

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH, STIRLING

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

17th Sunday of the Year
Sunday 26th July 2026



Day	Time	Church	Holy Day	Mass Intention
Sunday, 26 th July	5.30pm (Vigil)	St Mary's	17 th Sunday of the Year	Patrick McGuigan (RIP)
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		Anne Brady (RIP)
	10.15am	St Mary's		John McQuillian (RIP)
	11.30am	St Margaret's		The Holy Souls
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		People of the parish
Monday, 27 th July	10.00am	St Mary's	SS. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus	Bridget & Frances O'Donnell (RIP)
	7.00pm	St Margaret's		Lorraine Grant
Tuesday, 28 st July	10.00am	Holy Spirit		Kevin McPake
Wed, 29 th July	10.00am	St Mary's		Kelly-Marie Smith- Special Intentions
	7.00pm	Holy Spirit		Patrick Morrisey (RIP)
Thurs, 30 th July	10.00am	St Mary's	St. Ignatius of Loyola	Leoni & John Langan- Wedding Anniversary
Friday, 31 st July	10.00am	St Margaret's		Betty Burke
Sunday, 2 nd August	5.30pm (Vigil)	St Mary's		George Tortolano
	9.00am	Holy Spirit		People of the Parish
	10.15am	St Mary's		Callum & Molly McDonald
	11.30am	St Margaret's	18 th Sunday of the year	Ellen & Gerry Dickson
	5.30pm	St Margaret's		The Holy Souls
Confessions:	Before every weekday Mass <u>There will temporarily be no confessions Saturday mornings.</u> 4.45-5.20pm - Saturday			
Exposition	6.00pm - 7.00pm - Monday & Wednesday 9.00am - 10.00am - Tuesday <u>There will temporarily be no Exposition or Benediction Saturday mornings.</u>			
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 Scott Deeley (Administrator) frscott.deeley@staned.org.uk Tel no. 01236 822136

Father Philip Uguru (Priest in Residence)

Father Federico Dundas SOCSJ (University Chaplain) fdundas@socsj.org

Whilst we recruit a new Parish Secretary the office may not be manned during the day. Please call and leave a voicemail or e-mail and someone will reply in due course. Many thanks for your understanding in 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 in September. 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.

READINGS FOR MASS

First reading

1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12

‘You have asked for yourself understanding.’

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):57, 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130. ~~R~~97a

O Lord, how I love your law!

Second reading

Romans 8:28-30

‘He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.’

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

‘He sells all that he has and buys that field.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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 Anne Brady (RIP), Cora Pollock (RIP) and Euphemia (Patsy) McLean (RIP) who died recently.

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, and John Mathieson. 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.

Sunday Collection

The collection combined over the three churches on 19th July was £1511 The weekly donations via Standing Orders: £1400. Thank you for your continued 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.



17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

The parable of the pearl of great price is the sixth of the seven parables of the Kingdom that we find in the thirteenth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. As we have been hearing in recent weeks, the parables elucidate what the Kingdom of Heaven is. From what Jesus has told us, it is something which, like the mustard seed and the yeast, has tiny beginnings and grows in secret. He also tells us that the Kingdom of God is to be found like good wheat in amongst poisonous weeds. As we try to understand what these parables tell us, perhaps we need to take a step back. The phrase 'the Kingdom of Heaven' is used a lot, but do we know what it really means? Sometimes, we can use and hear phrases spoken so often and so casually that they lose something of their power and their meaning. We listen again to these parables asking God to help us understand anew the power and beauty of the Kingdom that He is building in our hearts and in the world.

Parish Prayer Network

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

If you are burdened by worries or anxieties, please know that we will pray for you daily, asking the Lord to grant you His strength and restful peace. Simply place your intention in the white box at the back of the church or txt 07503342275.

Saturday Morning Mass

There will be no morning Mass, Confession or Adoration and Benediction on Saturday mornings at St. Mary's until further notice.

Lourdes Coffee Morning

The Lourdes coffee morning will now continue throughout the summer - with grateful thanks to our parish volunteers!

Parish Office

The parish office will be open during the usual hours, from Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00am to 3:00pm. We are very grateful for the generous assistance of a team of three parish volunteers who will be helping, at least provisionally, during this transition.

Supporting Parish Life

Social events and gatherings are an important part of the life of any parish community. They bring people together in friendship and faith, strengthen the bonds between us, and help create a welcoming and vibrant parish family. They also provide valuable support for important parish projects and initiatives across our three churches. The social life of the parish must continue to develop through events and gatherings which support projects such as the redecoration of St Margaret's Church, the St Mary's building fund, and the Holy Spirit garden appeal. If you have an idea for a social or fundraising event – or would be willing to help organise or support one – we would be very pleased to hear from you. On a similar note, the continued life and mission of the parish depends greatly upon the generosity of volunteers. There remains a real need for people willing to offer their time and talents in practical, liturgical, and pastoral roles across the parish. Posters in our churches outline some of the areas where help is currently needed, and we encourage parishioners to consider whether they may be able to become involved. If you would like to help in any way, or would like to discuss an idea, please contact admin.stmarystirling@staned.org.uk. Your support makes a real difference to the strength and future of our parish community.

Parish Finance Committee Appeal

As mentioned in the April appeal from the Parish Finance Committee our banking arrangements have changed to the Royal Bank of Scotland. If you are set up for the Bank of Scotland, we would be grateful if you can amend this as soon as possible. Standing Order forms for the RBS Account are available at the back of each Church or if you have access to on-line banking you can make the change on line. Details for the RBS account are: Account Name – Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh – St Mary's Stirling, Sort Code 83-27-09, Account No 00170956. If you need any help with this please contact the parish office or any member of the Finance Committee- Paul Murphy, Margaret Glencross, Liam McCabe or Margaret-Mary Higgins. Many thanks!

Please Note: These changes **do not affect** the 500 Club Standing Orders so please do not make any changes to your standing order for this. There will be more information on that arrangement later in the year.

Parish Rosary

The Rosary is prayed each Wednesday morning in St Mary's before the 10.00am Mass. This led Rosary is an opportunity for parishioners to gather in prayer and devotion to Our Lady, entrusting our intentions, our parish, and our families to her care. Those who are sick or housebound are also able to join from home via the livestream. In a busy world, coming together in prayer is an important part of the life of the parish. Why not consider setting aside this time each week to deepen your devotion to Our Lady and draw closer to Our Lord through this beautiful prayer of the Church.

Campaign Against Assisted Dying

The second reading of proposed Assisted Suicide legislation is expected to come before the Westminster Parliament in September. Despite heavy criticisms of this legislation, its supporters are ready to force it through without changes, using the Parliament Act. As part of the on-going activity to encourage MPs to vote against this legislation, there will be a meeting to discuss the latest stage of campaign to defeat this Bill. If you are able to support or participate with this activity, please come along to Sion House on Thursday 30th July at 7pm.

OTHER NOTICES

Brecbannoch Pilgrimage 2026

A pilgrimage to pray for the renewal of the Faith in Scotland, from 31 July to 3 August, with a walk across the Isle of Mull, returning the relics of St Columba to Iona. Discounts are available for students and under-22s, and under-5s go free. Visit brecbannoch.co.uk