

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh



6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Sunday, 15th February 2026 – Year A

STIRLING

Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 15 th February	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		Giuseppe Lai (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Catherine Arthur (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's		Robina Millar (RIP)
	11.30am	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		Joanna Louise Thatcher (RIP)
Monday, 16 th February	10.00am	Holy Spirit		Heather Carr who is ill
Tuesday, 17 th February	10.00am	Holy Spirit		Evelyn Welsh
ASH WEDNESDAY	8.00am	St Mary's		Special Intention: Rena & John Oates
Fasting & Abstinence	10.00am	Holy Spirit		Maria Benez (RIP)
18 th February	11.00am (School Mass)	St Margaret's		
Thursday, 19 th February	7.00pm	St Mary's		The People of the Parish
	10:00am	St Mary's		Mary and Pat McGuigan (RIP)
Friday, 20 th February	6.00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross	St Margaret's	Day of Prayer for Those who have Suffered Abuse	Annie Casey Arthur
	10.00am	St Margaret's		Month's Mind: John Ging (RIP)
Saturday, 21 st February	6.00pm Stations of the Cross & Confession	St Mary's	St Peter Damian	Bennie Tortolano
	10.00am Mass	St Mary's		Margaret Cameron (RIP)
Sunday, 22 nd February	10.30 am Adoration and Benediction until 12.00 Noon	St Mary's		
	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		Jean Lundie (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Joseph McIvor (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's		Molly Tortolano (RIP)
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Maureen McLynn (RIP)
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish
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.

First reading

Sirach 15:15-20

'He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.'

If you desire, you will keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of choice.

He has placed before you fire and water:

stretch out your hand for whichever you wish.

Life and death are in front of people,

and whichever one chooses will be given to him.

For great is the wisdom of the Lord;

he is mighty in power and sees everything;

his eyes are on those who fear him,

and he knows a person's every deed.

He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly,

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R1b

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

'A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.'

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him' –

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

'It was said to those of old; but I say to you.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

PARISH NOTICES

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.

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



Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Ann O'Neill, Noel Scully, Margaret Rose Gordon, and Catherine McGuire, who died recently.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 8th February was £1053.50 The weekly donations via Standing Orders: £1200. Thank you for your generosity! Also, if more convenient you can donate using this QR Code for online contactless payment to the Church - a copy of which is also on each Church Noticeboard.



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, Anthony Stafford. 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.

Parish Shop - New Location

The parish shop has been relocated because from Thursday 19th February St Mary's will open every day from 9.30am for private prayer. To support this, CCTV is being installed to provide additional security during opening hours. We hope this allows more people to enjoy the church as a place of quiet prayer throughout the day.

Parish Prayer Network

Do you or someone you care about need prayer—for health, family, exams, finances, or anything else? We would be honoured to pray for you every day for a month. Simply share a first name and a brief request, for example: "Please pray for Peter who has an exam coming up." Leave your request in the white box at the back of the church or text 07503 342275.

Children's Liturgy at St Margaret's

The dates for Children Liturgy during 11.30am Sunday Mass are: 15th February, 1st March, 29th March (Palm Sunday), 26th April, 3rd May, 24th May, 14th June and Sunday 21st June.

Lourdes Coffee Morning

Please note the coffee morning is cancelled on Thursday 19th (due to CCTV works in St Mary's) but will resume again on Thursday 26th.

Ash Wednesday - Beginning the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer, repentance, and renewal as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. On this day, Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of our human frailty and our desire to turn back to God. The words spoken – *“Repent and believe in the Gospel”* or *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”* – remind us of both our need for God’s mercy and the hope found in Christ.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast (one full meal and two smaller meals), and all Catholics aged 14 and over are to abstain from meat. These practices help focus our hearts on conversion and deeper reliance on God.

Mass during Lent

Lent is a sacred season of prayer, reflection, and renewal as we journey towards the Paschal Triduum. From 19th February, a new Mass schedule will run throughout Lent, offering additional opportunities to pray, attend Mass, and participate in parish devotions. **See the posters displayed in each Church.** We encourage everyone to use this time to draw closer to Christ, deepen their faith, and prepare their hearts for the great mysteries of Easter.

Lent: Taking Up Service as Almsgiving

During Lent, the Church invites us not only to fast from what distracts us, but also to *take up* practices that draw us closer to Christ. Almsgiving is one of the three pillars of Lent, and it is expressed not only through financial generosity, but also through the generous giving of our time, skills, and care for others. This Lent, you might wish to consider offering some part of yourself in service to the parish community. There are many ways to do so – assisting at Mass, helping with children’s liturgy or music, welcoming people at our churches, supporting parish events, helping with cleaning or flowers, or offering companionship and practical support to those who are elderly, housebound or unwell. Others may be able to contribute through involvement in the Finance Committee or Fabric Committee, helping to care responsibly for the resources and buildings entrusted to us. Even a small commitment, taken up for the season of Lent, can be a meaningful act of almsgiving and a way of responding to the Lord’s call to love in action. If you would like to find out more or explore how you might help, please contact the parish office – we would be very glad to hear from you.

OTHER NOTICES

Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation, or widowhood. The weekend will take place from 27th-29th March 2026 at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. For details contact: Louise on 07786 687631 or email: beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com. Completed applications must be returned by 13th March.

Campaign Against Assisted Dying

The third phase of proposed Assisted Dying legislation is expected to come before the Scottish Parliament in March. As part of the on-going activity to encourage MSPs to vote against this legislation, a targeted campaign will be launched in the Parish later this month. Speakers will highlight how parishioners can get involved at Mass next weekend.

Courageous Heart Day

High School Girls in S3-S6 are invited to a new day called "Courageous Heart" on Saturday, 28 February 2026 from 10:00am-3:00pm. The day will consist of prayer, opportunity for Confession, Mass, lunch, a craft, and friendship. It is hosted at St. Andrew Catholic Church and Convent at 77 Belford Road in Edinburgh and is sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma. Please RSVP and request parent permission forms by emailing edinburgh@almamercy.org or phone 131 343 3380 (landline) by 24th February.

What's Happening at Mass

Mass is the climax of Catholic life. Join the Archdiocese’s Catechetics Commission to explore what we are ultimately doing with God at Holy Mass. *What’s Happening at Mass* takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on Saturday 14 March, from 9:30am-4:00pm. Register: bit.ly/archmass

Remembering Service

For those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support, to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise their loss and help with healing. This service takes place at 5:00pm on Sunday 22 February in St John the Baptist RC Church, 37 St Ninian’s Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8AL.