

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh



**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**  
Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

STIRLING

Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention	
Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	St Mary's (Vigil)	Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord	Mario Giovanna Lai	
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Alan Rennie (RIP) Birthday Remembrance	
	10.15am	St Mary's		The People of the Parish	
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Catherine McGuire (RIP)	
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		Evelyn Lucy Murray (RIP)	
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Holy Spirit	Mass of the Lord's Supper	<b>Funeral:</b> Sheila Kelly (RIP)	
	6.00pm	St Margaret's		Helen McGee	
Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March	10:00am	Holy Spirit	Friday of the Passion of the Lord Veneration & Stations of the Cross	Fr Joe Millar (RIP)	
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10:00am	St Margaret's		Anna Costantini (RIP)	
	6.00pm	Holy Spirit		Mary & Ian Whyte (RIP)	
Thursday, 2nd April	7.00pm	St Mary's		Easter Vigil	Brenda Maynard
	7.00pm	St Margaret's			Reilly Family intentions
Friday, 3rd April	3.00pm	Holy Spirit	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	The People of the Parish Carol Ogilvie (RIP) Anne Black 90th Celebration May Dowd	
	3.00pm	St Mary's			
	7.00pm	St Mary's			
Saturday, 4th April	8.00pm	St Mary's			
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am	Holy Spirit			
	10.15am	St Mary's			
	11.30am	St Margaret's			
Confessions:	9.30am-9.50am - Monday to Thursday 10.30am-11am - Friday 10.30am-12 Noon - Saturday No Confessions before the Easter Vigil.				
Exposition	5.00pm - 6.00pm - Monday & Wednesday				

## 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.

Please note that this week the Parish office will be closed.

**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.

**'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

## First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

**'I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.'**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

## Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

**'He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.'**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 26:14-27:66

**The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

## 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 James McGurk, Margaret McGregor, Sheila Elizabeth Kelly and Patrick Lennon who have died recently. May all the faithful departed rest in peace.

### Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was £1449 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, Jeannette Simpson, Carolanne Quinn & Ruby Quinn, Irene Bett & Mary Bett. 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.

### Welcome to Stirling

We warmly welcome Jacob Miller, a seminarian from the Diocese of Metuchen in the United States, who is with us for Holy Week and Easter Week. Jacob is a great admirer of Scotland, and we hope he enjoys his time among us. Please make him feel very welcome in our parish community.

### Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

St Mary's will host the Holy Week Ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Easter Triduum 2026

The Easter Triduum is the most sacred time in the liturgical year, when the Church celebrates the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord - from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, through the Passion on Good Friday, to the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The times for all Masses and services in St Mary's Parish, Stirling are now available - please see posters and noticeboards for full details. Please remember too that Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. What does that mean? For <sup>those</sup> aged 18-59 we must fast (you can have one full meal and two smaller meals, which together are no bigger than the full meal), and all aged 14+ are to abstain from meat. **Please note:** There is no evening Mass at 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 new Mass programme starting from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April is now available, please see the posters in our churches or look on the Facebook page for more details.

## **St Marys Parish 500 Club 2025 Annual Statement**

Total monies received: £8160, total paid in prizes: £4896 (60%) total paid to the Parish: £3264 (40%). With this now finalised we are able to make the January and February draws this Sunday after the 10.15am Mass.

## **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.

## **Altar Laundry at Holy Spirit**

Many thanks to Helen Millar who, after many years, has retired from doing the altar laundry at Holy Spirit. We are very grateful to Helen for her dedicated service over the years. We do however now need someone to take this on. If you are able to offer your services please contact the parish office. Many thanks!

## **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. A reminder for those attending the youth group that there is a one-off registration fee of £2 per person at the first meeting on 22nd April. Please also bring 50p for tuck shop spending money each week. Unfortunately, no credit can be extended!

## **Raploch War Memorial Fundraising Event**

A sponsored walk for children will take place in Kings Park, Stirling, on Saturday 18th April 2026, beginning at 11:00am. Please come along and support John, Kelsey, Alexander, Brandon and Shannon, who are taking on the walk to help raise funds for the new War Memorial planned for Raploch village. Sponsorship forms are available from St Margaret's, or you can hand in donations for this cause to St Mary's Church House in an envelope clearly marked "Raploch War Memorial Sponsored Walk." Thank you, and good luck to all taking part!

## **OTHER NOTICES**

### **Diocesan structures in Scotland**

The Holy See has invited the Bishops of Scotland to reflect on how the present dioceses of the Church in Scotland can best serve her mission in the years ahead. In the coming weeks, therefore, along with the rest of the country, Archbishop Leo would like to hold some consultations on what we might propose to Rome, so that the Church in Scotland might improve cooperation among its dioceses, share resources within our present structures, or consider, as necessary, how we might merge some of our dioceses. Read the full statement at <https://www.bcos.org.uk/>

### **Rachel's Vineyard**

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion will be held in Glasgow on Friday, 24 to Sunday 26 April. This confidential, supportive retreat is helpful to anyone who has been affected by their own or someone else's abortion experience. For more information, please call or text Sr Andrea on 07816 942824 or email at [sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk). For more details, visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk)