



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY - YEAR (A)

14th December 2025



*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 13th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 10.30am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	Ian Wallace RIP Margaret Cuddihy RIP
Sunday 14th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	St Margaret's	9.30am - Holy Mass 11am - Holy Mass	Special Intentions John Tonner RIP, Gerald Sunnie RIP
Monday 15th	St Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass	Thomas & Elizabeth Hutton RIP
Tuesday 16th	St Margaret's	10am - Requiem Mass for Mary Sweeney 7pm - Advent Reflection & Penitential Service with Rt Rev Monsignor Philip Canon Kerr	
Wednesday 17th	St. Margaret's	10am - Requiem Mass for Agnes Hunter	
Thursday 18th	St. Margaret's	10am - Requiem Mass for John Doherty	
Friday 19th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 7pm - Holy Mass 8pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession	Marie Bishop, Kay Frizell Fr Chris, Vera Weisfeld RIP
Saturday 20th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 10.30am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	For the Poor Clare Community, Galway Agnus Hunter RIP, Ian Henderson RIP

Update on Holy Name

I am pleased to announce that Holy Name will reopen for services starting Sun 21 Dec. Following the heating breaking, the team have worked diligently to secure temporary heating, ensuring a safe & comfortable environment for worship. This is a short-term solution while we await the installation of a new boiler. We appreciate your patience during this time and thank you for your understanding and continued support.
Fr Syriac, Parish Administrator

The Song of the Soul - Advent Reflection and Penitential Service - Tuesday 16 Dec at 7pm by Monsignor Philip Canon Kerr; individual confession thereafter.

St Margaret's Primary School P3 & P4s will be joining us for 10am Mass on Monday 15 Dec.

Mass Intentions

N.B. On days when multiple Mass intentions are mentioned, each intention will be celebrated individually by priests who experience a shortage of Mass offerings.



Obituary – Please remember in your prayers:

Mary Sweeney: Her funeral will be at St Margaret's with a Requiem Mass on Tuesday 16 Dec, 10am, followed by interment at Culross Cemetery.

Agnes Hunter: Her funeral will be at St Margaret's with a Requiem Mass on Wednesday 17 Dec, 10am followed by interment at Dunfermline Cemetery.

John Doherty: His funeral service will be at St Margaret's with Requiem Mass on Thursday 18 Dec, 10am followed by interment at Dunfermline Cemetery.

Wilma Ovenden: Her funeral will be at St Margaret's with a Requiem Mass on Monday 22 Dec, 12.30pm followed by a service at Dunfermline Crematorium.

Albert Gatt: His funeral will be at Holy Name with a Requiem Mass on Wednesday 24 Dec, 10am, followed by interment at Culross Cemetery.

Annmari McNeely: Her funeral be at Holy Name with a Requiem Mass on Monday 29 Dec, 10am followed by interment at Culross Cemetery.

May their souls rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

Car Parking – As we are celebrating 2 Masses on Sunday morning (9.30 & 11am) this week, this is challenging our limited Church Car Parking facilities. We request that Parishioners observe the following instructions – thank you for your understanding:

- Only park in designated parking spaces and do not double park
- Park in the free to use Viewfield Terrace Car Park when you see the 'Car Park Full' sign
- Drive with extreme care when using the Car Park as other Parishioners will also be walking in the area
- Respectfully follow the instructions/directions of our volunteer Pass-keepers as they manage car park access
- Help us to maintain clear access for Emergency Services vehicles

Children's Liturgy Christmas Party is on Sunday 14 Dec, after 9.30am Mass until 12.30pm in the Crypt. Children to be collected by a parent/guardian afterwards.

Bonnie Brew Christmas Lunch – thanks to our volunteers for hosting the Christmas Lunch on Mon 15 Dec, 12-3pm.

Fr Syriac's annual leave – Please note that Fr Syriac will be on leave, visiting with his family at home in India, from Friday 26 Dec through to 30 January. Visiting Priests will be covering Masses etc during this time. Detailed schedule to follow.

SSVP Christmas Appeals

Holy Name – At Christmas, we give a bit extra to the families and individuals we support and kindly ask you to help by donating food vouchers or the money to purchase them. Bank details on reverse of newsletter.

