

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sunday 3rd May 2026



Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 3 rd May	5.30pm (Vigil)	St Mary's	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Ella Lamb
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Harry Ross (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's		Neozi Aganwa
	11.30am	St Margaret's		Christopher Mitchell (RIP)
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The People of the Parish
Monday, 4 th May	10.00am	St Mary's	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Jorge and Maureen Semiga
	7.00pm	St Margaret's		Anne Kearney (RIP)
Tuesday, 5 th May	10.00am	Holy Spirit		James & Irene Wynn
Wed, 6 th May	10.00am	St Mary's		John Lindsay (RIP)
	7.00pm	Holy Spirit		Thomas McCluskie
Thursday, 7 th May	10.00am	St Mary's		Brian Oates (RIP)
Friday, 8 th May	08.00 am	St Modan's		The Holy Souls
	10.00am	St Margaret's		Patrick Tierney (RIP)
Saturday, 9 th May	10.00am	St Mary's		Month's Mind George Tortolano (RIP)
Sunday, 10 th May	5.30pm (Vigil)	St Mary's		Ify Andy-Oji
	9.00am	Holy Spirit	Thanksgiving Mass St Anthony, St Rita & St Peregrine	
	10.15am	St Mary's	The People of the Parish	
	11.30am	St Margaret's	Joanna Louise Thatcher	
	5.30pm	St Margaret's	Evelyn Lucy Murray	
Confessions:	Before every weekday Mass 10.30am-12 Noon - Saturday 4.45-5.20pm - Saturday			
Exposition	6.00pm - 7.00pm - Monday & Wednesday 9.00am - 10.00am Tuesday 10.30 - 12 Noon (with Benediction) Saturday			
St Mary's Church is open Monday to Saturday from 9am for private prayer				

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

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 1st May until Monday 18th May. For urgent matters, please e-mail admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk or call and leave a voicemail which will be dealt with as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience during this time.

Baptisms: To register your child for baptism, email admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk. Baptism preparation courses will be held once every three months, the next one will be **June 6th**. Please register with the parish office. 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.

First reading**Acts 6:1-7****‘They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.’**

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Second reading**1 Peter 2:4-9****‘But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.’**

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’, and ‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Gospel**John 14:1-12****‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life.’**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.’

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 **George Tortolano** who died recently.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 26th April was £1536. 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 week's Special for the Ecclesiastical Students Fund was £855. Many thanks.



Parish Finance Committee Appeal

Following on from last Sunday's Appeal from the Parish Finance Committee we kindly ask everyone to review their contribution and consider any changes possible, whilst always remembering to give what you can afford. Our costs have risen significantly over the last few years especially heating, electricity, and insurance. We are very grateful to everyone who supports the Parish in this way. Remember when setting up a new standing order, or updating an existing one, please use the RBS details: Sort Code: **83-27-09** Account No: **00170956** as we need to move to the RBS account (and away from the BoS account). If your standing order currently goes to BoS, please remember to cancel it once the new one is set up. Also, if you are not already signed up to Gift Aid and are a UK tax payer please complete a Gift Aid Form and return it to the parish office. **This is hugely important and gives us an additional 25% at no additional cost to you.** Copies of Standing Order and Gift Aid Forms are available at the back of the church. **Please Note:** These changes do not affect the 500 Club Standing Orders, there will be more information on that arrangement later in the year.

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, Bennie Tortolano (*Torbrex*), Margaret O'Rourke. 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.

Youth Group & Children's Liturgy

The remaining dates for the **Children's Liturgy** until the summer are: today, Sunday 3rd May, 24th May, 14th June and Sunday 21st June. These classes take place during 11.30am Mass at St Margaret's. **The Youth Group** returns this Wednesday, 6th May at St Margaret's Hall from 5.30-7pm. This gathering is for P4-P7 children. New registrations can be made on the night with a one off cost of £2. At the end of a night of fun, faith and friendship the tuck shop will be open. Maximum spend 50p - don't forget your change!

CPR Training 14th May 7.00pm St Margaret's Hall

Save a life for Scotland and GPs in the parish invite you to this event which will cover: Basic life support skills, CPR and Defibrillator Use. If you would like to attend please add your name to the list at the back of each church. Please join us to learn some lifesaving skills.

Our Churches - Places of Prayer

A gentle reminder and request, of the importance of maintaining a prayerful silence in our churches before and after Mass. It is easy to fall into conversation, particularly when gathering indoors, but our churches are first and foremost the House of God, a place of prayer and encounter with the Lord. Please be mindful of those who are praying, and kindly move conversations to the porch or halls where possible.

