



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC



4th Sunday of Advent – Year (C)
22nd December 2024



*A Hearty Welcome! If you are just visiting our parish today, we bid you welcome.
If this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, welcome back! We hope our time together unites us in God's love.*

DATE	CHURCH	TIME & LITURGICAL SERVICE	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 21st	St. Margaret's	10am – Holy Mass 10.30am–Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am – Confession 5.30pm – Holy Mass	Barbara Chamberlain OCDS Noreen McInerney
Sunday 22nd	St. Margaret's Holy Name	9.30am – Holy Mass 11am – Holy Mass	Maureen Robertson RIP Ian Henderson RIP
Monday 23rd	St. Margaret's	12pm – Holy Mass	Canon Urquhart RIP
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve	St. Margaret's Holy Name St. Margaret's	10am – Holy Mass 6pm – Holy Mass (Carol singing 5.30pm) 8pm – Holy Mass (Carol singing 7.30pm)	Kitty Wilson RIP People of the parish People of the parish
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day	St. Margaret's Holy Name	9.30am – Holy Mass 11am – Holy Mass	Colin Carmichael RIP Ian Henderson RIP
Thursday 26th St. Stephen	St. Margaret's	10am – Holy Mass	Nancy & Peter McGuire
Friday 27th St. John	St. Margaret's	10am – Requiem Mass for Joe Wilson	
Saturday 28th The Holy Innocents	St. Margaret's	10am – Holy Mass 5.30pm – Holy Mass	Our Lady of Fatima John Bain RIP

Dear Parishioners and friends,

May Jesus be reborn in our heart and life during Christmas 2024 and every day of the New Year, 2025.

May He radiate His Presence from within us as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart, and overflowing generosity. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bless us with health in body and soul and grant us a peaceful and blessed New Year.

I assure you of my special prayers during my Christmas Holy Masses and every day in the New Year. With deep sentiments of gratitude and love, I would like to thank you for your prayers, greeting cards and gifts during this Holy season.

Wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! Fr Syriac



Obituary: Please remember in your prayers:

Joe Wilson; Funeral will take place on Friday 27th December at 10am with requiem mass in St. Margaret's followed by burial at Dunfermline Cemetery.

John Tonner; Funeral will take place on Monday 30th December at 11.30am with requiem mass in Holy Name followed by burial at Culross Cemetery.

Betty Broadley; Funeral will take place on Tuesday 31st December at 10am with requiem mass in St. Margaret's followed by cremation at Dunfermline Crematorium.

May they Rest In Peace. Our thoughts & prayers go to the bereaved families and friends.

St. Margaret's SSVP Christmas Appeal

SM SSVP are holding their annual Christmas appeal to assist the many families they support throughout the year. During Advent, a donation box is placed in the Porch for your donations. Donations of power cards, gift cards and vouchers would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively, cash donations can be paid into the Ssvp bank account; details can be found on the back page of the newsletter. We thank you in advance for all your continued support.

Holy Name SSVP Conference Christmas Appeal

Holy Name SSVP are holding their Christmas Appeal to help local families in need. We would welcome food vouchers or a donation to purchase food vouchers. Please hand your contributions to either Alison Groves or Marie Glancy. Many thanks.

St. Margaret's Tea And Toast remaining date for 2024 after Mass is Sunday 22nd Dec, and will resume on Sun 12th Jan 2025.

Feast of The Holy Family – Gathering of all children who were baptised in 2024 and their families

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday 29th December, we are holding a special mass for all the families whose children were baptised in 2024. I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join us for Sunday morning Mass at 9.30am at Sst. Margaret's or at 11a.m at Holy Name. Following the service, we will gather in the church for teas and coffees – a wonderful opportunity to connect with the young families and celebrate together the gift of our families and children.

Hogmanay in the Crypt

Hogmanay in the Crypt. Don't sit at home watching TV this Hogmanay. See in the New Year with your friends in the Crypt for an evening of Games, Quizzes and Music. Tickets on sale after weekend Masses.

St. Margaret's Church Lighting

The church lighting has been replaced. Many thanks to our Fabirc & Maintenance Team, namely Mike Pendlowski, Peter Seath & Paddy Mallan for all their hard work & commitment over the last two weeks in carrying out this project.