St Margaret's – help us to ease the financial burden for the 85 families in need who we work with throughout the year. If you can, please donate a gift card or power card. You'll find a donation box in the church foyer or cash donations can be paid to the SSVP bank account (details on reverse of newsletter). Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

Hogmanay in the Crypt – Don't spend New Year on your own watching television. Join with fellow Parishioner to see the New Year in. An evening of musical entertainment and games. Tickets on sale now at £5 each. Doors open at 8pm. BYOB. Open to all Parishioners.

Sick in the Parish – We would like to ask your prayers for: **Herbert Adams, Therese Walsh, Tony Cascarino, Pauline Gatt, Kathleen Penman, Frances Henderson, Peter McCourt, James Payne, John Cassells, Andrew Kelly, Teresa Lynch, Gail Pearce, Margaret Fotheringham, Elaine Cormack, Denise Reilly, Maureen Black, Margaret McPherson, Anne Donaldson, Nan Lomas, Janet McIlwaine, Esther Wren, Anne McPherson and Margaret Wilson** during their period of illness.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For a full list of upcoming events in the Diocese
visit:
www.archedinburgh.org/news-events

Advent Rosary for Life – Continues this Monday at 7.45pm to pray for unborn children, their mothers, and all pro-life intentions. Includes reflection from Fr Jamie McMorris (St Margaret's in Davidsons Mains). Register at bit.ly/rosary25

Shalom World – Shalom World has 400+ hand-picked Christmas TV shows, including inspiring talks, music, children's stories and reflections for all ages. It's completely free – no pay walls or adverts – simply a gift to help families experience Christ this season. Go to shalomworld.org/christmas

Diploma in Catechetics – Explore the richness of the Catholic faith in 2026 by taking the Diploma in Catechetics. The course is run by the Archdiocese and takes place at 7.30pm each Thursday on Zoom, starting 22 January. Cost £220. Register at bit.ly/diploma2026. Promo reel at bit.ly/diplomareel

Rorate Masses at St Mary's Cathedral – The candlelit Rorate Masses continue at 7pm on 18 December and Monday 22 December.

Stella Maris Carol Service – Join Archbishop Cushley for an evening of carols, readings and celebration, on Wednesday 17 December at 7pm, followed by reception. St Mary's Star of the Sea, 106 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6AW. Please RSVP to info@stellamarisemail.org.

Justice & Peace Scotland's latest newsletter is now available www.jandpscotland.org.uk. Read about the latest advocacy and actions re. the Holy Land, at-home poverty and the disregard for human dignity in the UK's immigration detention practices.

SPOTLIGHT: SEASON OF ADVENT

Each week, during the season of advent, we will be reflecting on themes and scripture as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Lord Jesus Christ.

Advent week 3 : Joy in Reconciliation

This week we consider how the Old Testament relates how The Fall impacted the descendants of Adam and Eve and how they worked to reconcile their differences to be closer to God.

God sent his Son to save us from sin, and He stands at the door to our hearts, waiting for us to open it. We can repair the damage caused by sin through examining our conscience (e.g. review the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes), confessing our sins and, receiving absolution and penance as we are healed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Adam & Eve

Because Adam and Eve ate the fruit off the tree that God commanded them not to eat from, they are banished from the garden. Exiled. They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and now they are cut off from the tree of life. (Genesis 3)

Jacob

In Genesis 28, we hear how Jacob had a vision from God, reiterating the promise He made with Abraham and that he would be with him in the future. This may appear as a surprise following the events in Genesis 25, but it shows the depth of God's forgiveness.



Joseph

The story of Joseph shows many layers of forgiveness following the actions of his brothers (Genesis 37:3-33) and their reconciliation in Egypt (Genesis 43-46).

David

David as king faced many challenges and questionable choices but managed to reconcile his differences with God and instigated the Psalms of praise for His mercy. (2 Samuel 2, 5, 7; Psalms incl. 23, 145). He was the first - but not the only - shepherd-King.



Elijah

Elijah was a prophet tasked by God to reconcile a nation back to him. Through God's demonstration (1 Kings 18:17-39) we learn of the power of action and then the joy when Elijah met God in the peace (1 Kings 19).

