



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

23th August 2020 – 21st Sunday of the Year - A. page 120.

First Reading: *Isaiah 22:19-23*

Psalm 137: **“Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.”**

Second Reading: *Romans 11:33-36*;

Gospel: **Matthew 16:13-20.** *“You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”*

Masses during week: Monday 24th August 10am Holy Cross, Tuesday 25th August 10.00am St. Margaret Mary's, Wednesday 26th August 10.00am Holy Cross, Thursday 27th August 10am St. Margaret Mary's, Saturday 29th August 10.00am Holy Cross.

Masses next weekend:

Saturday 29th August 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 30th 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. To help us make sure that we do not overbook for any Mass (one is now close to the limit) a small adjustment has been made to the booking arrangements. **From now on from midday Thursday only the designated booking mobile phone can be used, 07546454419.** The website booking function will no longer be operational from midday Thurs, day until after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday. Also it won't be possible to book on the parish email from midday Thursday until after Mass Sunday. Having 3 or 4 ways of booking ran the risk of not being able to calculate easily when we had hit our limits.

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 22nd/23rd the 9.30am and 11.30am Mass will be quiet Masses, and the 5.30pm will have some recorded singing. 29th/30th : 5.30pm Singing; 9.30am Organ hymn music 11.30am Singing

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,

The Gospel today gives us a message both of mission and of hope. We as the Church are called to bring the power of Jesus' mercy and compassion to all of humanity. We are also assured of the power and grace to do so by receiving the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost. We may be feeling a little flat or even depressed just now as we can't see the ending to the covid crisis.

Covid crisis or not we still are to be a community which lives in the world as we find it. We might wish things were different, but we believe that we are graced to face whatever faces us. The gospel says that we are not only face the situation but also in the power of Jesus to overcome whatever we find difficult.

We are called by the situation we are in today to find different ways of developing our parish and Church life. The Liturgy and Spirituality Group and the Future Group are meeting to see how we can develop our parish life and spirituality within the present restrictions and the Finance Group is meeting to see how we are placed financially.

Feel free to offer your ideas as to how parish life might be developed.

Fr. Hand

Liturgy and Spirituality Group: Meets 7.00pm this Tuesday.

Finance Group: Meets 7.00pm this Wednesday

Future Group: Meets Tuesday 1st September.

<p>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.</p>

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 22nd August 5.30pm (vigil)
Sunday 23th August 9.30am Winnie MGregor
11.30am Mass for the People
Monday 24th August 10.00am Heather Knowles
Tuesday 25th August St. Margaret Mary's Tony Olsen
Wednesday 26th August Holy Cross Ann McDonald
Thursday 27th August 10.00am St. Margaret Mary's Anne Hand
Friday
Saturday 29th August 10.00am Holy Cross Natale Celini
Saturday 29th August 5.30pm (vigil) Mass for the People
Sunday 30th August 9.30am Simon Muir
11.30am Joan Hume

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.