

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Fr Binu Palakapally IC (Administrator)

Email: frbinu.palakapally@staned.org.uk

Website: <https://ssjohnbandkentigern.org.uk>

Facebook: fb.me/ssjohnbandkentigern

Parish (Including SSVP and Hall Bookings)

Office Email: office.ssjohnbandkentigern@staned.org.uk

Telephone: 0131 334 1693 / 07415246288



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 14th September 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year – 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?



Sat. 13 Sep. (Vigil) <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	6.00pm	St John the Baptist	
Sunday 14 Sep. – <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.30am	St Kentigern	
	11.30am	St John the Baptist	People of God
Mon. 15 Sep. – Our Lady of Sorrows	No public Mass		
Tue. 16 Sep. – St Ninian	9.30am	St Kentigern	
Wed. 17 Sep. – 24 th Week Ordinary Time	9.30am	St John the Baptist	
Thu. 18 Sep. – 24 th Sunday Ordinary Time	9.30am	St Kentigern	
Fri. 19 Sep. – 24 th week Ordinary Time	9.30am	St John the Baptist	
Sat. 20 Sep. – Ss. Andrew Kim, Paul Chong & Companions	9.30am	St Kentigern	Gabriel R, Spe. Int.
Sat. 20 Sep. (Vigil) <i>25th Sunday Ordinary Time</i>	6.00pm	St John The Baptist	
<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

My dear People of God, today we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a feast that invites us to see the Cross not as a symbol of shame or defeat, but as the sign of God's greatest victory. In the eyes of the world, the Cross was an instrument of suffering and death. Yet in Christ, it has become the throne of love, the bridge between heaven and earth, and the source of our salvation.

In the Gospel (John 3:13–17), Jesus speaks of being “lifted up” so that all who believe may have eternal life. Just as Moses lifted the bronze serpent in the desert for healing, so too Christ is lifted on the Cross to heal the wounds of sin. The Cross, then, is not only a past event—it continues to be the place where we find healing, forgiveness, and new life.

Saint Paul reminds us that Jesus humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, and because of this, God highly exalted Him (Philippians 2:6–11). Exaltation flows from humility, and glory is revealed through sacrifice. The Cross shows us the paradox of Christian life: to lose is to gain, to die is to live, to serve is to reign.

For our parish, this feast is an invitation to embrace our daily crosses—our struggles, sacrifices, and trials—not as burdens that crush us, but as moments where Christ unites us to His redemptive love. The Cross teaches us to trust when life feels heavy, to forgive when hurt, and to hope when darkness surrounds us.

As we venerate the Cross today, let us lift high not just a symbol of wood, but the living truth it represents: that love is stronger than death, and that every cross carried with Christ becomes a pathway to resurrection.

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

SACRAMENT REGISTRATION FORMS: Registration is now open for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation for the Year 2026. The Registration Forms are available at the Back of the Church. Please do fill the forms and hand them back before the end of September.

SAVE THE DATE:

1. The Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage Day is on **Sunday 21 September 2025** at St Patricks in The Cowgate, Edinburgh.
2. CONFIRMATION 2026 will be **Thursday 14th May**.

THE MARGARET SINCLAIR STORY: The inspiring true story of the cheerful Edinburgh factory girl with a big heart for Jesus and for helping others, who could be Scotland's next canonised Saint.

Stephen Callaghan's funny and moving play was first performed at the 2016 Fringe in the Edinburgh church where the venerable Margaret's body is interred and he directs the revival marking 100 years since her death.

Venue 6, C Aurora Studio (Lauriston Halls, Lauriston Street). Tickets from 0131 581 5555 or www.CtheArts.com. Dates: 1 August & 2 August 2025 at 7:25pm (50 mins). £13/£11

ST CARLO ACUTIS: The relic of St Carlo Acutis is at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, until Monday. Archbishop Cushley will celebrate three Masses in the presence of the relic: 6:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 13th; Midday Mass on Sunday 14th; 12:45pm Mass for Schools on Monday 15th (all welcome).

STUDY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY IN EDINBURGH: Registration is now open for the MA in Applied Catholic Theology at St Mary's University Scottish campus in Edinburgh. Details at bit.ly/catholictheology. Watch the preview webinar on the YouTube channel of the Archdiocese. Queries: stephen.dolan@stmarys.ac.uk

SAINT NINIAN DECLARATION: This declaration of friendship between the Catholic Church in Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church will be signed at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh, at 4:00pm on Tuesday 16 September by Archbishop Cushley and the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It follows a symposium on the history of the relationship between the two churches at 2:00pm in the Cathedral.

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK PRAYER

This week we pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese. If you feel called, explore it! Contact Monsignor Patrick Burke, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, at vocations@staned.org.uk or Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, Director for Religious Vocations, at religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Heavenly Father, in your mercy you give to your people every good gift. We turn to you in faith, asking that you bless our Archdiocese with vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to help young men and women hear your call and respond with joyful hearts. Bless our young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Month of September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)
7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)

Let Us Pray: Let intercession be made for us, we beseech You, O Lord Jesus Christ, now and at the Hour of our death, before the throne of Your mercy, by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother, whose most holy soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow in the hour of Your bitter Passion. Through You, O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen.