



ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOME OF ST. MARGARET'S RELIC



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR (A)
22nd 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 21st	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass & Baptism of Baby Sven Meldrum 10.30am - Confession 5pm - Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	For the deceased Dad of Kathy Williamson Toni Cascarino RIP
Sunday 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent A Day with the Lord	St Margaret's Holy Name St. Margaret's	9.30am - Holy Mass 11am - Holy Mass 12pm - Confession 5pm - Holy Mass	Paddy & Liz Mallan (Golden wedding anniversary) Patrick Brolly RIP People of the Parish
Monday 23rd	St. Margaret's	7pm - Holy Mass	Toni Cascarino RIP
Tuesday 24th	Holy Name St. Margaret's	9am - Holy Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 10am - Holy Mass 7pm - Livestreamed Rosary	Catherine Ainslie RIP Dominica Cascarino (SSVP Thanksgiving)
Wednesday 25th <i>The Annunciation of our Lord (Solemnity)</i>	Holy Name St. Margaret's	9am - Holy Mass followed by Stations of the Cross 10am - Holy Mass	Thomas Smith (Senior) RIP Lady Caroline Ukamaka Odineze RIP
Thursday 26th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 7pm - Stations of the Cross	James McGurk RIP
Friday 27th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass 6.30-7pm - Confession 7pm - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm - Confession	Margaret Burns RIP James Joseph RIP
Saturday 28th	St. Margaret's	10am - Holy Mass followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am - Confession 5pm - Confession 5.30pm - Holy Mass	Gerard Walsh RIP Toni Cascarino RIP

Join us today for the Day with the Lord - All welcome for a day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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. **Please note mass intentions slots can regularly already be filled, up to a month in advance.**



Obituary – Please remember in your prayers:

Alice Williams – Her funeral will take place on Wednesday 1st April with requiem mass at 10am at St. Margaret's followed by interment at Dunfermline Crematorium.

Winifred (Winnie) Cassells – Her funeral will take place on Thursday 9th April with requiem mass at 10am at St. Margaret's followed by interment at Dunfermline Crematorium.

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

Lenten almsgiving – Foodbank Collection this weekend!

Make note of your missed meal(s) from the Parish Fast day and consider spending the equivalent on items for our foodbank collection on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March. Thank you to our volunteers at St Margaret's and Holy Name for organising the foodbank collection and delivery. More details are on the poster in the newsletter.

One World Group Breakfast – The next OWG breakfast will be this Sunday 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 by Liz & Paddy Mallan, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Come meet your fellow worshippers!

Final Contemplative Prayer group through Lent – Wednesday 25th March, 3–4pm is the final Lent session. Led by Hugh Reid, presenter of Centering Prayer with Contemplative Outreach UK – group prayer and discussion of the program's YouTube video (watched at home before the session). Contact Hugh Reid for more information; email hugh@couk.org.uk

Parish Bereavement group – The next session will be held on Thursday 26th March, 1.30–3pm for any bereaved members of the Parish. You are invited to join us for 'Tea and a Chat' in the Crypt. No formal counselling, just support and socialising. Bring a friend if you like!

St. Margaret's School Glee Choir – Congratulations to St. Margaret's Primary School Glee Choir on winning at the Alhambra and progressing to Fife Regional Finals in May.

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.



Golden Wedding Anniversary Congratulations!

Congratulations to Paddy and Liz Mallan who were married 50 years ago, on 19th March 1976.

They renewed their vows at St Margaret's in September 1995 after Liz had her confirmation and fully joined the Catholic Church.

Mother's Day Crafting

The children at children's Liturgy decorated this wooden basket of flowers for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For a full list of upcoming events in the Diocese visit:

www.archedinburgh.org/news-events

Assisted Suicide rejected in Scotland

From Archbishop Leo: "I am deeply grateful to the MSPs who voted in favour of life on Tuesday at Holyrood. The outcome of the vote reflects a careful and compassionate approach to a deeply sensitive subject, one that touches the dignity and vulnerability of all of us. Well done to everyone who contacted their MSPs about this crucial issue. May we now go forward, committed to making Scotland's palliative care the very best in the world. Let's also accompany one another in life and death with humanity and humility."

