



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR (A)

7th 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 6th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 5.30pm - Holy Mass	Eamon Fitzgerald RIP Gus Ramsay RIP
Sunday 7th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	St Margaret's	9.30am - Holy Mass 11am - Holy Mass	People of the Parish Father Fergus Kerr O.P. RIP
Monday 8th <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	St Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass	Deceased members of the Collingbourne and Ranken families
Tuesday 9th	St Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass	Susanna Kessler RIP, Margaret McPhail RIP
Wednesday 10th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass	Cally & Will Fitzsimmons (wellbeing), John Ruddy RIP
Thursday 11th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 11.30am - Requiem Mass for Barbara Orr	John Power RIP
Friday 12th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 7pm - Holy Mass 8pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession	Ellen & Patrick Burns RIP Captain David Seath RIP
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

Alternative Mass Arrangements for Holy Name - please read the full notice on the back of the Reading Sheet.

Additional Mass during Advent - there will be Mass on Mondays, 10am at St M's throughout the season of Advent.

Mass Intentions - If you would like a mass to be offered, complete a Mass Intention envelope (for SM in the card stand; for HN on the table at the entrance of the church) and either hand it to the Priest or put through the Presbytery door. For legibility, please print your intention in block capitals. Please note mass intentions slots can regularly already be filled, up to a month in advance.

Parish Newsletter - Please feel free to take a copy of the newsletter for a family member, a neighbour or anyone unable to come to church. Email the Parish to receive a digital copy.

Christmas cards and gifts - These have been restocked with new cards etc available to buy from the 'Shop' at St M's - please put your money in the dedicated box on the back wall of the church.



Obituary – Please remember in your prayers:

Barbara Orr: Her Requiem Mass will be at St Margaret's (moved from HN) on Thursday 11 December 11.30am, then at Dunfermline Crematorium.

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.

Albert Gatt: Funeral details to follow.

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

Advent Walking Retreat, Saturday 6 Dec – The walk starts in Culross in Fife (birthplace of St Mungo) at 11am and finishes at the National Shrine of St Margaret, Dunfermline. There will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration with Benediction followed by 5.30pm Mass. Email Deacon Pat Carrigan at obl.columba@gmail.com for info.

Children's Liturgy Group – In celebration of Advent, the Children's Liturgy Group will be running every Sunday at St Margaret's. Children aged 4 who attend nursery to P7 are welcome to attend and learn about the Gospel through stories and activities. If your child has additional support needs, a parent or guardian can accompany them to the Crypt.

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

Christmas Music & Words concert with Queen Anne Singers, 14 Dec – Join the Queen Anne Singers for their annual Christmas Concert at St Margaret's on Sunday 14 Dec, 7pm. Tickets are £10 for adults, under 18s free – in aid of Mary's Meals. Available from One World Group and Choir members, or on the door.

Final call for Christmas Flower workshop – if you'd like to join us on Mon 15 Dec, 6.30–8.30pm in the crypt email sonia.mallan@gmail.com by **9 Dec** to sign up. For £20 you will learn to make your own fresh flower table arrangement. Costs cover materials & donation to Fife Women's Aid.

SSVP Christmas Appeals

Holy Name – thank you for your generosity over the past year. It has meant that we have been able to support those in need in Oakley and the surrounding areas. 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! The Men's Group invite you to join with fellow Parishioner to see the New Year in. An evening of music and fun. Tickets on sale now. 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, Wilma Ovenden, 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. If you would like a family member or friend to be remembered in the bidding prayers, please complete the form which are at the back of each church.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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

Vacancy – St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh is seeking to appoint a Facilities Manager. A full job description is available at stmaryscathedral.co.uk. To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter to recruitment@stmaryscathedral.co.uk by Wednesday 10 December 2025. Salary: £30–32k.

Catholic Families for Life – The latest Catholic Families for Life Newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life is now available at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

Diploma in Catechetics – Explore the richness of the Catholic faith in 2026 by taking the Diploma in Catechetics, run by the Archdiocese 7.30pm each Thursday on Zoom, starting on 22 January. Cost £220. Register at bit.ly/diploma2026.

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 Isabel Vaughan-Spruce (March for Life UK). Register at bit.ly/rosary25

Rorate Masses at St Mary's Cathedral – The candlelit Rorate Masses continue at 7pm on Thursday 11 and 18 December, and Monday 22 December.

Christmas Carol Service – St Margaret's Church, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AD, Sunday 7 December at 3pm. Organised by the Archdiocesan Lourdes Committee.

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 2 : Love

This week we reflect on how love overcomes the difficulties the people of God faced in the Old Testament and how they prepared the way for the Lord leading into the New Testament.



Jesse

Jesse was the son of Obed and the father of David who became the chosen king following God's direction to Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1). He is mentioned most notably in Isaiah 11:1-2.

Ruth

Ruth upon being widowed, left her homeland to accompany her mother-in-law to her homeland, Bethlehem, where she met and married Boaz. They had a child named Obed. (Ruth 4)



Samuel

Prophet who answered God's call during the night (1 Samuel 3) and was directed to find the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-15). Son of Hannah who named him Samuel as she had 'asked for him from the Lord.' (1 Samuel 1:20)

Moses

The story of Moses, his mother and his subsequent choosing by God to free the people of Israel from slavery are heard in the telling of the first Passover (Exodus 12), often symbolised as a lamb under a door post. It is this event which Jesus celebrates with his apostles in his final meal.



