

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Sunday, 15th March 2026

STIRLING

Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 15 th March	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)	4 th Sunday of Lent	Eithne MacFadyen (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit	SCIAF Sunday	Thanksgiving - Parish Prayer Group
	10.15am	St Mary's		Corazon Castillon Engcoy (RIP)
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Fr Joe Millar (RIP)
Monday, 16 th March	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish
	10.00am	St Mary's		Tommy & Lily Nevin (RIP)
Tuesday, 17 th March	6.00pm	St Margaret's		Mary & Eddie Callaghan (RIP)
	10:00am	Holy Spirit	St Patrick	Tom Nodes who is unwell
Wednesday, 18 th March	6.00pm	St Mary's		Peter Olley
	10:00am	St Margaret's		William McGee (RIP)
Thursday, 19 th March	6.00pm	Holy Spirit		Special Intention for Ella
	10:00am	St Mary's	St Joseph	Joanna Louise Thatcher (RIP)
Friday, 20 th March	6.00pm	St Margaret's		Alan Wadge (RIP)
	8.30am	St Modan's		James McGurk (RIP)
Saturday, 21 st March	10.00am	St Margaret's		Catherine McGuire (RIP)
	6.00pm	St Mary's	Stations of the Cross	
Sunday, 22 nd March	10.00am	St Mary's		Anna Costantini (RIP)
	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)	5 th Sunday of Lent	Ann O'Neill (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		The People of the Parish
	10.15am	St Mary's		Special Intention: Dympna Ezeam
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Edward Stokes
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The Holy Souls
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

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 the Prayer List or the Book of Remembrance please pass completed forms to the Parish Office.

First reading**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a****David is anointed king of Israel.**

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading**Ephesians 5:8-14****'Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'**

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel**John 9:1-41****'He went and washed and received his sight.'**

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

PARISH NOTICES

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



Of your charity, please pray for the souls of Paschaline Uzoma Uguru, Thomas Park and James McGurk who have died recently. Month's Mind: Anna Costantini, 17th March. May they rest in peace.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 8th March was £1560 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. This 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.

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 Confessions

Easter Triduum 2026

The Easter Triduum is the most sacred time in the liturgical year. Over the course of three days the Church gathers to celebrate the heart of our faith: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. Beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continuing through the solemn remembrance of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and culminating in the great Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The Triduum invites us to walk with Christ through suffering to the joy of the Resurrection. The times for all Masses and services during the Easter Triduum in the Parish of St Mary's, Stirling are now available. Please see the posters displayed in the church and parish noticeboards for full details. The Triduum is a beautiful opportunity for us to participate in these beautiful and prayerful liturgies as we celebrate the central mysteries of our salvation.

Sacramental Parents Meetings

There are a couple of important meetings coming up for parents of children preparing for sacraments later this year. Parents of children preparing for **Confirmation** are invited to a meeting on 17th March at 7.00pm. Parents of children preparing for **First Holy Communion** are invited to a meeting on 25th March at 7.00pm. Both meetings take place in Sion House.

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.

Gift Aid Envelopes

The envelopes for the new tax year are available for collection in our churches from this weekend. Please take the box with your **name on it**. The number may be different to your set for last year. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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

Parish Prayer Network

Would you like to grow in prayer this Holy Season of Lent? The Parish Prayer Network invites you to join us in daily prayer for our fellow parishioners. Together, we pray one decade of the Rosary from Monday to Friday. Each of us prays from our own home, yet we are united in spirit and faith across Holy Spirit, St Margaret's, and St Mary's. You are welcome to join us as we pray together during this sacred season. Text 07503342275 for more details.

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.

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.

Final vote on Assisted Suicide

This Tuesday (17 March) the Scottish Parliament is expected to have a final vote on Assisted Suicide. Please share your concerns now with your MSPs. Use the letter writing tool at <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

We will come together with our neighbouring church communities for Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Church 30th March at 7.00pm. Teas and coffees will be served in Sion House afterwards. We hope you can join us. All welcome!

OTHER NOTICES

Lay Ministry in Our Primary Schools

The Archdiocese has introduced a programme to train Lay Ministers to assist School Chaplains, supporting the faith life of our Catholic schools. Having already begun in secondary schools, this initiative is now being extended to primary schools, including Our Lady's Primary School. If you feel called to support the spiritual life of our young people in this way, please speak to Fr Robert for further details. More information is also available from the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

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.

Stations of the Cross

The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent at 7:45pm. Concludes with a reflection from a guest speaker. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/stations26