

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

3rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Sunday, 25 January 2026 - Year A



Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 25 January	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		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
Monday, 26 January	10.00am	St Mary's	St Timothy & St Titus	David Addison & Alex Millar (RIP)
Tuesday, 27 January	10:00am	Holy Spirit	St Angela Mercè	Holy Souls
Wednesday, 28 January	10:00am	St Margaret's	St Thomas Aquinas	Paul Quinn
Thursday, 29 January	10:00am	St Margaret's		Jane Hamill (RIP)
Friday, 30 January	10.00am	St Mary's		Funeral: John Ging (RIP)
Saturday, 31 January	10.00am	St Mary's	St John Bosco	May Robinson (RIP)
Sunday, 1 st February	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		Rena Oates - for a speedy recovery
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Thanksgiving - Our Lady, St Anthony & St Rita
	10.15am	St Mary's		Tony McNair (RIP)
	11.30am	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		Carol Ogilvie (RIP)
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. 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 items for the Newsletter by Wednesday 12.00 Noon. To add a name to either the Prayer List or the Book of Remembrance please complete the appropriate form found at the back of the church and pass to the Parish Office.

In Galilee of the nations the people have seen a great light.

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. R1a

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second reading

Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

'I appeal to you that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you.'

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

'Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.'

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

PARISH NOTICES

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 Ging who died recently.
May he rest in peace.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 18th January was £1349. The weekly donations via Standing Orders: £1200. Last Sunday's Special Collection for Justice and Peace Scotland raised £924. Thank you for your generosity!

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: **Bobby Brown**. 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.

Volunteering in the Parish

Our parish community is built up through the generous service of volunteers who give their time, skills and show their care for others. There are many ways to get involved, from assisting before and at Mass, helping with children's liturgy and music, welcoming people at our churches, supporting parish events and social activities, helping with church flowers or cleaning, and offering practical or pastoral support to those who are elderly, housebound or unwell through visiting, companionship or practical assistance, as seen through groups such as the SSVP. There are also opportunities to contribute your experience and expertise through involvement in the Finance Committee or Fabric Committee, helping to support the good stewardship of parish resources and the care of our buildings for future generations. This list is not exhaustive, and every contribution – whether regular or occasional – plays a vital part in sustaining parish life. More suggestions are on the noticeboards in each church. If you feel able to offer your help, or would simply like to find out more, please get in touch with the parish office, and we will be glad to help you find a role that suits you!

Parish Prayer Network

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, we would be honoured to support you in prayer. We will pray for your request every day for a month. You can share it by placing it in the white box at the back of the church, or by texting a first name and brief request to 07503342275.

Lenten Schedule: Mass, Adoration, Benediction & Stations of the Cross

During Lent we are invited to take up extra practices of prayer, fasting and charity as we prepare for the Easter Triduum. Alongside our regular weekday Masses, there will be additional opportunities for Adoration and Benediction, as well as the beautiful devotion of the Stations of the Cross – a prayerful way of accompanying Jesus on his journey to Calvary, reflecting on his love for us in his suffering. Please take a look at the notices in each of our three churches for detailed times and locations for these devotions and the new Mass schedule beginning in Lent. We especially invite you to consider attending the weekday evening Mass when you can, as another way to draw closer to Christ in this holy season. May this Lent be for us a time of deep encounter with the Lord and growth in grace. Please note the new times are only during the week. The Sunday Mass times will remain unchanged.

Eucharistic Adoration

The First Friday Eucharistic Adoration will take place on Friday 6th February after 10am Mass until 6.00pm and will conclude with Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Margaret's. **However, we will need 2 guardians for each hour.** Register as normal with the parish office, on the list at the back of the church, or directly with Pat Nicol.

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 this weekend. Notification of the draws will be made through the newsletter.

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.

Assisted Dying Bill - Information Evening

MSPs will be asked to vote on legislation to legalise assisted dying in Scotland without established legal protections for healthcare workers who conscientiously object. An information evening with expert legal input will take place on Monday 26 January at 7.30pm at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. The event is free to attend, but registration required via Eventbrite. Search the site for Care Not Killing - 26 January 2026.

Church Representative on Stirling Council

We have recently learned that the Church Representative on the Council has lost the entitlement to vote on matters affecting Catholic schools. Following a Special Council meeting in November 2025, by a margin of 12-11, Councillors voted to remove the voting rights of religious representatives on education matters with immediate effect, overturning an earlier agreement that these would remain until the 2027 local elections. Our Church Representative will continue to attend meetings of the Education Committee and take part fully in scrutiny, discussion, and debate on all Education Authority business. You may wish to contact your local councillor to highlight the important role these representatives have in Catholic schools.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

The 2026 Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, whether you go as a pilgrim or as a helper is a powerful experience of prayer, friendship and faith. Young people in particular are warmly encouraged to consider serving as helpers – it is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, service to others and a deeper encounter with Our Lady. If you'd like more information you can find details at <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/>.

Raploch War Memorial Event – 7th February

The project to place a War Memorial in the Raploch, honouring the many local men and women who served and sacrificed in armed conflict is holding a fundraising event on 7th February St Marks Church. You can get more details from the posters in all three churches – please consider showing your support for this important cause.