John the Baptist

John's conception and birth are closely related to Jesus' ministry as he is the one who is sent to 'prepare the way for the Lord'. Luke 1, 3:1-22 and Matthew 3:1-6

Thank you to the St Margaret's Fabric, Floristry and Liturgy teams for organising the Jesse Tree for the Advent.



Parish Advent Calendar of Events

Sat 6 Dec Advent Walking retreat, 11am <i>Culross to St M</i>	Sun 7 Dec Last tea & coffee in Dec <i>ST M</i>	Mon 8 Dec Advent Monday Mass, 10am <i>ST M</i>		Thur 11 Dec SMPS Upper school Advent Nativity, 1pm & 6.30pm	Fri 12 Dec SMPS Infant Advent Nativity 1pm	Fri 12 Dec Holy Name PS Nativity followed by Coffee Afternoon, 1.30pm
Sun 14 Dec Children's Liturgy group Christmas Party 	Sun 14 Dec Christmas concert with Queen Anne Singers, 7pm	Mon 8 Dec Advent Monday Mass, 10am <i>ST M</i>	Mon 15 Dec Bonnie Brew Christmas Lunch	Mon 15 Dec Christmas flower workshop, 6.30pm	Tue 16 Dec Advent Reflection & Penitential Service, 7pm 	Tue 16 Dec St Columbus High School Christmas concert, 8pm
	Mon 8 Dec Advent Monday Mass, 10am <i>ST M</i>	TBC Wed 24 Dec Christmas Eve Carol Singing 5.30pm, followed by Mass 6pm <i>ST M</i>	Wed 24 Dec Christmas Eve Carol Singing 7.30pm, followed by Mass 8pm <i>ST M</i>	Thur 25 Dec Christmas Day Holy Mass, 9.30am <i>ST M</i>	TBC Thur 25 Dec Christmas Day Holy Mass, 11am <i>ST M</i>	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

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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
22-23 & 29-30 Nov: £1771.62
SO/DD £1020.00

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

Catholic Education Week
SM 22 & 23 Nov = £576.41

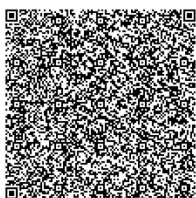
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

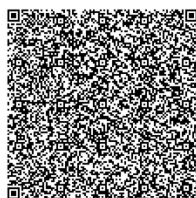
CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR (A)



FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



Responsorial Psalm
Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. 7
In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Luke 3:4, 6
Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

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.

Important – please read and share with fellow parishioners

May the Lord bless you and keep you; May he make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. (Numbers 6:24-25)

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace to you in Christ Jesus! I write to you with a heavy heart amid this unexpected challenge, but also with a deep sense of hope and solidarity in our shared faith. As those of you who attend Holy Name might have noticed, there has been an issue with the heating on and off for a few weeks. We have been trying to address this issue with expert technicians, but it has remained unresolved. Following a Steering Committee meeting on Thursday 4 December, we called out an emergency heating engineer. As he finds, the system, due to its age, has unfortunately broken down beyond repair and needs to be fully replaced. In these colder months, we cannot safely gather there without risking the health and comfort of our community. A replacement that meets our specific requirements is likely to take until February to arrive and be installed.

Therefore, it is with regret that I must inform you of the cancellation of all Masses and liturgical services at Holy Name for the time being. This decision was not made lightly; it prioritises our well-being while we work diligently with Archdiocesan support to address the issue and restore our beloved space as soon as possible. I will provide an update on the situation by Friday 12 December.

I can imagine the inconvenience this causes to our Holy Name parishioners and share your upset at this development. Yet, even in this difficulty, we are not alone. Let us stand together as one family in Christ, drawing strength from our unity and the promise of His presence among us. This temporary separation from our Holy Name home invites us to deepen our reliance on God's providence and to embrace the warmth of community in new ways. I encourage you to join the liturgy at St. Margaret's Parish, where all Masses, Confessions, and other liturgical services will continue as scheduled. Please review the revised Mass schedule provided. I request the assistance of the whole team (Readers, Music Group, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Welcomers) from Holy Name to celebrate, especially the 11am mass on Sundays.

Our schedule is as follows:

- Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday at 10AM
- Saturday Vigil Mass: 5.30PM
- Sunday Masses: 9.30AM, 11AM
- Confessions: Fridays from 7.30pm to 8pm, Saturdays from 10.30am to 11.15PM, or by appointment

St. Margaret's doors are open wide to welcome you—our brothers and sisters from Holy Name—with the same love and hospitality that binds us as the one parish and the Body of Christ. If transportation is a concern, please reach out to the parish office at office.stmargaretdunfermline@staned.org.uk or on 01383 625611, and we will do our best to assist. For those unable to attend in person, know that we hold you in prayer, and spiritual communions unite us across any distance.

In this Advent season of waiting and preparation, may this trial remind us of the stable light of Christ that no breakdown can extinguish. Together, we will emerge stronger, our faith refined like gold in the fire. I ask for your prayers for a swift resolution and invite you to offer this inconvenience for the intentions of our parish family.

**Yours in faith and humble service,
Fr Syriac
Parish Administrator
St. Margaret's Parish, Dunfermline**