

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 22nd February

1st Sunday of Lent 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. 21 Feb. <i>(Vigil) 1st Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Pat Ford RIP
Sunday 22 Feb. <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Anne McDonald, Spe. Int.
	11.30am Mass	St John	Janis McCreadie 1 st Death Anniversary
Mon. 23 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tue. 24 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Marry Taylor RIP
Wed. 25 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St John	Andrew George, Rose-Ann McIntosh RIP
Thu. 26 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Gabriel R, Spe. Int.
Fri. 27 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	11.00am	St John	<i>Requiem Mass of Alexander Boyle</i>
Sat. 28 Feb. 1 st week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Alexander Boyle RIP
Sat. 28 Feb. <i>(Vigil) 2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	John Kelly 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	

Lent 2026

Way of the Cross: *After Mass, Thursdays and Fridays*

Eucharistic Adoration

and Confessions: *Before Mass on Tuesdays, Fridays (half an hour)*

My Dear People of God, on this **First Sunday of Lent**, the Church leads us into the desert with Jesus Christ. The desert is not simply a place of sand and silence; it is the place of decision. It is where distractions fall away and the truth of the heart is revealed.

The Gospel recounts the Lord's forty days of fasting and His confrontation with temptation. He is tempted with comfort, power, and glory—three promises that still echo in our own lives. **"Turn stones into bread."** How often are we tempted to satisfy immediate

hunger—whether for food, affirmation, or success—without trusting in God's providence? **"Worship me."** How subtly we are drawn to place career, reputation, or even ourselves at the centre instead of God. **"Test God."** How easily we demand signs instead of walking by faith.

Yet **in every temptation, Jesus answers with the Word of God.** He does not argue with the devil; He stands firmly on truth. This is our Lenten path: **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** are not mere practices—they are weapons of grace. **Prayer roots us in God's voice. Fasting loosens the grip of disordered desires. Almsgiving turns our hearts outward in love.**

Lent is not a gloomy season. It is a season of clarity. In the desert, we rediscover who we are: beloved sons and daughters of the Father. **The Lord does not lead us into the desert to abandon us, but to strengthen us. Every struggle faced with faith becomes a step toward Easter.**

As a parish community, let us walk this journey together. Let us encourage one another in small sacrifices, faithful prayer, and generous charity. If we enter the desert with Christ, we will also share in His victory. And the joy of Easter will not be distant—it will already be growing within us.

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

EASTER CHARITIES FAIR: On Sunday 15th March at St Kentigern's in church hall after 9:30 Mass. Refreshments, crafts, home baked goods and tombola. Come and join the fun.

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 srmay.benedicta@staned.org.uk to serve.

Funeral Details of late Alexander Boyle: Requiem Mass on Friday 27th February 11.00am at St John's Church followed by burial at 12.45 noon at Corstorphine Hill Cemetery; Reception of the body at 5.30pm on Thursday 26th February.

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 srmay.benedicta@staned.org.uk.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent. The first one is on Monday 23 February at 7:45pm and will feature a reflection from Archbishop Leo. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/stations26

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MASS: Mass is the climax of Catholic life. Join the Archdiocese's Catechetics Commission to explore what we are ultimately doing with God at Holy Mass. *What's Happening at Mass* takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on Saturday 14 March, from 9:30am-4:00pm. Register: bit.ly/archmass

COURAGEOUS HEART: A DAY TO GROW IN FAITH FOR GIRLS S3-S6: Girls in S3-S6 are invited to 'Courageous Heart,' a day of faith and friendship on

Saturday 28 February 2026 from 10:00am-3:00pm. Consists of prayer, opportunity for Confession, Mass, lunch, a craft, and time with new friends. St Andrew's Catholic Church and Convent, 77 Belford Road, Edinburgh (sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma). Please RSVP and request a parent permission form by emailing edinburgh@almamercy.org (or call 0131 343 3380) by 24 February.

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.

CALIX SOCIETY: The Calix Society is an association of Catholic Alcoholics, promoting the virtue of daily abstinence and the spiritual development of its members. It meets on the first Saturday of the month at 1:30pm, following the 12:30pm Mass at St Patrick's Church in The Cowgate, Edinburgh. It hosts a talk on Venerable Matt Talbot on Saturday 7 March at 1:30pm. No registration required.

LEGION OF MARY OF THE EDINBURGH CURIA ANNUAL ACIES FEAST: The Legion of Mary of the Edinburgh Curia will celebrate their annual Acies Feast on Sunday 15 March 2026 at 3:00pm at St Andrew's Church, Ravelston, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS. The Legionaries will renew their fidelity to Our Lady and Msgr Jeremy Milne, Vicar General of the Archdiocese, will give an address. All the Legionaries and Auxiliaries are most welcome to join the occasion. Following the service, there will be teas and coffees in parish rooms at St Andrew's. Kindly use public parking, since there is limited parking on the church premises.

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**