

# Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

Fr Binu Palakapally IC (Administrator)  
Email: [frbinu.palakapally@staned.org.uk](mailto:frbinu.palakapally@staned.org.uk)

Website: <https://ssjohnbandkentigern.org.uk>  
Facebook: [fb.me/ssjohnbandkentigern](https://www.facebook.com/ssjohnbandkentigern)

Parish (Including SSVP and Hall Bookings)  
Office Email: [office.ssjohnbandkentigern@staned.org.uk](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> January

### **The Baptism of the Lord**

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. 10 Jan. (Vigil) <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Margaret and Billy's Intentions
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan. <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	People of God
	11.30am Mass	St John	Elizabeth & Barney McFeely RIP
Mon. 12 Jan. Week 1 Ordinary Time	No Public Mass		
Tue. 13 Jan. Week 1 Ordinary Time ( <i>the Feast of St Kentigern is moved to coming Sunday at 9.30 Mass</i> )	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Mary Taylor RIP
Wed. 14 Jan. Week 1 Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass	St John	Anne Mackenzie RIP
Thu. 15 Jan Week 1 Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	<i>Requiem Mass of Mary Taylor RIP</i>
Fri. 16 Jan. Week 1 Ordinary Time	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
Sat. 17 Jan. St. Anthony, Abbot	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Dercesed of Banks & Meechan fly
Sat. 17 Jan. (Vigil) <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Dorothy Muir 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, on this Solemnity of **the Baptism of the Lord**, the Church invites us to stand on the banks of the Jordan and contemplate a mystery that reveals who Jesus is—and who we are called to be. In the Gospel, we see Jesus steps into the waters not because He needs repentance, but because He chooses solidarity. *The sinless One enters the place of sinners, sanctifying the waters and opening a new path for humanity.*

As Jesus rises from the Jordan, *the heavens are opened, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* This is not only a revelation of Christ's identity; it is a proclamation spoken over every baptized person. Through our baptism, those same heavens are opened for us. *We are claimed, loved, and sent.*

Isaiah speaks of the Servant who brings justice gently, who does not break the bruised reed or quench the smouldering wick. This is the mission Jesus embraces at His baptism, and it is the mission He shares with us. Baptism is not simply a moment from our past; it is a living reality. It calls us daily to walk as sons and daughters who reflect the Father's mercy, humility, and courage in a wounded world.

St Peter reminds us that God shows no partiality, and that Jesus went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed. *Baptism draws us into this same movement outward—toward service, reconciliation, and hope.*

Today, as we renew our awareness of our baptism, let us remember: *we are beloved before we do anything, and we are sent because we are loved.* May we live as people anointed by the Spirit, unafraid to enter the waters of our world and reveal, by our lives, the face of Christ.

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:** for your generous donations raised for Mry's Meals by Mary Cummings' Christmas sale at St John. Total raised £470. Thanks a lot!

**THANK YOU:** "We would like to thank all parishioners for their kindness, prayers, Mass cards, cards, and gifts received on 2 occasions, the Archdiocesan Medal and Platinum anniversary. A special thanks to Fr. Binu for all his kindness and arrangements given to us. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions" – Billy and Margaret Mawdsley

**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. This is a paid job.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2026:** White Flower Appeal 2026 - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. SPUC exists to transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes unthinkable. The Society is actively leading the fight in courts, classrooms and culture to achieve this mission. Through these efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life from conception

until natural death. This year's appeal postcards allow supporters to join the fightback campaign against the current threats in Parliament to expand abortion and allow assisted suicide. Your support means everything to us. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC at this critical time for our country.

**1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION 2026: *Parents meeting:*  
Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 7.00pm at St Kent's Church**

**BIG BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS' MEETING:** There will be a short meeting at St Kentigern's next Sunday (11th) after 9.30am Mass for those who have volunteered to help with the Big Breakfast. Bring your teas and coffees to the Parish Room so we can finalise arrangements. All parishioners and visitors are invited into the hall after Mass on the following Sunday 18th January for the Big Breakfast. This is a community social event held on the day the parish celebrates the Feast Day of St Kentigern, one of our patron saints.

**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.

**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](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

## 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.**