

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 08th March

3rd 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. 07 March	<i>(Vigil) 3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	4.30pm – Adoration 6.00pm Mass	St John	Carol Hastie RIP
Sunday 08 March.	<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Mary Taylor RIP
		11.30am Mass	St John	<i>People of God</i>
Mon. 09 March	3 rd week of Lent	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tue. 10 March	St John Ogilvie, Feast	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Mary Anderson RIP
Wed. 11 March.	3 rd week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St John	James and Paidi Fitzgerald RIP
Thu. 12 March	3 rd week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Steven R, Spe. Int.
Fri. 13 March	3 rd week of Lent	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Andrew Wolfe, Spe. Int.
Sat. 14 March	3 rd week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Jim Dickson RIP
Sat. 14 March	<i>(Vigil) 4th Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Esther Caldeira 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 (half an hour) Tuesdays, Fridays*

My Dear People of God, the readings this Sunday revolve around a simple but powerful theme: **thirst**. In the desert, the people of Israel cry out for water. Their journey has become difficult, and their thirst leads them to question God's presence among them. Yet the Lord responds with mercy. From the rock at Horeb, water flows, showing that ***even in the driest moments God continues to provide for His people.***

In the Gospel, another **thirsty person** appears—the Samaritan woman at the well. She comes in the heat of the day, perhaps avoiding others, carrying not only a jar but also the weight of her life's struggles. Jesus meets her there and begins a conversation that slowly opens her heart. He speaks of ***"living water,"*** the gift of God that satisfies the deepest thirst of the human soul.

What is beautiful in this encounter is that Jesus meets her exactly where she is. He does not begin with judgment but with a request: ***"Give me a drink."*** Through patience and truth, He leads her toward faith. By the end of the story, the woman who once came alone becomes a messenger, running back to her town to invite others to meet Christ.

Saint Paul explains the deeper meaning of this transformation. In the second reading, he reminds us that ***"the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."*** This love is the true living water. It is a gift freely given through Christ, who died for us even while we were still sinners.

For our parish community, this Gospel is an invitation. **Many people around us are thirsty—for hope, forgiveness, belonging, and peace. When we encounter Christ in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in one another, we receive the living water that renews our hearts and sends us out to share His love with others** – Let us willingly go!

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 Anderson, 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.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST KENTIGERN'S AND ST JOHN'S have a long tradition of providing good music for everyone. We are now in urgent need of a pianist to accompany hymns at Sunday Mass. The current arrangement will continue till Easter so it is important that we have someone in place very soon who could play perhaps every second week. If you would like to be part of our music groups please see us on a Sunday after Mass.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: On Sunday 15 March there will be a special collection for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). 75 per cent of the collection goes to SCIAF and 25 per cent to the Archdiocesan Care Fund, which supports various good causes. Last year £32,067 was raised from this collection in the Archdiocese. Thank you for your support.

Funeral Details of late Mary Anderson: at Warriston Crematorium, the Cloisters Chapel at 1.30pm on Wednesday the 11th of March. May she rest in peace.

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 smary.benedicta@staned.org.uk.

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

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 22 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.

ASSISTED SUICIDE FINAL VOTE: This is your last chance to help stop assisted suicide in Scotland and protect vulnerable people. Email your MSPs today - visit CARENOTKILLING.SCOT and enter your postcode to find contact details for your local MSP.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent at 7:45pm. Concludes with a reflection from guest speaker. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/stations26

FEEL CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD? If you have been wondering whether God could be calling you to become a priest, you are not alone. If you are considering this call, take that step and get in touch today. Contact our Vocations Director at FRPATRICK.BURKE@STANED.ORG.UK. Come and see where the Lord may be leading you.

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**