

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh



**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

STIRLING

Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention				
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Betty Begley (RIP)				
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Special Int: Mary Rennie				
	10.15am	St Mary's		Fr Matthew McGovern (RIP)				
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Angelo Ghisoni (RIP) -				
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish				
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	St Mary's	Feast - St John Ogilvie	Agnes Oates (RIP)				
	6.00pm	St Margaret's		Helen Dubrick (RIP)				
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	Holy Spirit		Stations of the Cross	Special Int: Delia & Robert Alexander			
	6.00pm	St Mary's			Terry Gavin (RIP)			
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	St Margaret's			Stations of the Cross	Gerard Campbell (RIP)		
	6.00pm	Holy Spirit				Joan Heneghan (RIP)		
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00am	St Mary's				Stations of the Cross	John O' Donnell (RIP)	
	6.00pm	St Margaret's					Katie & Malcom Sinclair (RIP)	
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am	St Modan's					Stations of the Cross	Victims Dunblane: 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
	10.00am	St Mary's						Funeral: Thomas Park (RIP)
	6.00pm	St Mary's	John B Ross (RIP)					
Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	St Mary's	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent					Eithne MacFadyen (RIP)
Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		SCIAF Sunday				Thanksgiving - Parish Prayer Group
	9.00am	Holy Spirit						Corazon Castillon Engcoy (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's			Fr Joe Millar (RIP)			
	11.30am	St Margaret's			The People of the Parish			
5.30pm	St Margaret's							
Confessions:	9.30am-9.50am - Monday to Thursday 10.30am-11am - Friday 10.30am-12 Noon - Saturday 4.45-5.20pm - Saturday							
Exposition	5.00pm - 6.00pm - Monday to Wednesday 10.30am-11am - Friday 10.30am-12 Noon - Saturday, concluding with Benediction.							

## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

The Parish Office can be contacted on 01786 473749 or [admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.catholicstirling.org)

Facebook: St Mary's Catholic Parish Stirling

**Parish Clergy:** Father Robert Taylor (Administrator) [FrRobert.Taylor@staned.org.uk](mailto:FrRobert.Taylor@staned.org.uk)  
Father Philip Uguru (Priest in Residence)  
Father Federico Dundas SOCSJ (University Chaplain) [fdundas@socsj.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 the Prayer List or the Book of Remembrance please pass completed forms to the Parish Office.

**'Give us water to drink.'**

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R7c, 8a

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

## Second reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

**Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.**

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## Gospel

John 4:5-42

**'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'**

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

# 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 Catherine McGuire, Anna Costantini, Paschaline Uzoma Uguru and Thomas Park who died recently.

## Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 1<sup>st</sup> March was £1326 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.



Next Sunday, 15th March is **SCIAF Sunday** and there will be a special Collection for SCIAF & Episcopal Charities.

## 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, Jeannette Simpson, Carolanne Quinn & Ruby Quinn. 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.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dunblane shooting

This week marks the anniversary of the tragic events of 13th March 1996, when sixteen young children and their teacher lost their lives in the Dunblane school shooting. We are always encouraged to pray for the dead and for those who mourn them, so on this anniversary in a particular way, we remember not only those who died, but the families, friends and community who continue to carry the pain of that day. Mass will be offered for these intentions at St Modan's High School Mass on 13<sup>th</sup> March, the anniversary itself. St Mary's Church will also be open from 9.00am - 6.00pm, and you may wish to visit and light a candle in silent memory of the sixteen young people and their teacher. In this holy season of Lent, may our prayer be a sign of hope, trust and quiet solidarity with all who suffer.

## Evening Schedule during Lent

<u>Day</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>5pm</u>	<u>6pm</u>
Monday	St. Margaret's	Adoration and Confession	Mass
Tuesday	St. Mary's	Adoration and Confession	Mass
Wednesday	Holy Spirit	Adoration and Confession	Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Thursday	St. Margaret's		Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Friday	St. Mary's		Stations of the Cross and Confession

## First Confessions

First Confessions take place in St Mary's at 12.00 Noon Saturday 14th March. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers.

## Sacrament of Confirmation Parents Meeting

There will be a meeting for all parents of children preparing for Confirmation in Sion Room on 17th March 7.00pm.

## Children's Liturgy at St Margaret's

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

## **Lenten Mission in St Margaret's**

Fr Federico, Christopher, and John are undertaking a Lenten mission of outreach in the Raploch. They will be inviting those who they visit to participate in Holy Mass as well as offering the opportunity for a home blessing. In this season they will also be visiting the sick and the housebound, ensuring that they remain connected to the life of the Church. Speak to Father Federico or one of the seminarians to sign up for a home visit or blessing and to leave their contact details

## **St Marys Parish SSVP Lunch Club**

The next Lunch Club will take place at 12.00 Noon on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March in St Margaret's Church Hall. Please indicate on the list at the back of the church if you wish to attend; if you have any dietary requirements; if you need a lift. We look forward to seeing you there. **Follow us on Facebook: St Marys Parish Stirling SSVP.**

## **Youth Group**

The Youth Group will return after Easter at St Margaret's Church Hall on Drip Road. The new group will be open to Primary 4 to 7 and will meet every fortnight between 5.30 and 7pm. There'll be loads of activities, a chance to meet new people and old friends and learn something about the faith all in fun environment. More details to follow, keep an eye on the noticeboards for posters with full registration details.

## **Church Cleaning St Mary's Monday 9th March**

Please note that there will be no public Rosary after Mass on Monday to allow for the church cleaning to take place.

## **St. Patrick's Day Tuesday 17th March**

Fr. Patrick McCallion of St. Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) will celebrate Mass for St. Patrick's Feast Day and the Anniversary of St. Patrick's Missionary Society at 11am in St. Margaret of Scotland Church, The Raploch, on Tuesday March 17th. All are welcome to attend. Tea & Coffee will be served in the hall after the Mass.

## **SCIAF Wee Box Appeal - Lent 2026**

As ever during the season of Lent, we are encouraged to support the SCIAF Wee Box Appeal. This year the appeal is aimed at helping communities in Ethiopia with the basic need of clean water. Wee Boxes are available in our churches – please take one home and fill it during Lent with all the loose change from those things that you've given up, your support will help support communities who currently have to walk great distances to access water. Your generosity is a powerful expression of Lenten almsgiving and solidarity with those in need.

## **Chrism Mass**

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 31st March at 7.00pm in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh. At this beautiful and significant liturgy, the holy oils used in the Sacraments throughout the year are blessed, and priests renew their promises, expressing the unity of the Church gathered around her Bishop. A bus will run from the parish to enable us to take part in this special diocesan celebration. If you would like to travel by bus, please register with the parish office by **Friday 13th March.**

## **OTHER NOTICES**

### **Spiritual Exercises**

The Benedictine Monastery in Largs will host two retreats in the coming weeks - one for men between 12th and 15th March and one for women from the 1st to 4th May. The retreats are organised by the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word and will follow the method of St Ignatius of Loyola. Fr Simon Willis will lead the retreat in May. You can find more information by e-mailing [m.ostrabrama@servidoras.org](mailto:m.ostrabrama@servidoras.org).

### **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. 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](https://bit.ly/archmass)