



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE SUNDAY - YEAR (A)
15th MARCH 2026



*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 14th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - Confession 2.15pm - Baptism of baby Dylan Harrison 5pm - Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	Alexander Boyle RIP Mary Collingbourne RIP
Sunday 15th March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	St Margaret's Holy Name St. Margaret's	9.30am - Holy Mass 11am - Holy Mass 12pm - Confession 4pm - Stations of the Cross	For the People of the Parish Tam Smith RIP
Monday 16th	St. Margaret's	7pm - Holy Mass	Desmond Hughes RIP & Miriam (wellbeing)
Tuesday 17th <i>St Patrick - Feast</i>	Holy Name St. Margaret's	9am - Holy Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 10am - Holy Mass & Novena of St. Margaret 7pm - Livestreamed Rosary	Kathleen Penman (wellbeing) Margaret Gilchrist RIP
Wednesday 18th	St. Margaret's Holy Name St Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass & Novena of St. Margaret 11.30am - Requiem Mass for Thomas McGuinness 7pm - Lenten Reflection Evening	Thomas Smith RIP
Thursday 19th <i>St Joseph - Solemnity</i>	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 7pm - Stations of the Cross	Veronica Attwood RIP
Friday 20th <i>Parish Fast Day</i>	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 6.30-7pm - Confession 7pm - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm - Confession	James Jackson RIP Thomas Smith RIP
Saturday 21st	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - Confession 5pm - Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	For the deceased Dad of Kathy Williamson Tony Cascarino RIP

Mass Intentions - If you would like a mass to be offered, complete a Mass Intention envelope (for SM in the card stand and at the back of the church; 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.



Obituary – Please remember in your prayers:

Thomas McGuinness – His funeral will take place on Wednesday 18th March with requiem mass at 11.30am in Holy Name and then interment at Culross Cemetery.

Our thoughts & prayers go to the bereaved families and friends. May their souls rest in peace.

Second Collection this week – SCIAF Sunday

There will be a second collection this weekend for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). 75% of the collection goes to SCIAF and 25% to the Archdiocesan Care Fund, which supports various good causes. Last year £32,067 was raised from this collection in the Archdiocese. Thank you for your support.

Parish Lenten Day of Fasting, Friday 20 March – Fr Syriac invites us to prayerfully come together by observing a day of fasting and almsgiving. Make note of your missed meal(s) and put that sum towards buying items for our foodbank collection on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March. Thank you to our volunteers for organising the foodbank collection and delivery. More details are on the poster in the newsletter.

Congratulations! We're holding in our prayers the children who made their First confession this week. Thank you to the parent and Catechists who helped the children to prepare. May Jesus Bless you all.

Join us for the Day with the Lord, Sunday 22 March – Sign up for a day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There a half hour slots throughout the day – please add your name on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

Fife group SSVP Easter festival – St Margaret's is hosting the Fife SSVP Easter meeting in the crypt from 2pm on Sunday 29th March. Fr will lead Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3pm, followed by the concluding part of our meeting. Please note: we have a new dedicated email address for the SSVP: stmssvp16@gmail.com

St Margaret's Church Stall restocked! – We have a great selection of new items in for: St Patrick's Day; Mother's Day; Easter; First Communion & Confirmation. As well as greetings cards or other occasions, prayer cards, Rosary, votive candles & medals.

One World Group Breakfast, 22 March – The next OWG breakfast will be on Sunday 22 March in the Crypt at St Margaret's. All are welcome to attend and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast roll and cuppa for free, as this OWG breakfast will be sponsored. Come meet your fellow worshippers!

Sick in the Parish – We would like to ask your prayers for: **Barbara Fotheringham Larkin, Chic Irvine, Tommy McGowan, Ann Shaw, Maureen Hunter, Yvonne McRoberts, Margaret Woodland, Mike Pendlowski, Therese Walsh, Pauline Gatt, Kathleen Penman, John Cassells, Helen Ssim, Frances Henderson, Peter McCourt, James Payne, Andrew Kelly, Teresa Lynch, Gail Pearce, Mrs Lamont, 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

Scotland Catholic Bishops challenge Scottish Government over Conscience Rights – The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has expressed deep concern over the Scottish Government's response to proposed amendments to the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. The amendments, tabled by John Mason MSP and Paul O'Kane MSP, seek to introduce provisions allowing organisations—including hospices, care homes, and faith-based institutions—to exercise conscientious objection.

