

# 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

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in O. Time** 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. 31 Jan. (Vigil) 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm Mass	St John	Kathleen Doungall RIP
Sunday 01 Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Vincent Robinson RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	Eileen Freeney RIP
Mon. 02 Feb. The Presentation of the Lord, Feast	No Public Mass		
Tue. 03 Feb. St Blaise (Blessing of throat)	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Millie Davis RIP
Wed. 04 Feb. Week 4 O. Time	9.30am Mass	St John	Christopher McGuire RIP
Thu. 05 Feb. St Agatha, Martyr	9.30am Mass	St Kent	
Fri. 06 Feb. Ss. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
Sat. 07 Feb. Memorial of the blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Bernie Dervan RIP
Sat. 07 Feb. (Vigil) 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	4.30pm – Adoration 6.00pm Mass	St John	Ros O'Reilly 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, the Gospel today brings us to the hillside where Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes—words we know well, yet ones that quietly overturn the values of the world. ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit... the meek... the merciful... the peacemakers.”*** This is not a list of admired traits in a culture that prizes strength, success, and self-assertion. And yet, Jesus calls these people blessed.

The Beatitudes are not sentimental ideals or unreachable virtues. They are a portrait of Christ himself. Jesus is poor in spirit, completely trusting the Father. He is meek, gentle of heart, yet unwavering in truth. He mourns with those who suffer, hungers for righteousness, shows mercy without measure, and makes peace through the gift of his very life. To live the Beatitudes, then, is to allow our lives to be shaped into the likeness of Christ.

The first reading from the prophet Zephaniah echoes this call, urging us to seek humility, justice, and refuge in the Lord. God's promise is not rooted in power or prestige, but in a humble people who place their trust in him.

Saint Paul reinforces this message, reminding the Corinthians that God often chooses what the world considers weak or insignificant to reveal his glory.

For us as a parish community, the Beatitudes are both comfort and challenge. They assure us that God is close to those who feel overlooked, weary, or burdened. At the same time, they ask us to examine our priorities. ***Where do we seek our security? Whose voices do we listen to? Do our homes, ministries, and relationships reflect the mercy and peace of Christ?***

Today, Jesus invites us up the mountain—not to escape the world, but to see it differently. May we have the courage to live as Beatitude people, ***trusting that true happiness is found not in having more, but in loving more, for the sake of the Kingdom of God.***

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

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**Lepra Charity Appeal 14/15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY** : Next weekend there will be an appeal on behalf of Lepra, who fights against leprosy around the world – see the notice board for details. Please contribute generously

**Funeral Details of late Eileen Lyall:** Requiem Mass on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am at St Kent's Church followed by Cremation at 12.00 noon at Mortonhall Crematorium

**BIG THANKS:** a Big Thanks to **Michael Balfour** for his years of tireless service to St Kent's church as the Safeguarding Officer as well as all his contributions to the parish. He has now stepped down from this important role! Welcome to **Heather Tait**, who has completed her necessary preparations to assume the role as our new Parish Safeguarding Office at St Kent, I welcome her and thank her for her availability. Her details are at the noticeboard.

### VALENTINE'S DAY AFTERNOON RETREAT:

This Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) couples are invited to join the Archdiocese's afternoon retreat reflecting on the Gift of Marriage. It takes place 2pm-5pm at St Kentigern's Church, 26-28 Parkgrove Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR and is led by renowned Scottish Catholic playwright Stephen Callaghan and wife Rachel. Details and registration at [bit.ly/archretreat26](http://bit.ly/archretreat26)

**CATECHISTS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS:** SPRED (Special Religious Development) groups need more catechists! Your role will be share the Lord with adults with special needs at fortnightly term-time meetings. Catechists are trained by the Archdiocese and meet fortnightly for preparatory sessions. Interested? Contact Sr Mary Benedicta Maier RSM, SPRED Coordinator, at [smary.benedicta@staned.org.uk](mailto:smary.benedicta@staned.org.uk) to serve.

Tea and coffee always available at St Kentigern's in the hall after 9.30am mass: On Sunday 1 February and Sunday 1 March this will be Coffee and Connect. Come and socialise with other parishioners and their families. Games and activities for the kids, all are welcome."

**REMEMBERING SERVICE:** A prayer service those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support. Ecumenical and open to all. Sunday 22 February at 5.00pm in St John the Baptist Church, Corstorphine, 37 St Ninian's Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8AL.

**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

Ac. Number: 21419411

S.C.: 83-06-08

**ST KENTIGERN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCH** – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 12.30 pm – 2.00pm in the Parish Hall. It's a great opportunity to meet and socialise over a light lunch of soup and sandwiches, cake and refreshments (and there is a free raffle too!). Suggested donation £3.00.

### Lenten Retreat: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February

The Parish is hosting a Retreat for all the parishioners during this Lent. All are encouraged to attend this time of spiritual renewal, especially all those who have involved in any kind of ministry in the parish, such as EMHC, Readers and Bidders, PPC & PFC members, Pass-keepers, Catechists, Sacristans, Children's liturgy leaders, cleaners, helpers, etc. are expected to attend the retreat.

*9.30-2.00pm at St Kent's; Retreat Preacher: Fr. Francis Utoto, Dean, St Gile's Denery.* Please check the notice boards for more details.

**HOUSE MASSES:** Once in a Month I am offering a House Mass, if you want a Mass to be celebrated in your home, please do let me know. First preference is for the housebound, elderly and sick.

### 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**

#### 2. **Confirmation 2026 will be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Ma**