Diocesan structures in Scotland

The Holy See has invited the Bishops of Scotland to reflect on how the present dioceses of the Church in Scotland can best serve her mission in the years ahead. In the coming weeks, therefore, along with the rest of the country, Archbishop Leo would like to hold some consultations on what we might propose to Rome, so that the Church in Scotland might improve cooperation among its dioceses, share resources within our present structures, or consider, as necessary, how we might merge some of our dioceses. Read the full statement at <https://www.bcos.org.uk/>

A Day With the Lord

Sunday 22 March



Dear Friends in Christ,

I invite you all to join me for a transformative day of prayer and encounter with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! This Sunday, from 9.30am Mass through continuous Eucharistic Adoration until 5pm Mass, experience the Source and Summit of our Christian life. No need to sign up—even if you haven't signed in, come as you are. Bring your children/grandchildren, even for just 10 minutes. Let your families draw close to Christ together during this holy season.

Through the celebration of the Mass, we come to a deeper union with Christ, our Lord and Saviour. But our prayer with the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament does not have to end with the Mass. One true gift of our Church is that this meal for the journey is also the companion on our journey.

Through time spent in prayer with Christ, we come to a deeper sense of ourselves. And yet, when one begins praying before the Blessed Sacrament, it can be difficult to find a way. It can sometimes be a struggle to know what to say or how to present oneself to the Divine Creator.

As St. Alphonsus Liguori observed, "Know that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day."

What is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the act of worshipping Jesus Christ, who is truly, really, and substantially present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in the Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle or exposed for veneration. (CCC1418)

The Gift of the Blessed Sacrament

Jesus willed to remain with us forever in the Eucharist, a "divine invention" instituted at the Last Supper. In the Blessed Sacrament, Christ is offering us his merciful love. As Pope John Paul II proclaimed: "Jesus is present with us... Jesus rose again, he ascended to heaven, but he willed to remain with us and for us, in every place on earth." Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament flows from the Church's earliest days, where the Eucharist is the companion on our journey beyond Mass. Popes have long urged parishes to centre life around it. This Real Presence invites us to meet, love, and receive him, transforming our hearts.

Don't miss this Lenten grace! Arrive anytime between Masses. Jesus awaits you—in silence, song, or simple gaze. Unite your heart to his; return renewed for Holy Week. See you there—Jesus loves you personally!

Yours in Christ, Fr Syriac

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

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Phone: 01383 625611

Colleen Gilchrist
Parish Office Admin Asst & Crypt Bookings
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Phone: 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

Ecclesiastical
Students
26 April

Communications
17 May

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
14 & 15 Mar: £844.34
SO/DD £1020.00

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

SCIAF Sunday
SM: £960.13

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

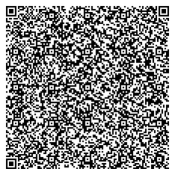
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

ACCOUNT NAME, SORT CODE & ACCOUNT NO

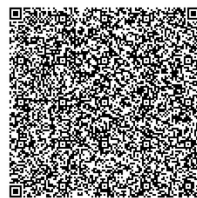
CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

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
SSVP AE02044
80-06-55
00768139

HN
SSVP 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,
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SCRIPTUREREADINGS

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR (A)



FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

At that time: The sisters of Lazarus sent to Jesus, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

Jesus was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he had done, believed in him.

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

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc
With the Lord there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation
John 11:25a, 26
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

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.

