

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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Edinburgh, EH4 7QR

Facebook: fb.me/ssjohnbandkentigern

Sunday 22nd December 2024

4th 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 21 December (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Matthew Snodgrass, RIP
Sunday 22 December	9.30am 11.30am	St Kentigern St John the Baptist	Marta P. (Sick) People of the Parish
Monday 23 December	7.00pm	St Kentigern	Special Intention: Levy Family
Tuesday 24 December	5.30pm (<i>Carols</i>)		
	6.00pm	St Kentigern	People of the Parish
	8.00pm (<i>Carols</i>)		
	8.30pm	St John the Baptist	John Patrick Dunn-Smith, RIP
Wednesday 25 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Special Intention
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	Special Intention
Thursday 26 December	11.00am	St John the Baptist	Special Intention
Friday 27 December	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Olive & Stephen Hawe
Saturday 28 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Special Intention
Confessions		St Kentigern's: Saturdays 10.00am-10.15am St John the Baptist: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.40pm	

A message from Fr Jamie: Friends, this weekend we celebrate the fourth and final Sunday of Advent by turning to Mary who visits her elderly relative Elizabeth with the unborn Christ, bringing grace, peace and joy to the house of Zechariah. During this week, we'll celebrate that Christ's presence in our world, and the gifts he brings, is now extended far beyond the hill country of Judea, reaching every nation with his salvation. May God's amazing grace fill your hearts and homes this Christmas! As announced, Christmas Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 6pm (St Kentigern's) and 8.30pm (St John's), with carols beginning half an hour before Mass. On Christmas Day, Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am (St Kentigern's) and 11.30am (St John's). On Boxing Day (Feast of St Stephen) Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am at St John's. Together with Fr Paul, I want to thank you for all the kindness and generosity you've shown to us, not only in all the cards, gifts and good wishes, but in the warm welcome you've given to us in these communities. Be sure of our prayers for you and our sincere gratitude – please pray for us!

Please pray for:

- The sick and the housebound of the parish: that the Lord will grant them healing, comfort and strength.
- All those who died, especially those who died recently, those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have no-one else to pray for them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!

Welcome to the Parish... to Liam Goonan who will be baptised in St Kentigern's next weekend. Congratulations to his parents, family and friends who celebrate this joyful moment with him! To arrange a baptism, please speak to one of the priests after Mass.

ST KENTIGERN'S BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN: THIS MONDAY MORNING

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!

RORATE MASS BY CANDLELIGHT: MONDAY EVENING AT 7PM

Our final, Advent candlelit Mass will take place this Monday evening at St Kentigern's at 7pm. If you haven't made it along yet, don't miss this last chance! Many thanks to all those from both churches who have prepared the churches, and provided music. These Masses have been really special!

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST JOHN'S: REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

There will be some festive refreshments after the 8.30pm Christmas Eve Mass – do please come to the hall to raise a glass together!

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

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 next Sunday 29 December. Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit www.iubilaeum2025.va for more details about this special year.

FOREIGN NOTES AND CURRENCY: THANK YOU!

Since September this year you have contributed Foreign Notes and currency amounting to £176.06, which will be distributed to Mary's Meals. We thank you for your generosity, and hope you continue your donations, both large and small. These should be handed to a passkeeper. To date we have received over £2000 for charity. If anyone is going to Canada or Australia, could they contact Lindsay Wilson. We have some coins for both countries to trade.

CRAFT STALL AND TOMBOLA: THANK YOU!

The Craft Stall and Chocolate tombola at St Kentigern's last weekend raised a total of £596, which will be donated to the Blood Bikes charity. Many thanks to all those who organised and supported this initiative and congratulations to the lucky winners!

VOLUNTEER CLEANERS NEEDED FOR ST JOHN'S: CAN YOU HELP?

We are urgently looking for volunteers to join the legendary "Heavenly Dusters" to clean the church at St John's. Nothing too onerous - once a month for an hour. Please contact Mary Strachan 07740429776 or email Mary.Strachan@staned.org.uk

EDINBURGH FOOD PROJECT: 5TH JANUARY

Items required: tinned cold meat, tinned fish, tinned hot meals, long life fruit juice, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned custard/rice pudding, pasta/ curry sauce, jam, UHT milk, rice, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo. Please leave donations in the baskets provided. Thank you.

ST KENTIGERN'S FEAST DAY: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIG BREAKFAST 13th JANUARY

Sunday 12th 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. Help would be greatly appreciated to set up on the Saturday, 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.

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