Pastoral Care in the Parish

At the heart of parish life is the celebration of the Sacraments and the care of the People of God in every circumstance. We are mindful that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass due to illness, age, or changing circumstances, and we are committed to ensuring they remain connected to the life of the Church. If you, or someone you know, would value a visit from the priest, the Sacraments, or a time of prayer and companionship, please contact the parish. Likewise, if you are aware of anyone who may appreciate contact, please let us know. Livestreamed Masses from St Mary's have been increased during the week too as an important means of supporting our housebound community. In addition, the work of groups such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, together with our parish prayer network, continues to support those in need through practical help and prayer.

Rosary in the Month of May

From the first Wednesday in May, the Rosary will be prayed at St Mary's at 9.30am before Mass. This will also be livestreamed for those who wish to join in from home. All are warmly invited to take part in this time of prayer, especially during May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady. The Wednesday Rosary will continue beyond the Marian month as a regular part of our parish prayer. Please do consider making this a part of your week—a simple and beautiful way to honour Our Lady and to place your intentions before the Lord.

Parish Prayer Network

Anyone who needs prayer today, you're welcome to put your request in the box at the back of the church and we'd be happy to pray for you. Would you like to have a more structured prayer life in 2026? Why don't you join us in daily prayer said from your own home. Text 07503342275 and leave your name - we will get back to you with details

Weekday Coffee Mornings

In addition to gathering at the altar for the Eucharist, we are also a family which cherishes opportunities to meet socially too. If you are at a weekday Mass why not join us for tea and coffee after weekday Mass: on Tuesdays in the Upper Room at Holy Spirit, and on Wednesdays after the 10am Mass at St Mary's. All are most welcome.

Irish Night - Tickets Available Now!

Tickets for our Night of Irish Music and Culture in St Margaret's Hall will be on sale this weekend. The event takes place on 22nd May at 7.00pm, and tickets are limited – so do be sure to get yours early! All proceeds will go towards the redecoration of St Margaret's Church. More information next week, or on the posters in each church.

St Mary's Parish Bingo and Afternoon Tea

Join us for a fun afternoon at St Mary's Parish Bingo and Afternoon Tea on Saturday 30th May 2pm - 4pm at St Margaret's Church Hall, Raploch. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon with delicious afternoon tea, exciting bingo games, and a raffle with great prizes. Entry £2 for adults and £1 for children. Tickets will be available at the back of the church on 26th April after all Masses, or by contacting Margaret Glencross on 07964130944 or via email at jgxalfoaf@aol.com. Any prize donations will be gratefully appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

St Mary's Parish SSVP Lunch Club

The next lunch club takes place on Friday 8th May in St Margaret's Hall. Please be ready to start by 12:00. Please indicate on the list at the back of each church if you would like to attend, if you have any dietary requirements or if you require a lift. We look forward to seeing you there.

St Margaret's Redecoration - Have Your Say

As part of the planned redecoration of St Margaret's Church, parishioners are invited to share their views. Three proposed options are now on display, and you are encouraged to indicate your preferred choice. The images can be viewed on the noticeboard in the porch at St Margaret's over the next four weeks.

Upcoming Pilgrimages & Parish Outings

Over the coming months there are several opportunities for pilgrimage and parish outings. Please register your interest by signing up on the appropriate sheet or e-mailing admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk if you would like to take part and join the bus for:

- **Corpus Christi Procession** at Our Lady & St Andrew, Galashiels – 7th June
- **St Margaret's Pilgrimage**, Dunfermline – 14th June (12-4pm)
- **Parish Trip to Carfin Grotto** (near Motherwell) – Saturday 27th June, including Mass, time for personal prayer and activities for young people.

Further details will follow, but please indicate your interest to the parish office, by e-mail or on sheets provided, for planning purposes as soon as possible!

Scottish Parliament Election 2026

The Scottish Parliament election takes place on Thursday 7th May. We are all encouraged, as Catholics, to engage prayerfully and responsibly in the democratic process. Voting is both a right and a duty, and an important way of contributing to the common good. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has published an Election Briefing Pack to help Catholics reflect on the key issues in the light of faith and Catholic Social Teaching. Please take time to read the materials, inform your conscience, and make your voice heard at the ballot box. You can find the resource on the newsletter page on the parish website, as well as on the Facebook page.

The Gillis Centre

The Archdiocese has announced that The Gillis Centre, which has long served as its administrative home, will be placed on the market for sale later this year. This follows a long process of review and time of reflection and discernment about how best to support the mission and future needs of the Archdiocese. The Gillis Centre holds a special place in the life of many, and Archbishop Cushley asks us to keep this transition in our prayers. The Curia team will continue their work there for now and will move to new premises in due course. Further information is available on the Archdiocesan website: archedinburgh.org/news, a link you can follow from the Parish Facebook page.

Newsletter available online on the Facebook page or Parish website. The newsletter is produced and printed by St Mary's Catholic Parish, Stirling

The Parish of St Mary's, Stirling is a Parish in the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.
The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is a registered charity in Scotland. Charity no. SC008540