

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year - C
23rd February 2025

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?



Sat. 22 February (<i>Vigil</i>)	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	Ann McDonald (Birthday)
Sunday 23 February	9.30am	St Kentigern	Vincent Robinson RIP
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	People of God
Mon. 24 February – Feria	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tue. 25 February – Feria	9.30am	St Kentigern	Sr. Monica McDonald RIP
Wed. 26 February – Feria	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Alex Millar RIP
Thu. 27 February – Feria	9.30am	St Kentigern	Vincent Robinson RIP
Fri. 28 February – Feria	9.30am	St John the Baptist	Kenneth Storie (GE)
Sat. 1 March – Memorial of the Bl Virgin Mary	9.30am	St Kentigern	Vincent Robinson RIP
<i>Confessions – on request at any time, as well as:</i>	10.00am-10.15am – Saturdays		St Kentigern's
	5.15pm-5.45pm – Saturdays		St John the Baptist

A Call to Radical Love and Mercy

My dear People of God, today, we reflect on the powerful words of Jesus in Luke 6:27-38, where He calls us to a life of radical love, mercy, and generosity. These words are not just an ideal to admire but a command to live by. Jesus challenges us: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." This is not the way of the world—it is the way of Christ. It is a love that goes beyond what is easy or expected; it is a love that mirrors the heart of God Himself.

He invites us to be merciful as our Heavenly Father is merciful. This means forgiving those who have hurt us, giving without expecting in return, and treating others not as they deserve, but as God treats us—with infinite compassion.

In a world often marked by division and resentment, Jesus calls us to break the cycle of hate with love, to overcome selfishness with generosity, and to replace rash judgment with mercy. And He assures us: "Give, and it will be given to you." When we love and give freely, we open ourselves to receive the overflowing blessings of God.

As a parish family, let us take this Gospel to heart. Let us love boldly, forgive generously, and serve joyfully, knowing that when we do, we become living witnesses of Christ's love in the world.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us to live this call each day. Amen!

Fr. Binu Palakapally IC



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 recently, those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those who have no-one else to pray for them.

NEW OFFICE SEC.



Evelyn Williams is appointed as our new Parish Office Secretary. She will be working four hours on Wednesdays and Fridays each. She describes herself: "I am an enthusiastic and hard-working individual with excellent communication skills. I am self-motivated and thrive and perform well in busy environments. I am a creative and caring person with a passion of Art and Design, and I love to work, and engage, with young people. I am able to work well independently and as part of a team and have excellent time management and IT skills." She is from Livingston, and lives with her husband Craig and five young children. We welcome her into our parish and wish her a fruitful time with us. Please do contact her using our office email and parish phone number. We take this opportunity to thank Celia Boyle, whose selfless service she has rendered to our parish for the last many years and her induction of the new secretary and her willingness to support when and if her help needed in the future! A big thank you, Celia, once again!!

PARISH REGISTRATION FORMS

The PPC extends a warm thank you to all who returned their forms, especially to all those who offered to help. Those who have not handed in the forms, please do so asap and those who still want to take the forms are fill, they are available at the back of the Churches.

FAREWELL TO FRs. JAMIE AND PAUL: We will have a Thanksgiving Mass at 6.30pm on Monday the 3rd of March at St Kentigern's Church, followed by a time of agape, all are most welcome to this evening!

COFFEE & CONNECT: in St Kentigern's Hall next weekend after Mass. All welcome for some games, chat and snacks. Also, the Blood Bike's Charity visit.

MUSIC EVENING

A Music evening will take place on Monday February 24th in St Kentigern's from 7pm till 8pm. We will be learning some new hymns and Mass Parts. Please come along and enjoy singing.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA: Saturday 1st March 4.30-5.45 – Adoration, rosary, confessions, etc... at St John the Baptist.

REMEMBERING SERVICE

An ecumenical service for those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, Sunday 2nd March, 5:00pm at St John the Baptist RC Church. It is a chance to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise the loss and to help with healing. Those who wish to come in love and support are also welcome.

RETURN: A day to help you get back to Confession. If you have not been to confession for a while, want to learn more and go to confession, come to this event. The day includes talks, a how-to session, Q&A, prayer, and a chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It takes place from 10am-4pm on Saturday 8 March at – the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register on Eventbrite at [bit.ly/return2025](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/return-2025)

PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS:



Lord, we lift up our Pope Francis to You, asking for your healing touch upon his body and spirit. Grant him strength, comfort, and restoration, as he continues to serve Your Church with faith and love. May Your peace surround him, and Your grace guide his recovery. We trust in Your mercy and ask that You bless him with health and vitality, so he may continue to lead us in Your truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

GRIEF TO GRACE: RETREAT FOR ABUSE SURVIVORS – 29 APRIL TO 4 MAY

Grief to Grace is a specialised five-day programme of spiritual and psychological healing for anyone who has suffered from sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or neglect in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, including those abused by a religious/member of the clergy. If you are interested in attending this confidential healing retreat in Perth, please contact: margaret.clarke@griefftograceuk.org

RISE IN FAITH, LIVE IN HOPE

The Archdiocese invites high school pupils to 'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' at St Francis Xavier's Church, 11am-3pm on Saturday 15 March. The event will provide encouragement and inspiration to help our young people grow in their faith amidst the challenges they face. Includes Mass with Archbishop Cushley. Register at bit.ly/archyouth or for large groups please email youth.office@staned.org.uk

ASSISTED PILGRIMS FOR LOURDES

Do you know someone who is ill or infirm and would enjoy the opportunity to experience a life-changing trip to Lourdes? The Archdiocese is seeking *Assisted Pilgrims* to join them on the pilgrimage 11-18 July. Please contact Bernadette on 0131 441 1939 or visit www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24