In its response to these reasonable amendments, the Scottish Government stated that "it is not clear how an institution might demonstrate what their 'conscience' position is."

The Bishops' Conference urges the Scottish Government and MSPs to recognise and respect institutional conscience rights, ensuring that organisations are not forced into actions that contradict their foundational values. You can read their full statement here: <https://www.bcos.org.uk/Our-Work/Publications/Press-Releases>

Final vote on Assisted Suicide – This Tuesday (17 March) the Scottish Parliament is expected to have a final vote on Assisted Suicide. Please share your concerns now with your MSPs. Use the letter writing tool at <https://carenokilling.scot/>

Stations of the Cross – The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent at 7.45pm. Concludes with a reflection from a guest speaker. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/stations26

Catholic Conversations for Women – All women are welcome to this event with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma on Saturday 28 March, 3.45pm–4.45pm in St Andrew's Parish rooms at 77 Belford Rd, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS, for a faith-focused discussion on Holy Week. Join us for a Holy Hour following with Adoration & Vespers from 5.10pm. Register at edinburgh@almamercy.org or call 0131 343 3380.

Save the Date – The annual Day for Altar Servers will take place at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh on Saturday 5 September 2026.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Mercy

Lent is the Church's profound season of penance and conversion, preparing the faithful for Easter through purification, prayer, and reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation—also called Penance or Confession—holds a central place, as the Church urges its frequent celebration to renew baptismal promises with a "purified heart."

Instituted by Christ, Ministered by Priests

Jesus entrusted the apostles and their successors with the power to forgive sins: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:23). Only ordained priests, acting in persona Christi, can grant sacramental absolution, reconciling the penitent with God and the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1461). Direct prayer to God suffices for venial sins via contrition, but grave sins require this ministerial act for full restoration.

The Effects of This Sacrament: Reconciliation with God, the Church, and self. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1468, 1169,1470)

"The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God's grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship." Reconciliation with God is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament. It brings about a true "spiritual resurrection," restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God. This reconciliation with God leads to other reconciliations, which repair the other breaches caused by sin.

This sacrament reconciles us with the Church. Sin damages or even breaks fraternal communion. The sacrament of Penance repairs or restores it. In this sense, it does not simply heal the one restored to ecclesial communion, but also has a revitalising effect on the life of the Church which suffered from the sin of one of her members. The penitent is reconciled with his brethren whom he has in some way offended and wounded. It opens a door to his inmost being, where he regains his innermost truth.

Dear Parishioners,

As Lent calls us to deeper conversion, join us for a Lenten Reflection Evening and Reconciliation Service on **Wednesday, 18 March, at 7pm**

Experience the joy of reconciliation with God, the Church, and yourself through prayer, reflection, and the Sacrament of Penance. The evening begins with a guided reflection by Rev. Fr Simon Hughes on God's merciful love, followed by a communal penitential rite and individual confession. More than 5 priests will be available to hear confessions, ensuring ample time for all.

RECONCILE NOW—EASTER AWAITS YOUR RENEWED HEART!

Parish Lenten Calendar - Additional one-off events

We also have one-off sessions planned throughout Lent. These will appear in the weekly newsletter Mass Schedule on Page 1 so please check there regularly.

Sat 14th & Sun 15th March - SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) Lenten talk at Vigil & Sunday Mass (Coincides with SCIAF Sunday)

Wed 18th March - Lenten Reflection evening followed by Penitential Service - 7pm

Fri 20th March - Parish Day of Fasting

Sun 22nd March - 'Day with the Lord' - A day long Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, starts with 9.30am Mass and ends with a Mass at 5pm.

Sun 22nd March - Foodbank Collection

Tues 31st March - St Margaret's Primary School P7 children's 'Passion Play', performing the Stations of the Cross at St Margaret's church. Details to follow.

