

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 8th February

5th 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. 07 Feb. (Vigil) 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	4.30pm – Adoration 6.00pm Mass	St John	Ros O'Reilly RIP
Sunday 08 Feb. 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Vincent Robinson RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	Richard Hislop, 1 st death Anni.
Mon. 09 Feb. 5 th Week O. Time	No Public Mass		
Tue. 10 Feb. St Scholastica	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Ann McDonald's Int.
Wed. 11 Feb. Our Lady of Lourdes	9.30am Mass	St John	Jacques Benoist RIP
Thu. 12 Feb. 5 th Week O. Time	9.30am Mass	St Kent	
Fri. 13 Feb. 5 th week O. Time	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Jacob & Fly, Spe. Int.
Sat. 14 Feb. Ss Cyril and Methodius	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Rita Philips' Int.
Sat. 14 Feb. (Vigil) 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Confessions – on request at any time, as well as:</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Tommy O'Shea RIP
	10.00am-10.30am – Saturdays 5.15pm-5.45pm – Saturdays	St Kentigern's	St John the Baptist

My dear People of God, in today's Gospel, Jesus speaks with striking simplicity: "**You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.**" He does not say you should become salt and light, but you are. This is not a reward for holiness achieved; it is a calling given through baptism.

Salt works quietly. It disappears into food yet transforms the whole dish. **Light** does not draw attention to itself; it allows others to see clearly. In the same way, Christian discipleship is not about standing out for our own sake, but about allowing God's life within us to quietly change the world around us. When salt loses its taste or light is hidden, Jesus warns us that something essential has been forgotten.

The prophet Isaiah makes this concrete. True worship, he says, is not limited to prayer or ritual, but is revealed in mercy: sharing bread with the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the afflicted. Then—only then—"your light shall rise in the darkness." Faith that does not overflow into love becomes bland and dim.

Saint Paul echoes this in his letter to the Corinthians. He does not rely on eloquence or human wisdom, but on the power of God working through weakness. The light of Christ shines most clearly not when we appear strong, but when we allow God to act through our humility, kindness, and service.

For us as a parish community, this Sunday is an invitation to examine **how we live our faith in daily life. In our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighbourhoods—do others taste the salt of compassion? Do they glimpse the light of hope?** Often it is not grand gestures but small, faithful acts that make Christ visible.

May we ask today for the grace not to hide what God has placed within us. And may our lives, quietly and consistently, give glory not to ourselves, but to our Father in heaven.

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

Lepra Charity Appeal 14/15th FEBRUARY: This weekend there will be a appeal on behalf of Lepra, who fights against leprosy around the world – see the notice board for further details

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

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 to serve.

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD & RELIGIOUS LIFE: A silent Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life takes place at the convent chapel of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, at St Andrew's, 77 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS, on **Monday 9 February, 6:30pm-7:30pm**. The Holy Hour will be every second Monday of the month thereafter

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

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN WRITERS: VOICES FROM SCOTLAND & BEYOND: Dr Linden Bicket & Dr Rebekah Lamb-Varela will share the life and works of women such as Immaculée Iligaziba, Muriel Spark and St Thérèse of Lisieux, at this free event on Wednesday 11 February, 5:45pm to 8:30pm, at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/bdek2p8p>

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

Lenten Retreat: Saturday 21st 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 13th June 11.00am**
 - b. St John: **Saturday 20th June 11.00am**
2. **Confirmation 2026 will be Thursday 14th May**