

# Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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*Church of St John the Baptist*

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26 Parkgrove Avenue

Edinburgh, EH4 7QR

**Sunday 14 December 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Year – A

*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 Dec. (Vigil) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.00pm Mass	St John	Jim Harrison RIP
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Emilda Bint RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	John Kelly RIP
Mon. 15 Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent	No Public Mass		
Tue. 16 Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent	6.00pm Exposition	St Kent	Stefan Klopetsowsky RIP
	6.30pm Mass		
Wed. 17 Dec.	9.30am Mass	St John	Maura Stapleton B'day
Thu. 18 Dec.	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Kevin Kelly RIP
Fri. 19 Dec.	6.00pm Exposition	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
	6.30pm Mass		
Sat. 20 Dec.	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Karen & Graham Toole, Spe. Int.
Sat. 20 Dec. (Vigil) 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.00pm Mass	St John	Marie & Patrick Costello RIP
Confessions – on request at any time, as well as:	10.00am-10.30am – Saturdays		St Kentigern's
	5.15pm-5.45pm – Saturdays		St John the Baptist

My dear People of God, On this Third Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us to pause and rejoice. **Gaudete**—meaning “**Rejoice!**”—breaks through the purple of waiting with a rose-coloured reminder that the Lord is near! Even in a world marked by burdens, uncertainties, and fatigue, today’s liturgy announces a profound truth: **joy is still possible, because God is still coming.**

In the Gospel, John the Baptist—imprisoned and uncertain—sends disciples to ask Jesus, “*Are you the one who is to come?*” Jesus responds not with theories, but with signs of hope: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the dead are raised. In other words: **new life is already breaking in.** This is the quiet but unstoppable joy of the Kingdom.

We, too, may carry questions like John’s. Is God really listening? Will He act? Does hope still make sense? Gaudete Sunday answers with a gentle but firm yes. Joy in the Christian life is not a shallow positivity or an escape from reality; it is rooted in the certainty that **God is faithful**, working even in hidden ways. Joy grows wherever Christ is welcomed.

St. Paul encourages us: “*Be patient... Establish (Strengthen) your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.*” Advent joy is born from patience—a trust that God’s timing is perfect—and from courage, the willingness to keep loving, serving, and believing even in small daily ways.

As a parish community, we can embody Gaudete joy by noticing the blessings in our midst: families praying together, parishioners serving quietly, children learning the faith, generosity poured out for those in need. These are signs that Christ is already among us.

May this Sunday rekindle in us a joyful expectation. As we light the rose candle, may our hearts, too, glow with hope. The Lord is near—near to our struggles, near to our dreams, near to our parish.

**Rejoice, for God comes to bring light, healing, and peace. Come, Lord Jesus!**

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.

**ARCHDIOCESAN MEDAL:** Mr. William Mawdsley has been awarded with Archdiocesan Medal, which will be presented to him *at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December at St John the Baptist church by our Archbishop, Leo Cushley.* We congratulate him for his outstanding achievement and invite all the parishioners to come and celebrate this day! *You are also invited to join Mr. and Mrs. Mawdsley on the next day, Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the 11.30 Mass at St John and a get together after the Mass at the Hall.*

**STANDING ORDERS:** A reminder that our Bank of Scotland Account will be closing in the new year. If you donate via standing order and have not yet moved your payments over to our Royal Bank of Scotland Account, please consider doing so soon.

### Our new Bank Details are:

Royal Bank of Scotland

Account Name: St John Baptist & St Kentigern

Ac. Number: 21419411

S.C.: 83-06-08

*Thank you.*

**ST KENTIGERN'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Fellow Parishioners it's that time of the year when we think of those less fortunate than ourselves. We are launching an appeal for donations of nonperishable FOOD, also GIFTS for children and teenagers. The children's gifts should be labelled with age and gender. Donations to be left in Parish Room.

**CHRISTMAS TREE STARS IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED ONES:** If you would like to remember a loved one, we will be dressing our Christmas tree with stars 🌟 in their memory here at St John The Baptist. Please write the names of loved ones on the sheets provided at back of church and donations raised will be for Mary's Meals Charity.

### RORATE MASSES AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL:

The beautiful Rorate Masses begin the first week of Advent. The Mass is lit only by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world. 7:00pm on 18 December and Monday 22 December.

**STELLA MARIS CAROL SERVICE:** Join Archbishop Cushley for an evening of carols, readings and celebration, followed by refreshments. Wednesday 17 December: 7pm

Carol Service, 8pm Reception. St Mary's Star of the Sea, 108 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6AW. Please RSVP by Friday 5 December to [info@stellamarismail.org](mailto:info@stellamarismail.org) or call 020 7901 1931

**ADVENT ROSARY FOR LIFE:** Continues this Monday at 7:45pm. Includes short reflection from a guest speaker: Fr Jamie McMorris (15 Dec, St Margaret's, Edinburgh); and Archbishop Leo Cushley (22 Dec). Register at <https://bit.ly/rosary25>

**Memorial Bench:** Dear people of God, if you would like to have a memorial bench placed around the church gardens/surrounding/courtyard in memory of your loved ones – grab this opportunity!

4ft Bench - £750 - 6ft Bench - £1000

Price includes Memorial Plaque

Please contact Fr. Binu or/and Bert Demarco

**VACANCY:** Our Parish is looking for a new Office secretary (as Evelyn is stepping down because of her increasing family commitments), two days in a week, four hours each. If anyone is interested, please do contact me or Anne Simpson as soon as possible.

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### 1. **First Holy Communion:**

a. St Kent: **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am**

b. St John: **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am**

**Parents meeting: Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00pm at St Kent's**

2. **Conformation 2026 will be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Parents meeting: Tue. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00pm at St Kent's.**

**SHALOM WORLD** has 400+ hand-picked Christmas TV shows, including inspiring talks, music, children's stories and reflections for all ages. It's completely free - no pay walls or adverts - simply a gift to help families experience Christ this season. Go to [shalomworld.org/christmas](https://shalomworld.org/christmas)

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

From October we have raised the following amounts for our Special collections:

Missio	£1287.39
Day for Poor	£1284.55
Catholic Education	£666.01

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!