

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



ST MARGARET'S, DUNFERMLINE
AND
CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, OAKLEY

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<https://mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-margarets-rc-church>

St Margaret's is a Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrew and Edinburgh,
a Charity registered in Scotland SC0008540.

RESPONSE FOR THE SUNDAY MASS AND MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

PSALM	O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not! By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps...
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Day	Time	Date	Intention
SUNDAY	10am (SM)	14	People of the Parish
MON	10am (SM)	15	Mary Condie R.I.P.
TUES	10am (SM)	16	Fr Joe Portelli (Anniv) & Ella Purvis (Anniv)
WED	10am (SM)	17	Lawrence Haggart (Anniversary) & Paddy Mitchell R.I.P
THURS	10am (SM)	18	Tony Olsen (Anniversary)
FRIDAY	10am (SM)	19	Patrick & Bridget Brolly R.I.P & Sick Person
SAT	10am (SM)	20	Stewart McQuillan
SUNDAY	10am (SM)	21	People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers those who have died, including Frances Mitchell, or who are ill at this time.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like a Mass celebrated for a particular intention please get in touch by email, phone or drop a note through the letterbox or, if at a service, pop into the box for offertory collections.

If you wish a Mass card, write your name and address and one will be posted.

DEAR FRIENDS

St John loves the symbolic. He loves the use of dualistic opposites such as light and darkness; above and below; life and death; spirit and flesh to name but a few. He also loves to use irony as well.

This is the first encounter that Jesus has with Nicodemus, who is described as a man from the Pharisees, and it has all of these literary devices. At the very start of this encounter, we are told that Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. The challenge issued is for him to come and stand in the full light of day: “The



man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.”

Nicodemus does, eventually, stand in the light, but only after Jesus has been “raised up” on the Cross.

At first, Nicodemus is in the dark in more ways than one. He seems to be quite incapable of understanding what Jesus is trying to tell him. This is the first use of irony in John’s Gospel as we, the readers, are enlightened whilst Nicodemus is still in the dark. He is portrayed as a respectful but somewhat confused teacher in Israel. Later in the Gospel he shows his mettle when he stands up to a group of peers, intent on doing Jesus harm until, after having seen the Son of Man raised up, he can stand in the full light of day and declare his allegiance and faith. The light that drew Nicodemus to make that journey to Jesus in

the dark is now seen in his own life as he moves from one who sits on the fence to one who sides openly and fully with Jesus, raised high on the Cross, source of healing and forgiveness for a world loved by God.

And lastly, a very happy Mothering Sunday to all of our Mothers. Have a lovely day!

With best wishes and prayers for the coming week,

Fr Chris

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

'My Jesus, I Believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
Although You have already come,
I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.'

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every
evil. Amen.*

VIRTUAL LENT EVENTS

Assuming that there is no deterioration in the situation with the virus over the next few weeks, our Churches can re-open for Holy Week and Easter. The maximum number allowed will be 50 people (attendance at Funerals remains at 20). It will be necessary to book for Sunday Masses but not for weekday Masses. You will be advised next weekend how this will be done. No bookings will be taken until instructions are issued. Please note that the Sunday Obligation remains suspended so you might consider coming during the week if you can.

THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

ST MARGARET'S

Saturday 27th	10am
Palm Sunday Vigil Masses	4.00pm and 5.30pm
Palm Sunday Masses	9.00am and 11am
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	10am
Holy Thursday	7.00pm (no washing of the feet, no watching and no night prayer)
Good Friday Liturgy	3.00pm (no long reading of Passion and no "kissing" of the cross)
Good Friday Stations	7.00pm
Easter Vigil Masses	4.00pm and 5.30pm
Easter Sunday	9.00am and 11am

HOLY NAME

Palm Sunday Masses	9.30am & 11.00am
Tuesday of Holy Week	10am
Holy Thursday	7.00pm (no watching and no night prayer)
Good Friday	3.00pm (no long reading of Passion and no "kissing" of the cross)
Easter Sunday Masses	9.30a.m and 11.00am

For both weekday and weekend Masses at 10am livestream access from St Margaret's (as well as prior recordings) please go to <https://stmargaretsdunfermline.co.uk/stream/> or at <https://mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-margarets-rc-church>

FOR LENT, THE LIVE EVENTS INCLUDE:

Sunday 21st March at 4pm	Parish Groups Stations of the Cross by Zoom. More details below:
This is open to all parishioners. It will begin at 4pm and will last approximately 1 hour. If you would like to participate please email Fr Heenan at the parish for the Zoom Invitation.	
Monday evenings	Parish Scripture Study Group by Zoom. For further details please contact Tom Scott at tom.scott0711@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 7pm	Rosary and Benediction from St Margaret's via the Livestream
Thursdays at 7pm	Stations of the Cross from St Margaret's via the Livestream
Wednesday 24th March 7pm	"A Celebration of God's Mercy." Via the Livestream only.

