



Holy Cross Parish

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Holy Cross is the Parish of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, a Charity registered in Scotland – number SCO08540

16th August 2020 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - A. page 178.

First Reading: *Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6,10*

Psalm 44: **“On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.”**

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:20-26;*

Gospel: **Luke 1:39-56.** *“The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.”*

Masses during week: Monday 17th August 10am Holy Cross, Tuesday 18th August 10.00am St. Margaret Mary's, Wednesday 19th August 10.00am Holy Cross, Thursday 20th August 10am St. Margaret Mary's, Saturday 22nd August 10.00am Holy Cross.

Masses next weekend:

Saturday 22nd August 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 23rd August 9.30am Holy Cross, 11.30am St. Margaret Mary's, 1.00pm Polish Mass St. Margaret Mary's.

Booking for Mass Places:

Ring 07546454419.

Email hx_mm@btinternet.com.

Use parish website: go to **events** at the top of the first page.

Volunteers Needed: We are running system for Mass which is as safe as can be. To continue doing that we need more volunteers to help with welcoming and passkeeping. The basic duties are to give directions to people as to where to sit and then how to come to Communion. Also a passkeeper checks the names and contact details of those attending. At the end of Mass the seats where people sat are sanitised. This takes about 10 minutes. Please contact the parish office to offer to help.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We celebrate the Feast of the Assumption today. This feast celebrates Mary, Mother of God, reaching the fullness of eternal life promised to her. It says that this too is our destiny to live fully in the eternal life and love of Jesus. It also calls us to live the beginnings of that life now in how we pray and love.

Endurance in love is one of the qualities of Mary that we are called to imitate. Her loving endurance in staying with Jesus to the end, as mother, but also as follower and disciple. Her 'Yes' is the yes we too give to Jesus.

As we still live with the effects of Covid, I suppose there is a risk of physical and spiritual fatigue. Perhaps we have become weary of all sorts of guidelines and simply want to push them to the back of our mind. We may be struggling with how we pray and how we can live our Christian lives. Mary must have had many struggles as mother and disciple, but she went on in love.

During this feast, we pray for the realisation that in this time and in this place we too are challenged to see Church and State guidelines as ways of loving our neighbour, as we work for one another's safety and good. We are also challenged to be with Jesus in his prayer on the Cross when he cried out to his Father but in trust in him.

It looks like we will be celebrating Mass in the limited way we can for some time to come, both in the daily and weekly Mass and in it being streamed. . It will be difficult to gather as a parish for some time. If you have any thoughts and ideas as to how we can develop parish life during this time please let us know. I think everyone has something to offer. Take the time also to see how you can develop in prayer and also in learning more about our faith.

When you feel able to come to Mass please sign up. It would be good to see more people being able to take part. It won't be possible to find space for everyone every week, but perhaps everyone could fit in a couple of times a month at either the Sunday or weekly Mass. At the moment we have not reached our limit of people being present at any Mass.

Fr. Hand

Masses. Sunday Mass is important to us but please keep in mind that you are free to go to any Mass from Monday to Sunday, as long as there are places. You may also decide to make weekday Mass your weekly Mass to help provide places for those who cannot come during the week.

For 15th/16th because it is the Feast of the Assumption the three Masses will have an entrance and Communion hymns and a sung Gospel Acclamation and Lamb of God. On 22nd/23rd the 9.30am and 11.30am Mass will be quiet Masses.

Online Giving: If you wish to use the new Offertory giving link click on the following link [PayaCharity Donation Portal](#). The parish has done well using this new diocesan method of paying. Thanks for that. Perhaps others would consider using this method.

Virtual Tea/Coffee: Join other Parishioners for a **Virtual Tea or Coffee** after Mass at 11:00 to 11:30 on Zoom. Meeting ID: 734 9918 6205 Password: 5DhvjJ

Justice & Peace Mass - The annual Justice and Peace Mass takes place on the Day of Creation, 01 September, at St Columba's in Edinburgh.

Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission- Food Poverty Survey: The parish received a letter from the Justice and Peace Commission which is trying to do a food poverty survey. We have put in the questions they asked. If you have a response to even one of the questions please send it to the parish office. We already know about and appreciate what the parish groups have been concerned about, but it would be of interest to know about activities our parishioners are involved in or know about in the general community.

'Can you advise what involvement the parish has with food parcels/ financial assistance given out from the Church, either from SVDP or church house?

Do you collect food for donating to an independent Foodbank?

Are people referred to you for help with food poverty, either by word of mouth or official channels?

Do parishioners volunteer at St Catherine's or with the Missionaries of Charity, with hot meal provision.

Does anyone volunteer with Bethany Night Shelter?

Are there other ways the parish/ parishioners help with food poverty concerns?

What has been the difference of demand during lockdown?

The questions are merely for guidance and I hope are helpful. I am just making a sweep round parishes, just to give the working group context and ideas about this one aspect of the many issues surrounding food.

Arlene'

Prayer for Spiritual Communion (May be used during streamed Mass):

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there,

and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. (St. Alphonsus)

Stipends:

Saturday 15th August 5.30pm (vigil)
Sunday 16th August 9.30am Kevin and Maria Hazlett
11.30am Mass for the People
Monday 17th August 10.00am Ellen Duff
Tuesday 18th August St. Margaret Mary's Jodie McLaughlin (sick)
Wednesday 19th August Holy Cross Anne McDonald
Thursday 20th August 10.00am St. Margaret Mary's Anne Marie
Friday
Saturday 22nd August 10.00am Holy Cross Harry McCusker
Saturday 22nd August 5.30pm (vigil)
Sunday 23rd August 9.30am Kevin and Maria Hazlett 40th Anniversary Mass
11.30am Mass for the People

For those who may have missed these points last week.

The bishops on the advice of their national advisory groups issued advice on how the Masses should be organised with the aim of providing as safe as possible environment in the churches. We are doing our best to meet that aim. **Everything that is being done is with the intention of stopping cross infection. Our Churches are cleaned** regularly and after each use all surfaces are sanitised before anyone else is allowed back in to the Church. It is important for our celebration of the Mass that everyone feels safe in that all our safety policies are being followed. To help us continue this effort there are some things I would like to draw your attention to.

Booking: Apart from those of us who can remember having to get tickets for Midnight Mass in the 50's, few will know about having to book a place at Mass. Unfortunately measuring on a two metre basis means we have only 20 places at Holy Cross and 32 at St. Margaret Mary's (if family households comes together we can have more spaces up to the government limit of 50.) We ask you to take the time to reserve a place. It would be embarrassing for passkeepers to have to turn people away if more people arrive than we have room for.

Giving of details. Thanks for the great co-operation in giving us your contact details. This is to do with the government being able to trace contacts of anyone who may find that they have the virus. Again it is an act charity and justice towards keeping our neighbour safe. If anyone declines to give to give their details, it won't be possible for them to come into the church.

Wearing of Masks: It is a government regulation that everyone who can should wear a mask to help cut the risk of infection. Please keep in mind that for health reasons some people are not able to wear a mask. It would be useful to the passkeepers if anyone who is not able to wear a mask would notify Fr. Hand or the parish office about that.

Movement in the church. The point of having designated places in the church is to help limit the risk of infection. It would be good for everyone to remain in their seat when they are shown to it. It is a temptation to go and talk to someone we haven't seen for a while, but that defeats the safety aim of set seating.

Remaining after Mass: As noted above, the seats are sanitised after each Mass and so that means that we need to ask everyone to leave the church at Communion time.

New points: Continue to be aware of the importance of **social distancing** at all times. We will be delighted to see people we haven't seen for a while. Yet it is important to talk at the appropriate distance. Also as part of our assurance to people coming to church and especially to those who are apprehensive, we give a commitment that all guidance to keep one another safe will be kept.