

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Parish Priest: Fr Jeremy Milne

Resident at St John the Baptist

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Church of St John the Baptist

37 St Ninian's Road
Edinburgh EH12 8AL

Church of St Kentigern

26 Parkgrove Avenue
Edinburgh EH4 7QR

Sunday 29th March 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance during this time please contact us via the parish email (parish.turnhouse@gmail.com) or phone (0131 334 1693).

Please let me know if you would like a newsletter delivered to your door or anything else like shopping, prescriptions, newspapers or would simply like a chat on the phone with fellow parishioners sometime and I'll put you in touch with one of our volunteers.

Volunteers

If you would be able and willing to join a list of volunteers who can help respond in the parish please email the parish address with your name, address with postcode, telephone number and email address (easier for me to copy into a spreadsheet if it's typed out). In accordance with public health guidance, please put 'General Volunteer' in the subject line if you fulfil all of the following criteria: you are well and have no symptoms like a cough or high temperature and neither does anybody in your household; you are under 70; you are not pregnant; you do not have any long-term health conditions that make you vulnerable to coronavirus. Otherwise please put 'Phone ministry'. If you don't have email, just phone the parish with your details.

Spiritual life

Things have obviously changed a lot since last week's newsletter! We live in strange times and are all trying to adjust as best we can to the restrictions on our lives. Someone wrote to me that they realised that they were now on a kind of retreat. That's maybe a good way to look at it. Many of us have had to slow down, step back from our usual activity and one of the blessings that might come from all this is that we learn to turn more deeply and fully to the Lord. There are many ways you can do this. If you have internet you can tune in to a Mass online somewhere every day and unite yourself with Jesus by making a spiritual communion (Mass is streamed live to the new parish Facebook page from St John's Oratory each day at 9.30am - <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Baptist-St-Kentigern-RC-Parish-Edinburgh-100134748307886/>). It's important that we remember especially to keep Sunday holy as the Lord has commanded us. With or without internet we can all pray, read Scripture and the Saints, meditate and in these ways allow the Word of God to speak to our heart. Our hearts are troubled and anxious at this time and we need to hear God's comforting words of peace and love. We will hear those words if we also heed his call: "Come back to me with all your heart."

In the Gospel this week.....

Responding to the sorrow and need of Martha and Mary at the loss of their beloved brother, Jesus goes to them and raises Lazarus to new life. He raises him from a tomb with a stone rolled in front of the entrance which reminds us of his own tomb from which the whole new reality of resurrection burst upon the human story like a great spiritual supernova in which the despair of human death is overcome by the white shining hope of life everlasting. Those who believe, who really trust in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, can now view all of the trials and tribulations of human existence from an eternal perspective, knowing that not even death will get the better of us. It is God who will get the better of us. It is God who will get the best from us by fashioning us in the likeness of his Son. Let us all ponder Jesus' question to Martha, "Do you believe this?"

Charitable offerings

With churches now closed our charities will be struggling to raise the funds they need to continue the good work that they do. For example, last Sunday would have been the time we take a special collection for SCIAF. Do please continue to remember SCIAF and others and contribute as best you can. Online cash donations can be made here:

SCIAF – www.sciaf.org.uk

Foodbanks (NW Edinburgh) – <https://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk/>

Church offerings

I ask that you continue to remember the parish in your giving as we do still need to meet running and maintenance costs. Perhaps this is the ideal opportunity to set up a standing order payment for your church offering. I'll put a form with the new bank account details on it on the website to help you with that. Simply fill in the form and send to your bank.

Mass Intentions

Fr Jeremy will be celebrating Mass from St John's Oratory every day and so the offering of particular intentions can carry on as usual. You can email or phone your intentions to me or pop an envelope through the letterbox of the presbytery at St John's.

Mass Intentions this week

Saturday 28th March – Manuela Sutherland RIP

Sunday 29th March – People of the Parish

Mon 30th March – Moyra Scully RIP

Tue 31st March – Jimmy McIlwee RIP

Wed 1st April – Jim Pollard RIP

Thu 2nd April – Eddie McGhee RIP

Fri 3rd April – Dante Jannetta RIP

Sat 4th April – Fay Dewar RIP

Sunday 5th April – People of the Parish

Please pray for: the sick and the housebound of the parish, for those affected by the coronavirus and those who care for them; and for all those whose anniversary occurs around this time.

Foodbank: Panic buying has left supermarket shelves bare but the Foodbank still need our donations probably more than ever. Consider adding an extra item or two to your weekly shop and putting it in the boxes usually to be found at the front door of most supermarkets. Non-perishable items urgently required: spaghetti in sauce, vegetables, corned beef, custard, potatoes, rice pudding (all tinned); biscuits, chocolates & sweets; fruit juice (long life), jam, sugar (small bags), deodorant, shampoo, household cleaning products. Check out their web page for other items needed - <https://edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk/>

Calling all Knitters: Given the current situation of all but self isolation how about taking up the knitting needles – there is an ongoing need for hand knitted baby blankets, hats, mittens, bootees and cardigans. If you don't knit perhaps consider donating wool. Donations gratefully accepted.

Scottish Catholic Observer: SCO are making a very generous offer to take out a 6 week subscription to the paper which will be delivered to your door for just £10. To take up this offer you can visit www.sconews.co.uk/subscribe. Or call

0141 241 4956 from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm where someone will handle your subscription over the phone.

Christian Meditation Online: Experience the joy of God's healing presence during Christian meditation this special Lent. As long as the lock-down lasts, we meditate on Skype on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 7.30 p.m. The up-to-date schedule and connection instructions are here: <https://www.meetup.com/Christian-Meditation-Group/events/>

Contact info - mobile: 0771 777 2614 Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1cuO5QJ>

Archbishop Cushley has asked us all to pray the Memorare daily invoking the help of Our Lady, Health of the Sick.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Parish Contacts and Communication details:

Fr Jeremy/parish business: parish.turnhouse@gmail.com

Newsletter: stjstknnews@gmail.com (*Note: Please send items by 5.00pm on Thursday for inclusion in the Sunday Newsletter*)

Parish Halls: St John the Baptist – traceyjane@hotmail.com; St Kentigern's – stkenhall@gmail.com

SSVP St John's & St Kentigern's – can be contacted at the back of the Church after Mass or the Parish House

Parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, registered Charity No: SC008540