

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 28 December 2025

The Holy Family

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. 27 Dec. (Vigil) <i>Holy Family</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	William Mawdsley's Intentions
Sunday 28 th Dec. <i>Holy Family</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Moyra Scully RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	Margaret & Billy Mawdsley 70 th Wedding Anniversary
Mon. 29 Dec. Christmas Octave	No Public Mass		
Tue. 30 Dec Christmas Octave	6.00pm Exposition	St Kent	Mr. Zbigniew Slabicki RIP
	6.30pm Mass		
Wed. 31 Dec. <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God Solemnity, (Vigil)</i>	5.-6pm Adoration 6.00pm - Mass	St John	<i>Thanksgiving Adoration for 2025</i> Deceased Mawdsley Family
Thu. 01 Jan 2026 <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God Solemnity</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	People of God
	11.30am Mass	St John	Mr. Czeslaw Niedbala RIP
Fri. 02 Jan. Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
Sat. 03 Jan. <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Special Intention of the Donor
Sat. 03 Jan. (Vigil) <i>The Epiphany of the Lord - First Saturday Devotions - Confessions – on request at any time, as well as:</i>	4.30pm – Adoration 6.00pm Mass	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
	10.00am-10.30am – Saturdays	St Kentigern's	
	5.15pm-5.45pm – Saturdays	St John the Baptist	

My dear People of God, on this Sunday within the joy of Christmas, ***the Church invites us to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.*** At first glance, their life seems quiet and hidden. Yet within that simplicity lies a profound revelation of how God chooses to dwell among us—not in perfection as the world defines it, but in ***love, fidelity,*** and daily ***self-giving.***

The Gospels do not present the Holy Family as free from struggle. They knew uncertainty, displacement, and fear: a journey to Bethlehem, the poverty of the manger, the flight into Egypt, and the long years of ordinary labour in Nazareth. Still, what sustained them was their shared openness to God's will. ***Mary trusted even when she did not fully understand. Joseph listened attentively to God and acted with courage and humility. Jesus, the Son of God, chose to grow within a human family, learning obedience, work, and love.***

For our parish community, the Holy Family offers both comfort and challenge. Comfort, because many of our families carry burdens—financial pressures, illness, broken relationships, loneliness. ***The Holy Family reminds us that holiness is not reserved for ideal circumstances.*** God is present in kitchens and workshops, in moments of patience and forgiveness, in perseverance through trials. At the same time, they challenge us to make our homes places where faith is lived, not only spoken; where prayer has a place; where listening, sacrifice, and mercy are practiced daily.

As a parish, we are also a family—imperfect, diverse, and deeply loved by God. Let us learn from Nazareth how to welcome one another, support parents and children, honour the elderly, and care for those who feel forgotten. May the Holy Family teach us that when Christ is welcomed at the centre of our relationships, even the ordinary becomes holy, and our lives become a living witness to God-with-us. ***May God bless all our Families!***

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

THANK YOU: I would like to thank all those who have involved in arranging various things this Christmas in our parish; such as those who decorated the churches, made Cribbs, arranged flowers, donated generously towards the food bank, gifts for the needy, Christmas Dinner, etc... A special thanks to our dedicated Sacristans, Choir Teams, Altar Servers, Acolytes, Pass-keepers, EMHC, and all of you who made this occasion as special as it could be!

A Special thanks from Fr. John for the wishes and gifts that he has received from you during this time! Finally, A BIG THANK YOU for your love, care, concern, wishes and gifts that I have been blessed to receive from so many of you! Thanks again – Fr. Binu.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA: Saturday 3rd January 4.30-5.45 – Adoration, rosary, confessions, etc... at St John the Baptist. All are invited to join this beautiful Devotion, which helps one to grow closer to Jesus through Mary. All are Welcome to this first Saturday of the Year 2026!

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.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday the 3/4th of January we will have a Second collection for Justice and Peace.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER WINNER
MARGARET D, Raffle Number: 361-365
– Please do contact me asap. Thanks to all again!

ST KENTIGERN'S FEAST DAY: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIG BREAKFAST: The feast day of one of our parish's patron's saints falls on 13th January and we will celebrate on the following Sunday, 18th January with our traditional Big Breakfast in St Kentigern's Hall after the 9.30 Mass. 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 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.

EXPLORE – DISCERNMENT GROUP FOR YOUNG WOMEN: The Archdiocese is running a series of monthly EXPLORE meetings for young women interested in finding out more about the religious life and exploring God's will.

Includes talks, discussion, prayer and socialising.

It takes place on the last Sunday of the month at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN on the following dates:

- 4pm-7pm, Sunday 25 January 2026
- 4pm-7pm, Sunday 22 February 2026
- 4pm-7pm, Sunday 29 March 2026
- 4pm-7pm, Sunday 26 April 2026

To register or find out more, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

1. **First Holy Communion:**

- a. St Kent: Saturday 13th June 11.00am
- b. St John: Saturday 20th June 11.00am

Parents meeting: Wed. 14th Jan. 7.00pm at St Kent's

2. Confirmation 2026 will be Thursday 14th May.

Parents meeting: Tue. 6th Jan. 7.00pm at St Kent's.