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

Sonia Mallan
Parish Comms & Digital
 stmargaretsnews@gmail.com
Newsletter deadline Wednesday 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 - 2026

SM & HN Building Fund
 1st Sun every month

SCIAF & Episcopal
 15 March

Ecclesiastical Students
 26 April

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

SM - OFFERTORY
7&8 Mar: £732.48
SO/DD £1020.00

HN - MONTHLY OFFERTORY:
14 Jan to 11 Feb: £1092.17
SO/DD £1005

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
 N/A

HN: Ian McDonald
 E: Ian.McDonald@staned.org.uk
SM: Rosemary Thomson
 E: Rosemary.Thompson@staned.org.uk

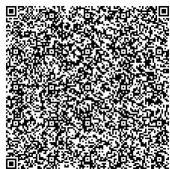
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

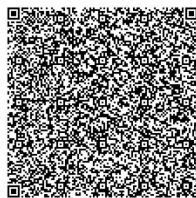
CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

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

Archdiocese of St Andrews & St Margaret
 83-06-08 21522638



The Holy Name Parish
 83-33-00 ~ 00176355



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

SM SSVV AE02044
 80-06-55
 00768139

HN SSVV AE02040
 80-22-60
 13364166

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONTACT INFO:

SM stmssvp16@gmail.com, T: 07851 793295 / **HN** T: 07709 110706

ST. MARGARET'S IS A PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH, A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC0008540



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SCRIPTUREREADINGS



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY – YEAR (A)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8–14

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

John 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1–3a. 3b–4. 5. 6. R̄

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

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.



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, I write to you, on behalf of all the Bishops of Scotland, to thank you for your continued support of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, our Church's own relief and development agency.

In the year that follows SCIAF's 60th Anniversary, we give thanks for the countless lives that have been transformed through your prayers and generosity. For six decades, the Catholic community in Scotland has shown love in action – reaching out to our sisters and brothers living in the world's poorest places and showing that faith truly changes lives.

This Lent, SCIAF's **WEE BOX Appeal** focuses on **Ethiopia**, a country that has long worked hard to build a better future. Families have been growing stronger, children have been going to school, and communities have been full of hope. But now, much of that progress is being undone. Years of conflict, drought, flooding, and cuts to aid have left millions struggling to survive.

In the northern region of Tigray, the Church has been a steadfast presence. Even when war and violence drove others away, I can personally witness that the Church remained, serving those in need. As Fr Abraha from SCIAF's local partner, the **Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat (ADCS)**, explained:

"The Church is a voice for the voiceless. When everyone else left, the Church stayed: to serve, to speak, and to give people courage. We serve all human beings, whatever their faith. With no water there is no life- yet, little by little, we are helping people survive."

Through your generous support, SCIAF and its Church partners are providing clean water, food, and shelter, and helping families rebuild their lives – restoring not just livelihoods but also hope. Fr Abraha went on to say:

"I appreciate, and would like to thank, the Catholics of Scotland for what you have all done for us, for our people, and our community. We are very grateful for what you have done and what you will do in the future. The Scottish people are our pillars – and today, you are still helping us."

In his apostolic exhortation *Dilexi Te*, **Pope Leo XIV** reminds us that "love for the poor, whatever the form their poverty may take, is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God."

This Lent, we are called once more to live out that love: through prayer, fasting, and giving.

Your support to SCIAF's WEE BOX Appeal can help families in Ethiopia – and across the world access clean water, grow food, and find stability and peace. From Scotland to Ethiopia, your compassion keeps both water, and hope, flowing.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for the love you show to our sisters and brothers around the world. Together, as one family of faith, we can make a difference and build a world where all God's children can flourish.

May God bless you and your families this holy season of Lent.

+ Brian McGee

Bishop Brian McGee
Bishop President of SCIAF
On behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Fast for the hungry



Join our Lenten Fast Day

Friday 20th March

In this season of Lent, let us unite in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

What are we doing?

Fast - Save - Give

Fast on Friday 20th March

Calculate your savings

Get the food items listed below

Drop your donation in the collection bag

at the entrance of the church on

Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd March to

handover to the local Foodbank.

Tinned meat/fish , Tinned potatoes/
vegetables, Tinned custard/rise/fruit, Cooking
sauces, Coffee, Jam/marmalade, Tinned
macaroni/spaghetti, Carton fruit juice/
diluting juice, small packet of washing pods,
Tomato sauce/brown sauce

Transform your sacrifice into Hope



A Day with the Lord

22nd March 2026

Come, draw near to Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist

A Source of Grace, Healing & Renewal

Starts with 9.30am Mass and ends with a Mass at 5pm

Bring your children, teach them the joy of being with Jesus.

**"Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love"
St John Paul II**