

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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Sunday 29th December 2024

Feast of the Holy Family

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 28 December (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Special Intention of M. & B. Maudsley
Sunday 29 December	9.30am 11.30am	St Kentigern St John the Baptist	Moyra Scully (Anniversary) People of the Parish
Monday 30 December	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tuesday 31 December	9.30am	St Kentigern	Special Intention of Paul & Kara Douglas
Wednesday 1 January	N.B. 11.00am	St John the Baptist	Henry McCue, RIP
Thursday 2 January	9.30am	St Kentigern	Special Intention of Gabriel R.
Friday 3 January	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Victor Legrix, RIP
Saturday 4 January	9.30am	St Kentigern	Special Intention of Anne MacDonald
Confessions		St Kentigern's: Saturdays 10.00am-10.15am St John the Baptist: Saturdays 5.15pm-5.40pm	

A message from Fr Jamie: Friends, Merry Christmas! In the Catholic tradition, Christmas celebrations begin on 25 December and continue all the way to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the 12th of January – so keep the decorations up and the joyful festivities going for a few more days at least! Renewed thanks for your extraordinary generosity in response to the various charitable appeals during Advent and also in the many cards and gifts you passed on to us priests. We're extremely grateful for your kindness! As you know, this Wednesday also marks the beginning of a new calendar year. As well as making good resolutions to draw closer to the Lord and to one another, it's an opportunity for us to look back on the year that has past with gratitude for God's blessings, humble repentance for any mistakes made and a refocussed hope for the good things he has in store for us in this year of grace 2025. Pope Francis has declared this a year of Jubilee and has encouraged us to reflect in a special way on the theme of hope: find out more at <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>. For those of us unable to travel to Rome, here in Edinburgh, the Archbishop will unveil today a jubilee cross in the Cathedral, as a more local focus for this year of special blessing. Prayer cards are available with a special prayer for this year, which we will pray together at the end of Mass this weekend: *Almighty God, who through the saving cross of your Son, have given us new birth into a living hope; grant that we who journey together in this pilgrimage of grace, will hold fast in faith, be active in charity, and ever rejoice in the hope of salvation. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

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 Alice Crawford 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 was baptised in St Kentigern's this 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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS, “URBI ET ORBI” (TO THE CITY AND TO THE WORLD)

“... Jesus, the eternal Word of God made incarnate, is the wide-open Door; he is the wide-open Door that we are invited to enter, in order to rediscover the meaning of our existence and the sacredness of all life – for every life is sacred – and to recover the foundational values of the human family. He awaits us at the threshold. He awaits each one of us, especially the most vulnerable. Brothers and sisters, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to forgive debts, especially those that burden the poorest countries. Each of us is called to forgive those who have trespassed against us, because the Son of God, born in the cold and darkness of the night, has forgiven our own. He came to heal us and forgive us. As pilgrims of hope, let us go out to meet him! Let us open to him the doors of our hearts. Let us open to him the doors of our hearts, as he has opened to us the door of his heart. I wish everyone a serene and blessed Christmas!”

MASS FOR THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR: THIS WEEKEND AT THE CATHEDRAL

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.

MEN'S GROUP MEETING NEXT SATURDAY 4 JANUARY

There will be a Men's Group meeting on Saturday, 4 January at 10 am in the Toby Carvery, Corstorphine. The first new social meeting of the new year to have coffee or breakfast. All men, of all ages from St Margaret's, St Kentigern and St John's Churches are very welcome. Looking forward to the first catchup of 2025!

EDINBURGH FOOD PROJECT: 5 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND 5/6 JANUARY: JUSTICE AND PEACE

On the Feast of the Epiphany each year, the Bishops Conference ask us to take up a special collection in support of Justice and Peace work here in Scotland and around the world. Archbishop Nolan writes: *We live in a world where injustice is common place and peace is sadly lacking. As we look at the many trouble spots around the globe, where there is war and conflict, death and destruction, misery inflicted on so many people, it is easy to lose hope. It is in this world that we have to offer people hope: hope that comes from Christ. For God alone is our hope and the hope of the world. That hope comes through forgiveness. God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others.* Full letter available next week.

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

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.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM FR JOHN MCINNES:

Fr John writes: *I am very grateful for the warm welcome Frs Jamie and Paul and devoted parishioners have shown me since my arrival in September to begin my new life in retirement back in the city I have loved since coming to Edinburgh in the 1960's. Thank you all for your festive greetings cards and generous gifts which have helped me feel very much part of the parish family. God bless!*

LOURDES 2025: SAVE THE DATE!

The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes for the Holy Year 2025 takes place from 11-18 July. For more details please visit <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25>