

# Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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 26 Parkgrove Avenue  
 Edinburgh, EH4 7QR

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**5<sup>th</sup> 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 March ( <i>Vigil</i> ) 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	6.00pm Mass	St John	Michael Hamilton RIP
Sunday 22 March. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Martin Scully & Family
	11.30am Mass	St John	<i>People of God</i>
Mon. 23 March 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	<i>No Public Mass</i>		
Tue. 24 March 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Peter Gillies RIP
Wed. 25 March. <i>Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity</i>	9.30am Mass	St John	Carol Hastie RIP
Thu. 26 March 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Valerie Gillon RIP
Fri. 27 March 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	6.00pm Exposition 6.30pm Mass	St John	Charlotte Topping, Spe. Int.
Sat. 28 March 5 <sup>th</sup> week of Lent	9.30am Mass	St Kent	James Skelton RIP
Sat. 28 March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Michael 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*

Dear People of God, as we enter the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church leads us to the tomb of Lazarus, where ***grief, confusion, and hope meet***. Martha's words echo the cry of many hearts: "*Lord, if you had been here...*" It is the honest prayer of those who struggle to understand suffering and delay. Yet Jesus responds not with explanations, but with a promise: "*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*"

Before performing the miracle, Jesus weeps. This is deeply consoling—God is not distant from our pain. In Christ, ***He stands beside every grave we carry: loss, disappointment, sin, and fear.*** Nothing in our lives is beyond His compassion.

Then comes the command: "*Take away the stone.*" Even knowing what He will do, Jesus invites human participation. There are stones in our lives too—barriers of pride, resentment, or despair—that we are called to move this Lent. Grace does not bypass our freedom; it calls it forth.

Finally, Jesus cries out, "*Lazarus, come out!*" His word brings life where there was death. This is the heart of our faith: that Christ's voice still calls each of us out of darkness into light, out of sin into freedom.

As we approach Holy Week, this Gospel invites us to deeper trust. Do we believe that Christ can bring life even to what seems beyond hope?

***This week, let us hear His voice, respond with faith, and allow Him to lead us into the new life He alone can give.***

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 Michael Hamilton, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and those who have no-one else to pray for them

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.

SSVP: EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE: We will be selling raffle tickets for our traditional Easter Hamper for the next 2 weeks. The proceeds will go to St Andrew's Fox Covert School to help pupils go to school camp and outings. We have also agreed to help families in need with food vouchers over the summer holiday period when there is no access to school meals. You have been very generous in the past so please try to bring some cash for the tickets which will be £1 a strip. Good luck everyone. The Society of St Vincent de Paul St John the Baptist conference.

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](mailto:srmay.benedicta@staned.org.uk).

ASSISTED SUICIDE REJECTED IN SCOTLAND: From Archbishop Leo: "I am deeply grateful to the MSPs who voted in favour of life on Tuesday at Holyrood. The outcome of the vote reflects a careful and compassionate approach to a deeply sensitive subject, one that touches the dignity and vulnerability of all of us. Well done to everyone who contacted their MSPs about this crucial issue. May we now go forward, committed to making Scotland's palliative care the very best in the world. Let's also accompany one another in life and death with humanity and humility."

DIOCESAN STRUCTURES IN SCOTLAND: The Holy See has invited the Bishops of Scotland to reflect on how the present dioceses of the Church in Scotland can best serve her mission in the years ahead. In the coming

weeks, therefore, along with the rest of the country, Archbishop Leo would like to hold some consultations on what we might propose to Rome, so that the Church in Scotland might improve cooperation among its dioceses, share resources within our present structures, or consider, as necessary, how we might merge some of our dioceses. Read the full statement at <https://www.bcos.org.uk/>

SAVE THE DATE: The national St Margaret Pilgrimage will take place in Dunfermline on Sunday 14 June 2026. Save the date, details to follow.

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](http://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](mailto:FRPATRICK.BURKE@STANED.ORG.UK). Come and see where the Lord may be leading you.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD: A Rachel's Vineyard retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion will be held in Glasgow on Friday, 24 to Sunday 26 April. This confidential, supportive retreat is helpful to anyone who has been affected by their own or someone else's abortion experience. For more information, please call or text Sr Andrea on 07816 942824 or email at [sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk). For more details, visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk)

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**