One World Group

The OWG would like to express their sincere thanks to the parish for their support for last Friday's event with the Queen Anne Singers. £550 was raised which will be donated to Mary's Meals.

Thanks from Anne McPherson

Anne McPherson would like to thank everyone for all their prayers & kindness over the past year, especially during her illness. She would like to wish everyone a happy & holy Christmas, and she has arranged a thanksgiving mass for the parishioners.

Safeguarding Recommendation

Children who are using any facilities whilst in the church should be accompanied by an appropriate adult, preferably using the toilets at the entrance, if it is in St. Margaret's.

ISC Spirituality Centre Books

ISC Glasgow (who did our recent retreat) have provided booklets 'Walking Together in Prayer'. These are available at the back of the church, free of charge.

Catholic Directory 2025

The 2025 Archdiocesan Directory are ready for distribution and are available at the back of the church for a small donation, which would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped into the Repository donation box located on the back wall of the church.

Marriage, Family and Life

The Catholic Families for Life Newsletter is available to read online. Visit <https://marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk/newsletter/>

Sick in the Parish

We would like to ask your prayers for: **Gail Pearce, Elaine Cormack, Denise Reilly, Jane Fentiman, Maureen Black, Margaret McPherson, Anne Donaldson Nan Lomas, Margaret Fotheringham, Jim Cusick, Janet McIlwaine, Moira McGuigan, May Reid, Ann Begg, Esther Wren and Margaret Wilson** during their period of illness.

Jesse Tree

A Jesse Tree is a depiction in art form of the ancestors of Jesus, shown in a branching tree which rises from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of King David. The Tree of Jesse originates in a passage in the Book of Isaiah which describes metaphorically the descent of the Messiah and is accepted by Christians as referring to Jesus. The various figures depicted in the lineage of Jesus are drawn from those names listed in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke.

During each week of Advent this year we will mark our journey towards Christmas with the Jesse Tree.

Week One

In week one, we acknowledged the first 7 days of Advent by placing the following 7 symbols on our Jesse Tree to represent some of the Key Ancestors of Jesus or moments in history that precede him:

The Story of Creation is symbolised by the sun, moon, stars, sky, earth and water.

The Story of the Fall of Adam & Eve is symbolised the Tree, the serpent, and an apple with a bite.

The Story of Noah and the Ark is symbolised by an ark on water with a rainbow and dove in the sky.

Abraham and Sarah are represented with a camel in the desert and many stars in the sky.

Issac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, is represented with a ram on an altar fire.

Jacob, the son of Isaac, is represented with a ladder going up to heaven, Jacob was also called Israel.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, is represented with an image of his multi-coloured coat of dreams.

Week Two

In week two we placed the 7 symbols on our Jesse Tree to illuminate the following 7 days of Advent:

Moses and the Passover are represented with a Lamb under a blood marked door frame.

The 10 Commandments are represented with an image of 2 tablets of stone with the numbers 1 to 10.

Ruth & Boaz are the grandparents of Jesse, therefore the great grandparents of King David, and they are shown as grain.

Samuel, the prophet, anointed a young King David and is symbolised with a burning lamp.

Jesse is symbolising with a tree stump and a small shoot coming from its side because Isaiah writes "A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit".

David wrote all of the Psalms and was a shepherd, he is symbolised with a shepherd's crook and a lire.

Solomon was wise because he asked for wisdom and he is represented with a beautiful crown.

Week Three

In week 3 we have placed 7 symbols to represent the following parts of the genealogy of Jesus:

The prophet Elijah is symbolised with an Altar of Fire after the miracle to prove God's existence.

Jonah the prophet is symbolised by the whale that swallowed him and spat him out.

Isaiah had many visions about God, and he is symbolised by the High Throne that he sees God sitting on.

Daniel is represented by a lion after God saved him from a sure death for breaking the laws of King Darius.

Mary, the mother of Jesus is symbolised with a peaceful, loving image of her with 12 stars over her head.

Joseph was a carpenter and is represented by a saw, a rule and a hammer.

Week Four

This week we have placed the final four symbols on our Jesse Tree to bring us right up to the 'Night Before Christmas':

John the Baptist, is the final piece of the Salvation History, and he is represented with a scallop shell and water, symbolising that Baptism can save us.

