January 2026.

Explore

Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will for you. Monthly gatherings will be hosted by the Archdiocese at St Columba's Church, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN. The first one takes place from 4pm to 7pm on Sunday 25 January 2026. To register, email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

Diploma in Catechetics

This course is run by the Archdiocese and begins on Thursday 22 January at 7:30pm on Zoom. Cost: £220. Register at bit.ly/diploma2026 Completing the diploma would be a great resource for the parish. If you're interested speak to Fr Robert about the support available.