

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Parish Priest: Fr Jeremy Milne

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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 17th December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent, Year B
A warm welcome to Mass today

Parish Offertory donations can now be made online. Scan the QR code to go to the parish online giving page. Please Gift Aid if you can. Thank you so much!

> *About to make/change a Will? Have you considered leaving a legacy to your parish?*



Saturday 16 th December (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Johnny Faherty RIP
Sunday 17 th December	9.30am	St Kentigern	People of the Parish
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	Geoff Harrison S.I.
Monday 18 th December	<i>No Service</i>		
Tuesday 19 th December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Margaret Paterson RIP
Wednesday 20 th December	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Freda Mooney Rip
Thursday 21 st Dec – Funeral Mass for Jeremy Dowling	9.30am	St Kentigern	Jeremy Dowling RIP
Friday 22 nd December	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Sheila Harrison RIP
Saturday 23 rd December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Charles Leavy RIP
Saturday 23 rd December (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	People of the Parish
Sunday 24 th December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Maria Dariu RIP
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	Jim Harrison RIP
Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve	<i>Carols - 5.30pm</i>	<i>St John the Baptist</i>	
	Mass – 6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Owen Boyle RIP
	<i>Carols – 8.00pm</i>	St Kentigern	
	Mass – 8.30pm	St Kentigern	Donald Mac Kinnon RIP
Monday 25th December - Christmas Day	9.30am	St Kentigern	Mirella Giulidori RIP
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	People of the Parish
Confessions	Saturday 10.00am-10.15am – St Kentigern's; Saturday 5.15pm-5.40pm – St John the Baptist		
Adoration & Rosary	Wednesday 20 th December, 7pm, St John the Baptist, Joyful Mysteries		

Parish Children's Nativity: Monday 18th December at 6.30pm, St Kentigern's. Children who wish to participate in telling the story of Christmas, please arrive at 6.00pm to receive a costume and some instructions.

Please pray for:

- Jeremy Dowling who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Reception of the Body into St Kentigern's church will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 5.30pm. The Funeral Mass is at 9.30am on Thursday 21st December at St Kentigern's and onwards to Warriston Crematorium.
- The sick and the housebound of the parish, that the Lord may grant them comfort and strength.
- All those who died recently, Keith Sandison, Mirella Giulidori, John Reynolds, and all those whose anniversary occurs around this time.



Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

This Gaudete Sunday is characterised by the gift of joy that comes with the nearness of the Lord. Approaching the latter part of Advent now, the celebration of his birth is near. The incarnation of God as man brings the Lord nearer to every human heart than could ever be imagined. Our Saviour is nigh. May our souls, like Mary's, glorify the Lord and, like John the Baptist, may we bear witness to the light of Christ in the darkness of these times.

PARISH

Travel to Christmas Day Masses: If anyone is worried about travel to either of the Masses on Christmas Day and would appreciate a lift or is driving and could offer someone in need a lift, signup sheets are at the back of both churches. For more info contact Brian Murray on 07860 648301

Christmas Tree Star Remembrance for loved ones: If you would like to remember a loved one on our Christmas Trees please email Mary Strachan with name(s) and indicate which church. Donations raised will be for Friends of the Holy Land (see below). Please Email mks@marystrachanevents.com **no later than 17th December.**

Donations for Holy Land: Archbishop Cushley is encouraging us to consider making a donation to Friends of the Holy Land in Advent. He said: "It is a non-political Christian charity and the donations will be used to provide aid and support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time." A donation page has been set up for the Archdiocese at bit.ly/archholylnd. Find out more about its work at www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/about-us. **Our parish crib collection, Christmas Stars etc** will be donated this year to Friends of the Holy Land. Please be as generous as you can!

St Kent's Big Christmas Clean: There will be 2 opportunities for any volunteers to help clean the church for our wonderful Christmas celebrations. The first will be on **Monday 18th Dec at 9am** and the second will be on **Thursday 21st at 7pm**. All volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Additionally we are welcoming new volunteers to join existing teams for our cleaning rota for 2024. The commitment is only once every 5 weeks for approximately one hour. Please let Fr Jeremy or Karen Birnie know if you are interested.

St Kentigern's Feast Day: Volunteers Needed For Big Breakfast: **Sunday 14th January** will be the nearest Sunday to St Kentigern's Feast Day (13th January) and, as always, we will celebrate the life of one of our parish's patron saints. After 9.30am Mass there will be the traditional Big Breakfast in St Kentigern's Hall. Volunteers are needed to make it a great community occasion. Last year's team were stars and, hopefully, you are all available again. New volunteers will also be very welcome. Help is needed for set up on the Saturday evening and on the Sunday we need people to keep the bacon rolls, sausages, croissants, tea, coffee etc topped up to satisfy our hungry parishioners of all ages. Please speak to Marlene McCallum or email marlenemccallum9@gmail.com if you can help.

ARCHDIOCESE AND BEYOND

'Buffer Zone' Bill: A new bill proposes criminalising prayer and offers of help to women in designated 'buffer zones' around abortion centres in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please respond to the government consultation which ends on 20 December at bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey. Please also write to your MSP to express your concerns. Visit <https://rcppolitics.org/buffer-zones> for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced, including help with responding to the consultation and writing to your MSP. Copies of a Briefing Note from the Catholic Parliamentary Office are available at the back of the churches.

Christmas Mass times: Christmas Day and Vigil Mass times for our parish and all churches in the Archdiocese can be viewed at www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/

Advent Rosary: The Advent Pro-Life Rosary continues on Monday (**18 December**) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Mgr Alan Chambers (St Mary's Bathgate). Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Advent talk series: Canon Hugh White continues his Advent talk series 'Time with God' **each Monday** on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel. Visit bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Catholic Families for Life: The first issue of the newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life can be downloaded at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

Feast of the Holy Innocents: Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents at **midday on Thursday 28 December** at St Margaret's Chapel, The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Complimentary refreshments and social afterwards. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Save the date I - The Archdiocesan Music Day is on Saturday 27 January 2024 at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. It is for those who contribute to the liturgy in their parish through music and/or singing, as well as for anyone interested in finding out more about sacred music. Details to follow soon.

Save the Date II: The Archdiocesan Valentine's Retreat for Married and Engaged Couples will take place at St Kentigern's Church, Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR on **Saturday 10 February 2024**. Details to follow soon.

Parish Contacts and Communication details:

Newsletter – office.sjohnbandkentigern@staned.org.uk before 5pm on Thursday for inclusion in the Sunday newsletter.

Safeguarding: St John's – Mary Strachan; St Kentigern's – Michael Balfour michael.balfour@staned.org.uk

SSVP St John's & St Kentigern's – see parish contacts. Hall Bookings – St John's office.sjohnbandkentigern@staned.org.uk; St Kentigern's stkenthall@gmail.com

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