In addition, his grace, the Archbishop also holds his Sunday Mass, information via the Archdiocesan website.

St Joseph's in Clarkston are continuing with their telephone Mass service. The Number to call to hear Fr Stephen's Mass is 0141 473 4869.

PARISH ZOOM GROUP

On Sunday's at 11am there is a gathering for coffee after Mass and on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30pm there is a social quiz evening. These events are open to **all** parishioners. To find out how to join them please email Tom Scott on tom.scott0711@gmail.com.

EDINBURGH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE: THE BIG NIGHT IN

Save the date for: Saturday 27 March 2021 at 7.30pm

This is a great opportunity to get together (virtually) with Lourdes friends for a night of entertainment, including a special guest accordion player! More information including Zoom Meeting details will follow soon.

If you are having any issues with access, email enquiries@edinburgh-lourdes.com



Visit <https://archedinburgh.org/childrens-liturgy-at-home-get-ready-for-sunday-40/> for some great ideas to celebrate and explain this Sunday.

More resources can be found at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> and at https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/_uploads/www.rpbooks.co.uk/FMfrom3rdOrdinary.pdf for ideas over next few weeks for different age groups.

In Sunday's Gospel (John 3:14-21) we hear of God's great love for us and for the whole world - how He gave us Jesus His only Son the "Light of the World" to bring us back to God.

Why not make some handprint flowers?

All you need is coloured paper (or colour in white paper), pipe cleaners (or twigs), glue or sellotape and an adult to cut out the shapes if you are very wee.

One handprint will make a lily (wrap it round a pipe cleaner)

Four handprints will make a rose or a tulip (wrap them round or stick them to a piece of paper and make a collage.

You could also make leaves from your feet shape or even a bunch of flowers to brighten up the house or give as a present!

PARISH CHARITIES



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Our SVP conference has been working hard to meet the needs of those in difficulty at this time. If you can help, the Bank Details are:

Account Name	SSVP AEO2044
Sort Code	800655
Account Number	00768139

A massive *Thank You* to all who have donated!



ST. MARGARET'S ONE WORLD GROUP

SUPPORTING MARY'S MEALS, HAITI HELP, EMMS AND PEAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All parishioners are very welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting of the One World Group. You will hear how and why we raise funds and how we hope to prepare for fund raising when lockdown ends.

The AGM is on Saturday 13 March at 11am and will be held online by Zoom. If you are interested please email David Hambley, at dhambleyuk@yahoo.co.uk so he can send you the Zoom login link.

We thank all our donors. We have a monthly commitment to support Geveh Fancheh School in Liberia through Mary's Meals as well as meeting emergencies such as Tigray.

If any of you feel able to donate to our work, you can do so to our bank account:

Account Name	St Margarets One World Group
Sort Code	83-33-00
Account Number	10191867

If you prefer to send a cheque, please contact our treasurer Maureen Japp on 01383 725967 or by email at maureenjapp17@gmail.com

PARISH FINANCES

Please only donate if you can do so; do not put yourself into any hardship. If you are a tax-payer and don't Gift Aid your offering already please complete a form and return to Fr Heenan.

1. Standing Order

Standing order forms are available on the parish website or you can set up on online via your bank.

2. Online ad hoc donations

If you have internet banking you can use this too. There are two ways:

- using the following bank account details:
for **St Margaret's**: sort code: 80 06 55 Account 00720303.
for **Holy Name**: sort code 83 33 00 Account number 00176355.
- using the link via the Archdiocese (archedinburgh.org) online secure 'donate' links at the top of the page

STELLA MARIS

You may have seen the video by Barbara Dickson on the Archdiocesan website (<https://archedinburgh.org/watch-barbra-dickson-highlights-role-of-stella-maris/>) but who are Stella Maris?

Stella Maris (or the Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church's official Maritime Welfare Agency. Founded in Glasgow in 1920, its role is to provide practical and spiritual support to all seafarers.

As most of the world's economy relies on the sea and the seafarers employed to distribute these goods, it is even more important to remember them and the difficulties they face on a daily basis – even more during coronavirus.