Pastoral letter on the Scottish Parliament Election

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the 2026 Scottish Parliament Election approaches, we find ourselves at another important moment in our nation's life. Elections are not only political events but opportunities to reflect prayerfully on our responsibilities as citizens and disciples of Jesus Christ. Our participation in public life expresses our love of neighbour and our desire to build a society that honours God through truth, justice, and charity.

The Church and the political community have distinct roles, yet both serve the good of every person. The Church forms consciences through the light of the Gospel, while politics shapes society's structures. When these work together respectfully, society flourishes, especially in its care for the weakest. It is therefore vital that Catholics approach this election with faith-formed minds and hearts moved by charity.

Many in Scotland today face deep vulnerability: unborn children; the elderly; families in poverty; the disabled; those with poor mental health; people suffering addiction; victims of modern slavery; migrants seeking safety; people considering suicide; and victims of crime. They deserve not only compassion but public policies that protect their dignity. We need representatives who act with integrity, value every human life, and prioritise the poorest. Public service is noble when rooted in humility and the common good.

Our elected officials must also defend fundamental freedoms—thought, conscience, and religion—so Scotland remains a place where people can express beliefs openly and respectfully. Public discourse thrives when diverse voices can speak without fear and disagreements are handled with civility. Silencing religious expression deprives society of moral and spiritual richness.

We affirm the rights of parents, who have the God-given responsibility to educate their children, including choosing schools that reflect their convictions. Authorities must safeguard this right and protect Catholic schools, which serve families of all backgrounds and help form young people in faith, virtue, and service. Attempts to marginalise, or remove, these schools would weaken Scotland's educational diversity.

As you prepare to vote, reflect on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching—human dignity, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity—which illuminate the key moral issues of our time:

- the protection of life from conception to natural death;
- care for the poor and vulnerable;
- fair and sustainable economic conditions;
- accessible healthcare;
- the elimination of modern slavery;
- the strengthening of marriage and family life;
- care for creation;
- the promotion of peace and support for poorer nations; and
- the defence of religious freedom and conscience.

These are not merely political issues, but moral ones rooted in the Gospel and the Church's commitment to every person's dignity. Study and pray with these principles as you discern your vote. Resources from the Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office (rcpolitics.org) can help form your conscience, enabling you to seek truth, weigh moral implications, and consider the impact on the vulnerable. Above all, we urge you to use your right to vote.

We pray for respectful and honest conversation throughout this election. Political life must not be poisoned by anger, division, or populist rhetoric. May all debates reflect concern for human dignity and the common good.

We entrust Scotland—its people, leaders, and future—to the care of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. May her intercession guide us toward justice, compassion, and unity. May the Holy Spirit inspire candidates with integrity and humility, and voters with responsibility, prayerfulness, and love of neighbour.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

- + John Keenan, President, Bishop of Paisley**
- + Brian McGee, Vice President, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles**
- + Andrew McKenzie, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Dunkeld**
- + Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh**
- + William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow**
- + Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell**
- + Hugh Gilbert, Bishop of Aberdeen**
- + Francis Dougan, Bishop of Galloway**



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**

PARISH FAST DAY FOODBANK DRIVE

21 & 22 March



GET INVOLVED

For our Parish Fast Day, Father Syriac is asking us to each spend the amount we would have spent on our meal to be used to buy food for the Dunfermline Foodbank.

ITEMS NEEDED

Here are items the Foodbank advised that are needed:

- Tinned meat & fish
- Tinned potatoes & vegetables
- Tinned custard / rice / fruit
- Cooking sauces (jars)
- Coffee
- Jam or marmalade
- Tinned macaroni & spaghetti
- Cartons fruit juice & diluting juice
- Small packet of washing pods
- Tomato sauce & brown sauce



BRING YOUR ITEMS

Just bring your donations to Mass on
Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd March

Our wonderful volunteers will be on hand to collect your donation in the Porch at the front of the church. These will be delivered to the Foodbank on Sunday.

Thank you!

OAKLEY PANTRY

ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER

 Dunfermline
Foodbank
Together with Trussell