

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Sunday, 22nd March 2026

STIRLING

Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 22 nd March	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 (RIP)
Monday, 23 rd March	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The Holy Souls
	10.00am	St Mary's		Special Intention: Cathie & Brian McCrossan
Tuesday, 24 th March	6.00pm	St Margaret's		Kitty Tierney (RIP)
	10:00am	Holy Spirit		Frank Simpson (RIP)
Wednesday, 25 th March	6.00pm	St Mary's	The Annunciation of Our Lord	John Stokes (RIP)
	10:00am	St Margaret's		Bill Fortune (RIP)
Thursday, 26 th March	6.00pm	Holy Spirit		Fay Flynn who is ill
	10:00am	St Mary's		Anna Costantini (RIP)
Friday, 27 th March	6.00pm	St Margaret's	Stations of the Cross	Paschaline Ukuru (RIP)
	8.30am	St Modan's		Ann Duffy (RIP)
Saturday, 28 th March	10.00am	St Margaret's		Special Intention: Michael Hendry
	6.00pm	St Mary's		Mario Giovanna Lai
Sunday, 29 th March	10.00am	St Mary's	Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord	Alan Rennie (RIP) Birthday Remembrance
	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)		The People of the Parish
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Catherine McGuire (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's		Evelyn Lucy Murray (RIP)
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**Ezekiel 37:12-14****'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.'**

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc**

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption

Second reading**Romans 8:8-11****'The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.'**

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel**John 11:1-45****'I am the resurrection and the life.'**

At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

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, James McGurk, Margaret McGregor and Patrick Lennon who have died recently. The Month's Mind of Thomas Park will be celebrated on 25th March. May all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 15th March was £1417.50. 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. Last Sunday's Special Collection for SCIAF & Episcopal Charities raised £1233.50



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

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

St Mary's will host the Holy Week Ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Monday 30th March at 7.00pm. Teas and coffees will be served in Sion House afterwards. This is a great way to come together with our Christian brothers and sisters, please come along to welcome all to our church.

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.

Parish Prayer Network

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" (Peter 5:7). If you are feeling anxious about Family/friends/loved ones, health and healing, are looking for guidance and direction or some personal intentions - the Parish Prayer Network will pray for your intention daily for one month. Place your request in the white box at the back of the Church and prayers will begin immediately.

Volunteers Still Needed

Our parish continues to rely on the generosity of volunteers in so many aspects of its life. If you are able to give some of your time - even in a small way - please consider coming forward to help. Your support makes a real difference in building up our parish community. Please contact the parish office for more information.

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.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>
Holy Thursday	7.00pm	St Mary's
	7.00pm	St Margaret's
	Prayer at the Altar of Repose concludes with Night Prayer at 9.00pm	
Good Friday	3.00pm	Holy Spirit
	3.00pm	St Mary's
	7.00pm Veneration of the Cross & Stations of the Cross	St Mary's
Holy Saturday	8.00pm The Resurrection of the Lord	
Easter Sunday	9.00am	Holy Spirit
	10.15am	St Mary's
	11.30am	St Margaret's
Please note: There is no evening Mass in St Margaret's on Easter Sunday		

Easter Week Mass Times

Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am each day from **Easter Monday to Saturday** in the following churches:

- Monday, Thursday & Saturday - St Mary's
- Tuesday - Holy Spirit
- Wednesday & Friday - St Margaret's of Scotland

On Easter Saturday, Adoration and Confessions will be available from 10.30am-12 noon, followed by Benediction at 12 noon. The summer Mass programme will be announced in the coming weeks, beginning on Monday 13th April.

Parish Stalls - Easter Cards & Gifts

Don't forget the parish stalls in each of our churches, offering a range of Easter cards, gifts, and devotional items. St Mary's - in the former reconciliation chapel. Holy Spirit - to the right of the main door. St Margaret's of Scotland - in the church foyer. Do take a moment to have a look and support the parish in this way.

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.

OTHER NOTICES

Campaign against Assisted Dying

As you will have seen on this week's news, the Assisted Dying Bill was defeated at the final stage vote in the Scottish Parliament. In the run up to the vote, the 700 letters signed at St Mary's Stirling were among the 9,500 letters sent to MSPs across Scotland to highlight concerns about this legislation. Thank you to everyone over the last two years for your prayers, letters, emails and trying to meet with MSPs to share your experiences and issues with this legislation. The Bill would not have been defeated without your efforts.