To donate and help support our local teams help seafarers, stranded, in need of a listening ear or a friendly face, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate.

Our local co-ordinator (for Forth ports) is Deacon Joe who can be contacted on joseph.odonnell@stellamarismail.org who with the ecumenical team arrange help.

Heavenly Father: we pray to You for those on the perilous ocean that You will embrace them with your mighty protection and grant them success in all their rightful undertakings. Grant them in all hours of need to see that they have a God who remembers them and grant them grace in the hour of danger to commit their souls into Your hands.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who can rebuke the storm and bring it to silence, and lay the roaring waves to rest, show them who call to You out of the deep that You hear their prayer and will save them. And finally bring us all to the only safe port. Amen.

OTHER EVENTS

INSPIRE: LENTEN PRAYER TALKS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE (BOOK VIA WEBSITE)

1) *Prayer as a Relationship as Reflected in St Teresa of Avila*
Sr Sally Rollo (Dysart) | **Tue 16 March**, 7-8pm |

2) *Praying the Passion According to St Mark*
Archbishop Leo Cushley | **Tue 23 March**, 7-8pm

Previous events are still available to view on the Archdiocese YouTube channel

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH:

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March highlights the joy that the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) brings, and reminds us that it's a loving and merciful encounter between us and God, *writes Vatican News*.

His new video message is full of hope, and he invites us to rediscover the power of personal renewal that the Sacrament of Confession has in our life. He says: "**Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God.**" The video opens with the Pope himself going to confession, "in order to be healed, to heal my soul". You can view this on the Archdiocesan website.

WEE BOX

To order a WEE BOX go to: www.sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

You can of course still donate online at their site.

ARCHDIOCESAN CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Go to <https://archedinburgh.org/update-coronavirus/> to keep up to date with what is happening in the area.

Can also sign up to the e-newsletter on the 'news and events' page.

HYMN CORNER

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —
3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

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THE LAST WORD...

...from Father Isaac

GOD HAS NOT SENT HIS SON TO CONDEMN THE WORLD

Few days ago, a barrister who was probably returning from his duty post saw us heading home after the Sunday mass and quoted the popular gospel passage Jn. 3:16: "God loves the world so much." Responding to him my associate priest with a great sense of humour said "That he sent his only Son and not a committee." if God had entrusted human salvation to a committee, perhaps they would have still been debating on how to save humankind by now. We thank Jesus who willingly consented to his Father's will that he should come and save the world.

In today's gospel, Christ made it clear "God sent his son into the world not to condemn the world but that through him the world might be saved." God has not sent his son to condemn us but out of the love he has for us, Christ was sent to save us." In the scripture, the use of love is synonymous to mercy or compassion. So, God looks at our waywardness and helplessness, he was moved to set us free. Christ teaches us that his death on the cross which was inevitable was primarily for our salvation. "The son of man must be lifted up on the cross, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life" (Jn.3: 14-15)

No matter what we have plunged ourselves into, how ever messy we have made of ourselves; God's mercy is so reach to liberate us. God did not love us when we were saints but "in his rich mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:4). Again, St. Paul tells us: "What proved that God loves us is that Christ died for us when we were still sinners." (Cf. Rom.5:8) God gives salvation gratuitously.

Therefore, the involvement of God in our history is not to condemn us but ultimately to save us and sometimes by means of the cross. This is always the story of the people of Israel as reflected in the first reading of today. Why run away from God? Why going to Babylon or Egypt? While do you remain in exile? He knows you through and through. Despite your prodigal nature; wasting his gifts of love and mercy never mind;

just approach him and his love and mercy upon you will be unfathomable.

We can do nothing to merit our salvation. Our own evil actions only bring about condemnation. We condemn ourselves to unhappiness. Our choices either bring us to bliss or sorrow. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (Cf. Jn. 3:19 -21) Following God is all about decision making. What decisions have you made to be closer to God during this season?

This popular lenten song is very rich and deep in meaning, spare a moment to reflect on it. "Nearer my God to thee, nearer to thee, even though it be a cross that raiseth me"(Sarah Flower Adams)

At the chaotic moments of our life, if we pray and reflect under the shadow of the cross of Christ, our dark days will become great days, for the providence of God presides over human affairs. There is a divinity that shapes our destiny. Men may cast their lots, gamble with their deeds, create chaos and confusion in the world as we are having in the case of covid19; men may move the wheels of history with blood stained hands. But the providence of God that presides over human lives finally brings order out of chaos.

Stay safe,
Remain Blessed,
Happy Sunday to you.