

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Fr Binu Palakapally IC (Administrator)

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Parish (Including SSVP and Hall Bookings)

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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

Sunday 07 December 2025

Second 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. 06 Dec. (Vigil) <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>First Saturday Devotions</i>	4.30pm – Adoration 6.00pm Mass	St John	Jack Seils RIP
Sunday 07 Dec. <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass 11.30am Mass	St Kent St John	Vinny Kelly, GE Carol Hastie RIP
Mon. 08 Dec. – <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity</i>	9.30am Mass 6.30 Mass	St Kent St John	Maria Levy, Spe. Int. People of God
Tue. 09 Dec. – <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	No Public Mass		
Wed. 10 Dec. – <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass	St John	Jessie Millar McMahon RIP
Thu. 11 Dec. – <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Carole Hastie RIP
Fri. 12 Dec. – <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Barbara Casey RIP
Sat. 13 Dec. – <i>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Decesed from Ward Family
Sat. 13 Dec. (Vigil) <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Jim Harrison RIP
<i>Confessions – on request at any time, as well as:</i>	10.00am-10.30am – Saturdays	St Kentigern's	
	5.15pm-5.45pm – Saturdays	St John the Baptist	

My dear People of God, the Second Sunday of Advent invites us into the heart of the season's meaning: **preparation for the Lord who comes**. Today we hear the powerful voice of John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, "*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!*" His words are not merely a memory from Scripture—they are addressed to us, here and now, in our own spiritual deserts, routines, and responsibilities.

The prophet Isaiah, echoed by John, paints a vision of hope: mountains made low, valleys lifted, crooked ways straightened. These images speak to God's transforming desire for each of us. Advent is not only about preparing our homes for Christmas but preparing our hearts for Christ. Each of us carries "*mountains*" that need lowering—pride, stubbornness, old resentments—as well as "*valleys*" that need lifting—discouragement, weariness, wounds we carry quietly. God wants to smooth these places with His mercy.

St. Paul reminds us that the Scriptures were written "*for our instruction, so that by endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*" Advent hope is not passive waiting; it is the confident expectation that God is at work, even when we do not yet see the final shape of His plan. It is the hope that strengthens families, renews parishes, and draws communities together in love.

John the Baptist's call to repentance is not meant to frighten us but to free us. Repentance simply means turning toward God—again, or even for the first time in a long while. In this season, small steps matter: a moment of prayer in the morning, kindness to a stranger, forgiveness extended, a visit to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a renewed openness to the Holy Spirit. As a parish, we prepare the way of the Lord not only in our church but in the world around us. When we live with expectant hope, quiet trust, and generous love, our parish becomes a living Advent candle—shining Christ's light into the darkness.

May this week awaken in us a deeper longing for Jesus, the One who comes to save, to heal, and to make all things new.
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.

ST JOHN'S MARY'S MEAL FUNDRAISER:

There will be a Christmas Sale for Mary's Meal on the 6/7th December after the Masses.

ARCHDIOCESAN MEDAL: Mr. William Mawdsley has been awarded with Archdiocesan Medal, which will be presented to him *at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 27th 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 28th, to celebrate their 70th 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.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL:

This is our annual Christmas appeal when we ask you to please consider donating a present for children whose families may be struggling to provide presents this year. While the presents are distributed through a primary school, some families have older and younger children to provide for too so please keep them in mind. Toiletries and games are popular presents for older children. Please bring your contributions wrapped with the suggested age and gender attached to the presents and leave them at the back of the church until Sunday 14th December. We have always found that families who donate presents find it a very worthwhile way of actually demonstrating Christian charity to their children and helping those less fortunate than themselves. We will also be providing food vouchers for families over the Christmas holidays, and any food donations will, as always, be taken to our local food bank. Many thanks, in advance, for your very generous donations.

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 Thursday 11 and 18 December; 7:00pm on 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 or call 020 7901 1931

ADVENT ROSARY FOR LIFE: Every Monday in Advent at 7:45pm. Includes short reflection from a guest speaker: Isabel Vaughan-Spruce (8 Dec, March for Life UK); 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 St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh is seeking to appoint a Facilities Manager. A full job description is available at STMARYSCATHEDRAL.CO.UK.

To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter to RECRUITMENT@STMARYSCATHEDRAL.CO.UK by Wednesday 10 December 2025. Salary: £30-32k.

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. Conformation 2026 will be Thursday 14th May.

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