Parish Advent Calendar of Events

Sun 14 Dec
Children's
Liturgy group
Christmas
Party, after
Sunday 9.30am
Mass

Sun 14 Dec
Christmas
concert with
Queen Anne
Singers, 7pm

Mon 15 Dec
Advent Monday
Mass, 10am
ST M

Mon 15 Dec
Bonnie Brew
Christmas
Lunch

Tue 16 Dec
Advent
Reflection &
Penitential
Service, 7pm

Tue 16 Dec
St Columbus
High School
Christmas
concert, 8pm
St Columbus HS

Mon 22 Dec
Advent
Monday Mass,
10am
ST M

Wed 24 Dec
Christmas Eve
Carol Singing
5.30pm,
followed by
Mass 6pm
Holy Name

Wed 24 Dec
Christmas Eve
Carol Singing
7.30pm,
followed by
Mass 8pm
ST M

Thur 25 Dec
Christmas Day
Holy Mass,
9.30am
ST M

Thur 25 Dec
Christmas Day
Holy Mass, 11am
Holy Name

Sun 28 Dec
Feast of the
Holy Family

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Presbytery & Parish Office Address:

St. Margaret's Presbytery, 4 Viewfield Terrace, Dunfermline, KY12 7HZ



www.stmargaretsdunfermline.co.uk



All Liturgical Services in St. Margaret's Church are livestreamed.

Fr. Syriac Palakudiyil
Parish Administrator

frsyriac.palakudiyil@staned.org.uk
Phone: 01383 625611

Colleen Gilchrist

Parish Office Admin Asst & Crypt Bookings

office.stmargaretdunfermline@staned.org.uk
Phone: 07706 083493 / 01383 625611

Parish Website & Social Media

stmargaretsnews@gmail.com
Newsletter - Deadline Friday 10am

Sacraments

Please email or phone the Parish office to make an appointment with Fr Syriac to arrange: Baptisms, Marriages (6 months notice required), Funerals, Sacrament of the Sick or visits to the housebound/hospital.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 2025

SM & HN
Building Fund

1st Sun every month

Justice & Peace
4 January

ST MARGARET'S PARISH REGISTER

Registration Instructions

1. Use QR code
2. Enter your details
3. An email will be sent with an invitation to My ChurchSuite.



You can use My ChurchSuite to edit your personal information, and to update your contact preferences.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY & MONTHLY STANDING ORDERS/DIRECT DEBITS

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

SM - OFFERTORY
6 & 7 Dec: £808.78
SO/DD £1020.00

HN - MONTHLY OFFERTORY:
11 Sep-10 Oct: £1063.96
SO/DD £1080

Monthly Building Fund
SM 6 & 7 Dec = £538.95

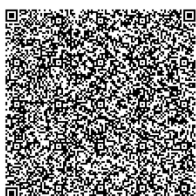
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

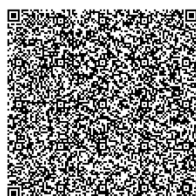
CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO
If you're a UK Tax payer, contact Parish office to register for Gift Aid

'St Margaret's R C Church'
80-06-55 ~ 00720303



'The Holy Name Parish'
83-33-00 ~ 00176355



'St. Margaret's
One World Group'
83-33-00
10191867

SM
'SSVP AE02044'
80-06-55
00768139

HN
'SSVP AE02040'
80-22-60
13364166

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT INFO:

SM mike_robertson@sky.com, T: 07851 793295 / **HN** T: 07709 110706

ST. MARGARET'S IS A PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH,
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SCRIPTUREREADINGS



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY – YEAR (A)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
‘Be strong; fear not!’
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.’
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Sion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

James 5:7–10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way before you.’
‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c–7. 8–9a. 9b–10. R Matthew

5:3

**Come, Lord, and save us.
or: Alleluia.**

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good
news to the poor.
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. 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.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. 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.

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. 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.

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.

Additional Hymn for 13 & 14 Dec

He Comes to Us

He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart,
of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home,
a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving Name,
for every child of earth,
for every child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is
grown;
believed, obeyed, adored:
the Christ in all the Scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Saviour and our Lord,
our Saviour and our Lord.

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The Song of the Soul

An Advent Reflection on the Gospel Canticles

By Rt Rev.Mgr Philip Canon Kerr

Advent is a time of expectant waiting, where
our inner voices join Mary's, Zechariah's and
Simeon's in praising the God who draws near.

Listen deeply to the song of your soul by
reflecting those profound Gospel Canticles
that echo the human heart's longing for God.

Penitential Service and individual Confession thereafter

Tuesday, 16 December at 7pm

St Margaret's Church, Dunfermline



MORE CHRISTMAS MUSIC & WORDS

*With The Queen Anne Singers
In aid of Mary's Meals*

Sunday 14th December at 7pm

Tickets £10, Under 18s free

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door.