

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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Facebook: fb.me/ssjohnbandkentigern

Sunday 15th December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent, C

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 14 December (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Kathy Boyle, RIP
Sunday 15 December	9.30am 11.30am	St Kentigern St John the Baptist	People of the Parish Matthew Snodgrass, RIP
Monday 16 December	N.B. 7.00pm	St John the Baptist	Deceased of Maudsley and Rudden Families
Tuesday 17 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Gabriel R. (Special Intention)
Wednesday 18 December	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Intention of the Donor
Thursday 19 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Rose Mattison (Funeral Mass)
Friday 20 December	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Intention of the Donor
Saturday 21 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Matthew Snodgrass, RIP
Confessions	St Kentigern's: Saturdays 10.00am-10.15am St John the Baptist: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.40pm		

A message from Fr Jamie: This Sunday marks the halfway point in our Advent journey towards Christmas, known as 'Gaudete Sunday,' – the third, rose-coloured Advent candle on our wreath signals the gradual transition from the dark, penitential violet of Advent to the golden white of the coming Christmas festivities. I'm increasingly sensitive to the fact that Christmas is a difficult time of year for lots of people, bringing to the fore the pain of bereavement, family breakdown, financial worries – and much more besides. The Church's invitation to 'rejoice' can seem jarring, and even offensive, in such a context. And yet it's also true that the Christian belief in the Incarnation, the story of the God's enfleshment in human vulnerability, is that God came to enter into our pain and our sorrow with his gentle, merciful love. He came, not in spite of the imperfection, pain and sadness of our world, but rather because of it. He came to give us a small taste of the authentic, eternal joy that awaits us in the world that is to come, in which all wounds will be healed, all sins will be forgiven and all tears wiped away. *Gaudete!*

Please pray for:

- The sick and the housebound of the parish, especially Terry Boyce: that the Lord will grant them healing, comfort and strength.
- All those who died, especially Rose Mattison and Canon John Urquhart who died recently, those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have no-one else to pray for them. Rose Mattison's funeral will take place at St Kentigern's church this Thursday 19 December at 9.30am, with her body being received into the church on Wednesday 18 December at 6pm. Canon Urquhart's funeral will be celebrated at St Bernadette's, Larbert, on Thursday 19 December at 12noon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24 December)
6.00pm Mass (Carols at 5.30pm): St Kentigern's
8.00pm Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite): St Kentigern's
8.30pm Mass (Carols at 8.00pm): St John the Baptist's

Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December)
9.30am Mass: St Kentigern's
11.30am Mass: St John the Baptist's

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FROM THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (ST KENT'S & ST JOHN'S)

Thank you for your generous support with appeal for Children's gifts and non-perishable food. This is the last week for handing in donations to enable us to distribute them in time for Christmas.

LOURDES CAROL SERVICE: THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN ST MARGARET'S

The annual Carol service organised by the Lourdes Hospitalité Committee takes place this afternoon (Sunday 15 December) at 3pm in St Margaret's Church, Davidsons Mains. All welcome!

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 Mary's Meals UK. Please email mary.strachan@staned.org.uk no later than 21st December.

RORATE MASS BY CANDLELIGHT: MONDAYS IN ADVENT AT 7PM

The Church has an ancient tradition of celebrating Mass by candlelight during the season of Advent in honour of our Blessed Lady. These beautiful Masses will take place at 7pm this Monday 16th December (St John's) and Monday 23rd December (St Kentigern's).

ADVENT PRO-LIFE ROSARY ONLINE: MONDAY NIGHT

The annual Advent Rosary continues on Zoom this Monday (16 Dec) at 7:45pm, with a reflection from Sr Mary Joseph who is based in Aberdeen Diocese. Join us to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/adventrosary

ST KENTIGERN'S BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN: 23RD DECEMBER

This will take place on Monday 23rd December from 10-11am. All are welcome to pitch in and once again prepare the church for the wonderful celebration of Christmas. Hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEER AT THE WELCOME CENTRE THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

The Welcome Centre team is in need of a Christmas miracle... and by miracle, we mean a few good souls who can cook a meal on Christmas day! Bethany's Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre is in urgent need of volunteers to prepare and cook Christmas dinner for 65+ guests on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25th December) as well as Christmas Eve (24th) and Boxing Day (26th). The food prep will take place at Gorgie Parish Church (opposite Tynecastle Stadium) and then delivered to the Welcome Centre at the Haymarket Hub Hotel. Volunteers should meet at 5pm to prepare and cook the meal (all ingredients are provided on 25th as donated by Social Bite). Volunteers would leave Gorgie at 8pm to deliver the food to the Welcome Centre by 8.30pm. Get in touch with Eleanor by emailing welcomecentreadmin@bethanychristiantrust.com

EXODUS 90: STARTING IN JANUARY!

Fr Paul is wondering if any men would like to start the 90-day spiritual discipline known as 'Exodus 90'. Starting on 20 January next year and ending at Easter, this involves a commitment to spiritual exercise and discipline designed for men. Contact Fr Paul to find out more.

THE DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS IS FILLING - REGISTER NOW

Live your faith more integrally in 2025 through the Diploma in Catechetics. The course explores the fundamentals of Catholicism in an engaging manner. Beginning in January, it consists of a weekly lecture on Zoom, readings from the Catechism and regular one-to-one support. Holy Year discount: £125 (normally £200). Non-Catholics welcome. Learn more and register at bit.ly/diploma2025

MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND LIFE: NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

The Catholic Families for Life Newsletter is available to read online. Visit <https://marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk/>

MASS FOR THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

Archbishop Cushley will solemnly open the Jubilee Year 2025 for the Archdiocese with Holy Mass and the blessing of the Jubilee Cross at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, at midday on Sunday 29 December. Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit www.iubilaeum2025.va for more details about this special year.