The birthplace of Jesus, Bethlehem, was the birth place of King David and a very important element of the redemption offered to us from God, this is symbolised with a town and a star above in the sky.

The Angels proclaiming the birth of our King to the shepherds are represented with a single angel playing a horn and the shepherds have left their crooks and sheep in the fields.

The birth of Christ is represented with a baby in a manger, with the Chi-Rho symbolising that he is Christ.

We encourage you to come up after mass and look for each of the symbols displayed and reflect on their meaning.

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Presbytery & Parish Office Address: St. Margaret's Presbytery, 4 Viewfield Terrace, Dunfermline, KY12 7HZ

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Parish Website & Social Media

stmargaretsnews@gmail.com

Newsletter - Deadline Friday 10am

Sacraments

Please Contact the Parish office to make an appointment with Fr Syriac to arrange: Baptisms, Marriages (6 months notice req'd), Funerals, Sacrament of the Sick or visits to the Housebound/Hospital.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

'St Margaret's R C Church'

80-06-55

00720303



'The Holy Name Parish'

83-33-00

00176355



CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

**'St. Margaret's
One World Group'**

83-33-00

10191867

SM

'SSVP AE02044'

80-06-55

00768139

HN

'SSVP AE02040'

80-22-60

13364166

GIFT AID - If you are a taxpayer and would like to enrol for Gift Aid, please contact the parish office.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY & MONTHLY STANDING ORDERS/DIRECT DEBITS

SPECIAL COLLECTION

SM: 14th & 15th Dec

Offertory £781.47 - **SO/DD** £1020.00

HN - MONTHLY OFFERTORY: 11/10- 12/11/24

Offertory £1196.74 - **SO/DD** £1060.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 2024/25

**St. Margaret's Parish
Building Fund**

1st Sunday of every month

**Christmas Season - Diocesan
Crib (Care Fund)**

**5th Jan - Bishops' Conference
Justice & Peace**

**30th March - Diocesan
SCIAF & Episcopal**

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A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC0008540





SCRIPTURE READINGS

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR (C)



FIRST READING Micah 5:2–5a

Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



Fourth Sunday of Advent

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5–10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL Luke 1:39–45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15–16. 18–19. R4

***Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia.
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.
Alleluia.**

THE NICENE ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ST MARGARET'S PARISH – ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Sunday 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent	Final St. Margaret's Tea And Toast for 2024	10.30am	St. Margaret's
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve	Carol singing Holy Mass	5.30pm 6pm	Holy Name
	Carol singing Holy Mass	7.30pm 8pm	St. Margaret's
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day	Holy Mass	9.30am	St. Margaret's
	Holy Mass	11am	Holy Name
Sunday 29th Feast of The Holy Family	Gathering of all children who were baptised in 2024 and their families	9.30am	St. Margaret's
	Gathering of all children who were baptised in 2024 and their families	11am	Holy Name

DUNFERMLINE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th Christmas Vigil	Christmas Day Wednesday 25th
5pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Dunfermline	9am St John & St Columba's, Rosyth
6pm Holy Name (Carol singing from 5.30pm)	9.30am St. Margaret's
7pm St Peter in Chains, Inverkeithing	11am Holy Name
8pm St. Margaret's (Carol singing from 7.30pm)	11am Our Lady of Lourdes, Dunfermline

PARISH REGISTER... TO BE LAUNCHED IN THE NEW YEAR!

The benefits of having a parish register are:

Improved Communication

The Parish Register will serve as a centralized resource for keeping parishioners informed about important updates, events, and initiatives. Whether it's sharing schedules, delivering newsletters, or announcing urgent messages, the register ensures timely and accurate communication with everyone in the parish community.

Reduced Risk of Exclusion

Without a register, some parishioners might miss important information or opportunities to participate in parish activities. The register minimizes this risk by providing an inclusive communication framework that reaches everyone.

Stronger Community Connection

By engaging every parishioner through better communication, the register will help to create a stronger sense of unity and belonging. It supports the Synod's emphasis on Communion by ensuring that no one feels overlooked or disconnected from parish life.

To be continued next week....