

Parish of St John the Baptist & St Kentigern

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Parish (Including SSVP and Hall Bookings)

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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 13th September

24th Sunday Ordinary Time

Year -A

A very 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?



<i>Sat.12 Sep. 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Sandy Aitkenhead RIP
<i>Sunday 13 Sep. 23^d Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Ditano & Ceresa Families RIP
	11.30am Mass	St John	Crafael & Ujjala Rozario RIP
<i>Mon. 14 Sep. Exaltation of the Cross</i>	<i>No public Mass</i>		
<i>Tue. 15 Sep. Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	6.00pm Adoration 6.30pm Mass	St Kent	Mario Pacitti RIP
<i>Wed. 16 Sep. St Ninian, Feast</i>	<i>10.00am Mass</i>	<i>St John</i>	<i>Requim Mass of Sandy Aitkenhead</i>
<i>Thu. 17 Sep. 24th Week OT</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Raymond Gregson, GE
<i>Fri. 18 Sep. 60th Anniversary Mass</i>	<i>7.00pm Mass</i>	<i>St Kent</i>	<i>People of God</i>
<i>Sat. 19 Sep. Memorial of Bl. Virgin Mary</i>	9.30am Mass	St Kent	Frances Todd, RIP
<i>Sat.19 Sep. 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vigil)</i>	6.00pm Mass	St John	Marilyn O'Sullivan 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

My dear people of God, Peter's question in today's Gospel sounds generous, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?". But Jesus' answer goes much further: "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus is not asking us to keep a record of how many times we have forgiven someone. He is inviting us to become people whose hearts are shaped by God's mercy. The parable makes the message unmistakable. A servant owes his master an enormous debt—far beyond his ability to repay. The master, moved with compassion, forgives the entire debt. Yet that same servant refuses to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. He has received mercy, but he has not allowed mercy to transform him. This is a powerful mirror for every Christian community. We come before God carrying our sins, failures and weaknesses. We repeatedly ask: "Forgive us our trespasses." And every time we do so, we are reminded that we ourselves live by God's mercy. Therefore, we cannot receive forgiveness from God while deliberately refusing to extend forgiveness to others. Forgiveness does not mean pretending that nothing happened. It does not mean calling evil good, ignoring injustice, or allowing someone to continue harming us. **Forgiveness means refusing to let another person's wrongdoing possess our heart.** Justice may still be necessary; boundaries may still be necessary; reconciliation may take time. But hatred and revenge must not have the final word.

Sometimes the person we need to forgive is someone who has hurt us deeply. Sometimes it is someone close to us. And sometimes the person we struggle most to forgive is ourselves. Jesus invites us to place every wound before His Cross and allow His mercy to enter it.

As a parish community, let us ask today: *Whom am I still holding captive in my heart?* Perhaps that person needs forgiveness—but perhaps we need freedom even more.

The Eucharist we celebrate is the memorial of Christ who gave Himself for sinners. Having received such immeasurable mercy, let us go forth and become merciful people. **Lord, teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven.**

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 Frances Todd, Oresto Tuzi, Sandy Aitkenhead, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and those who have no-one else to pray for

ST KENTIGERN'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY:

- **PHOTOS:** This is a last call for anyone who has print photographs of the St Kentigern's years and who would like them to be included in our anniversary display: please hand them **in this Sunday 13th at the very latest**. You can give them to Marlene McCallum, Geraldine Donoghue, Bert Demarco, Beth Macleod, Helen Robinson or Steve Donegan.
- **ANNIVERSARY MASS AND GET-TOGETHER ON FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER:** All the Parishioners are invited and expected to attend the Mass with the Archbishop at 7pm followed by a social event in the hall. Thanks to all who have offered to help. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church if you can assist. Help to set out tables and chairs in the hall on the Friday morning would be welcome. Perhaps you could bake a few cakes. And many hands make light work of serving and clearing up at the end.
- **CEILIDH AND CURRY:** Don't forget our ceilidh and curry night on **Friday 25th September in St Kentigern's Hall from 7 to 11pm**. We will have a ceilidh band and there will be food for all tastes! Bring your own choice of drink.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SENIOR CITIZENS: OUTING TO PEEBLES:

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER AT 1PM FROM MAGNET ON ST JOHN'S ROAD: Please sign up for our outing to Peebles for High Tea at the Green Tree hotel on the above date. Signup sheets are now available at the back of both churches. Please complete all the details requested in Capital Letters with your phone number clearly visible in case we need to contact you at any point. We are looking forward to another successful day. If you have any questions, please speak to a St Vincent de Paul member at the back of the church.

MASS WITH THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY: Celebrate Mass with the African community in Fife at 2:00pm on Sunday 20 September at St Margaret's Catholic Church, East Port, Dunfermline. Light refreshments will follow in the parish hall after Mass.

POVERTY IN SCOTLAND: CAN WE DO MORE?: An event to dive into the reality of poverty in Scotland. We'll hear from a range of speakers working on the frontline, discuss what's being done and explore ways we can do more to help. It's a chance to connect, share ideas, and spark change. It takes place on Saturday 3

October, 10:30am-4:00pm at, The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register at bit.ly/povertyinscotland

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS 2026:

Registration forms for the Sacraments of first Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are available at the Church – please take the relevant forms, fill them in handover as soon as possible, the last date in end of October.

NATIONAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

The National Youth Pilgrimage (for ages 18–35) will take place on Saturday 26 September 2026 at Pluscarden Abbey. This year's pilgrimage will focus on religious and monastic life and will include a tour of the Abbey, a Q&A with the monks, talks on vocation, and a Vigil Mass with Archbishop Cushley. Young people are invited to travel with the Archdiocese. To register or enquire, please contact youth.office@staned.org.uk.

VENERABLE MARGARET SINCLAIR

PILGRIMAGE: This year's pilgrimage takes place on Sunday 20 September at St Patrick's Church in The Cowgate, Edinburgh. Schedule: 12:30pm - Sale of candles & goods, refreshments; 1:30pm - Holy Hour (exposition and benediction); 3:00pm - Reflection from Canon Jock Dalrymple; 4:30pm - Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cushley (Homilist: Fr Michael John Galbraith).

VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN EDINBURGH:

Three new adult volunteers are needed for the newly forming Children SPRED (Special Religious Development) group meeting at George Square in Edinburgh on Fridays from 3pm-4pm. The spiritual programme for children with special needs fosters communion with Jesus Christ within the Catholic community of faith. Please contact Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM (srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk) if you are interested.

DONATIONS: As part of our Diamond Anniversary, we would like to renew/upgrade our liturgical articles, such as – Liturgical Vestments, Chalice, patterns, cruets, altar cloths, candle sticks, etc. ...it's an opportunity for you to contribute financially or/and to sponsor one or more items. Please speak to Fr. Binu or Rita /Anne at the Sacristy.

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.