

# 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

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26 Parkgrove Avenue  
Edinburgh, EH4 7QR

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in O. Time** Year – A  
*Sunday of the Word of God*  
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. 24 Jan.	(Vigil) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm Mass	St John	Marie Ramsay RIP
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Mary Taylor RIP
		11.30am Mass	St John	People of God
Mon. 26 Jan.	SS. Timothy and Titus	No Public Mass		
Tue. 27 Jan.	Week 3 O. Time	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Deceased of Slabicki & Niedbala family
Wed. 28 Jan.	St Thomas Aquinas	9.30am Mass	St John	Emilda Bint RIP
Thu. 29 Jan	Week 3 O. Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Carole Cannon Spe. Int.
Fri. 30 Jan.	Week 3 O. Time	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Carole Hastie RIP
Sat. 31 Jan.	St. John Bosco	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Jim Marshall RIP
Sat. 31 Jan.	(Vigil) 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm Mass	St John	Kathleen Doungall 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 **Sunday of the Word of God**, the Gospel of Matthew presents the Word not only as something spoken, but as someone who walks into our lives and calls us by name. Jesus begins his public ministry with a simple yet urgent proclamation: ***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*** God's Word is not distant—it is near, active, and demanding a response.

As Jesus walks along the Sea of Galilee, his Word takes flesh in a call: ***"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"*** Peter, Andrew, James, and John hear only a few words, yet those words are powerful enough to reshape their entire lives. They leave nets, boats, and security behind. This is what the **Word of God** does when it is truly heard—it unsettles, frees, and sends us forward it evokes a **response** from us!

The prophet Isaiah speaks of people walking in darkness who see a great light. That light is Christ himself, present wherever the Word is proclaimed. When Scripture is read in the Church, it is not merely information; it is illumination. The Word reveals where we are clinging to our “nets” and invites us into deeper trust.

This Sunday, established by Pope Francis, reminds us that the Bible must become the heart of our Christian life. The Word we hear at Mass is meant to continue in our homes, our ministries, and our daily decisions.

May we listen today as the first disciples did—with openness and courage. If we allow the Word to take root, our parish will become a place where Christ still walks, still calls, and still makes disciples—today. Yes, he called as to be '**missionary disciples**' – to be faithful listeners and active respondents; to be with Him and to be sent out!



## 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.

### BIG THANKS TO THE BIG BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS:

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the St Kentigern's Feast Day Breakfast Celebration so successful in St Kent's hall last Sunday. The volunteers who cooked, baked, shopped, served the tea and coffee, kept control of the chocolate fountain, set up the hall, arranged the food, cleared all the dirty dishes, cleaned up and put everything away all worked really hard. Thanks also to everyone who came into the hall and made it a great community event.

### EDINBURGH FOOD PROJECT 1st FEBRUARY :

Thank you for your kind donations to the parish Food Bank collection which takes place on the first Sunday of each month. Food Bank stocks of all items are currently low, with the most urgently required being tinned cold meat/ fish/hot meals, pasta/curry sauce, long life fruit juice, UHT milk, soup, and tinned fruit/vegetables. Please leave donations in the baskets provided. Thank you.

### 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 [srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk](mailto:srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk) to serve.

### SPRED: SACRAMENTAL PREP & FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Children and adults with special needs are invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church by being welcomed into a SPRED (Special Religious Development) group. If you are interested in your child or adult son or

daughter participating, Sr Mary Benedicta Maier RSM, SPRED Co-ordinator, would love to hear from you at [srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk](mailto:srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk).

"**Coffee and Connect** at St Kentigern's in the hall after 9.30am mass will be on Sunday 1 February and Sunday 1 March. Come and socialise with other parishioners and their families.

Games and activities for the kids, all are welcome."

**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

*Thank you.*

**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.

**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

**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> May.**