

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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Church of St John the Baptist
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Sunday 15th March

4th 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. 14 March (<i>Vigil</i>) 4 th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm Mass	St John	Esther Caldeira RIP
Sunday 15 March. 4 th Sunday of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Bert Demarco RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	<i>People of God</i>
Mon. 16 March 4 th week of Lent	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tue. 17 March St Patrick, Feast	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Antony and Eliyamma Palakapally RIP
Wed. 18 March. 4 th week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St John	Alexander Boyle RIP
Thu. 19 March <i>St. Joseph, Solemnity</i>	<i>9.30am Mass</i>	<i>St Kent</i>	Fr. Paul Henderson, Spe. Int.
Fri. 20 March 4 th week of Lent	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Catherine McGue RIP
Sat. 21 March 4 th week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Donor's Intention
Sat. 21 March (<i>Vigil</i>) 5 th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm Mass	St John	Michel Hamilton 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent is often called **Laetare Sunday**, a day of quiet joy in the middle of our Lenten journey. The Gospel (John 9:1–41) tells the story of Jesus healing the man born blind. *It is not only a story about physical sight; it is about learning to see with the heart.*

At first, the disciples look at the blind man and ask, **“Who sinned?”** They see a problem, a cause to blame. Jesus sees

something different: an opportunity for God's grace to be revealed. With a simple act of love, He restores the man's sight. Yet the deeper miracle unfolds gradually—the man comes to recognize who Jesus truly is.

Ironically, those who claim to see—the religious leaders—remain spiritually blind. They are so certain of their own understanding that they cannot recognize the work of God standing before them. The blind man, however, moves step by step toward faith. He begins by calling Jesus **“the man,”** then **“a prophet,”** and finally he worships Him as **Lord.**

This Gospel invites each of us to ask: **What kind of sight do we have?** It is possible to have healthy eyes yet still miss God's presence in our lives, in our neighbours, and even in our struggles. Lent is a time when Christ gently opens our eyes—**through prayer, repentance, and acts of charity.**

Sometimes God's grace works in the ordinary mud of life: moments of weakness, confusion, or suffering. Yet if we allow Christ to touch these places, they can become moments of healing and deeper faith.

As a parish community, let us ask the Lord today: **“Jesus, help us to see.”** Help us see your light in one another, your mercy in our failures, and your presence guiding us toward Easter joy.

When Christ opens our eyes, we begin to see the world not with fear or judgment, but with faith, hope, and love



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 Michael Hamilton, 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.

ST KENTIGERN'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY: There will be a volunteers' meeting on **Monday (16th March) at 11.30am** in St Kentigern's Parish Room to discuss how we might celebrate the church's Diamond anniversary. If you would like to join our small committee or have any suggestions you would like to put forward, we will be very pleased to see you. Meanwhile, parishioners may wish to start looking through their collection of St Kentigern's photographs and other material from 1966 to the present! Please let Marlene McCallum (marlenemccallum9@gmail.com) know if you find anything which could form part of a display.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Today 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.

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.

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 CARENOKILLING.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.

FINAL VOTE ON ASSISTED: This Tuesday (17 March) the Scottish Parliament is expected to have a final vote on Assisted Suicide. Please share your concerns now with your MSPs. Use the letter writing tool at [HTTPS://CARENOKILLING.SCOT/](https://CARENOKILLING.SCOT/)

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**