



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

6th September 2020 – 23th Sunday of the Year - A. page 125.

First Reading: *Ezekiel 33:7-9;*

Psalm 94: **“O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.”**

Second Reading: *Romans 13:8-10;*

Gospel: **Matthew 18:15-20.** *“If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.”*

Masses during week: Monday 7th September 10am Holy Cross, Tuesday 8th September 10.00am St. Margaret Mary's, Wednesday 9th September 10.00am Holy Cross, Thursday 10th September 10am St. Margaret Mary's, Saturday 12th September 10.00am Holy Cross.

Masses next weekend:

Saturday 12th September 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 13th September 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 right up to Mass time ran the risk of not being able to calculate easily when we had hit our limits. **Please remember that you don't have a definite place if your booking has not been confirmed.** We ask you to co-operate with the booking system as our numbers are beginning to increase.

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 5th/6th : 5.30pm Singing; 9.30am 11.30am Singing. 12th/13th September 5.30pm Singing; 9.30am Organ hymn music 11.30am Singing

Volunteers Needed

Could you help with the important task of welcoming and passkeeping at our Sunday and Weekday Masses

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,

With the various spikes in the reporting of the Covid virus, it looks like we will have to continue our efforts to suppress the virus through social distancing and being careful in our daily lives. As one of the Polish bishops said it is an act of charity to our neighbour to try and follow government guidance with regard to controlling the virus. It is tempting to give up but perhaps this is where we need to follow the endurance of the Gospel, to keep on going in expectation that this will help us as a society to return to some sort of normality. That is one challenge. The other, I think, is to decide sensibly when to re-engage with the parts of parish and community life outside of our homes, whether it is coming to Mass or other activities.

As you will see below we are arranging for the delayed First Communions to go ahead in November and the beginning of December. Some children still have to make their First Confession. Several years ago Archbishop Cushley changed the time for receiving Confirmation from Primary 4 to Primary 7. A date has been set for 15th May. What kind of preparation is possible for all the three sacraments will depend on where we are with the Covid virus.

The Communications group is continuing its planning for streaming the Masses. The Telephone group is continuing to contact many of our parishioners. The Church Opening group is keeping up its efforts to keep the Masses going. The Future Group has arranged an evening on 10th November for parishioners to come together to discuss how things might be for all of us in the future. The Liturgy and Spirituality Group has arranged for Fr. Gardener, parish priest of St. David's, Dalkeith, to lead us in a spiritual reflection on 1st December. How we will actually have these events will depend on how the virus situation is at that time.

As important as all of this is the prayer and support that our parishioners are sharing with one another.

Fr. Hand

Feast of the Holy Cross: To help us celebrate this Season of Creation that will be the theme of the **Feast of the Holy Cross Mass on Monday 14th September at 10.00am in Holy Cross Church.** It will be streamed at 7.00pm that evening.

As the year goes by we will look at some of the themes of 'Laudato Si' and give information on finding material about it on the internet.

This is an opportunity for us to be work and pray together in this difficult time of apparently unending restrictions and of worry for many,

Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession

Arrangements are being made for the celebration of the First Communions. The only practical way of celebrating the First Communions is to have them in small groups in the autumn and winter. They will be on weekday evenings. Unfortunately for space reasons only the child making First Communion, their parents or guardians and brothers and sisters will be able to attend. The final details are being worked out and parents should receive information this week. We will have a celebration for all of the children in late May or early June, depending on the situation with regard to the virus.

First Confessions for those children now in Primary 4 who didn't make them previously are being arranged. Parents will receive a letter this week.

Penance: Primary 3 parents will be asked before Christmas to register their children for the two year period of preparation leading to the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of Communion.

Confirmation: Primary 7 will be beginning preparation for the Sacrament for Confirmation this year. The date given to us by the Archbishop is 15th May next year. At the moment the Archbishop's plan is to have the Confirmations in three groups during that day. We will have more information after Christmas. All of this is subject to the what the situation is with regard to the virus. Parents and children will be asked to sign up before Christmas for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pastoral Council: The pastoral council meets this Wednesday at 7.00pm.

Holiday: Fr. Hand will be on holiday from 16th September to 30th September. Fr. Willie Slavin will be here for the weekends. Please contact Fr. Hand if you need to meet him before 12th September.

Baptism: **Leo Forrester, the son of Craig and Jenny Forrester** will be baptised this afternoon in Holy Cross Church.

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

Marriage Preparation

Are you getting married? The Archdiocese is running marriage preparation courses on Saturday 17 October and Saturday 14 November, 10:30am-4:30pm. Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions these are likely to take place online using Zoom. For an application form please contact Irene Furlong, irene.furlong@staned.co.uk, 0131 623 8900, or download the form from the resources tab at <https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/marriage-families/>

Street Pastors

Edinburgh Street Pastors are recruiting new volunteers. Training will take place on the weekends of 18 to 20 October and 15 to 17 November and will be run on the Friday evening, Saturday part day and the Sunday afternoon of both weekends. If you are interested please email edinburghsp.training@gmail.com or call 07523 267 906. For background information see www.streetpastors.org.

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	5 th September	5:30 (vigil)	Iris McLaughlin
Sunday	6 th September	9:30am	Mass for the People
		11:30am	Thomas Reddington
Monday	7 th September	10:00am (HX)	Julia Dyne
Tuesday	8 th September	10:00am (SMM)	Anne Murray
Wednesday	9 th September	10:00am (HX)	Katie Boyle
Thursday	10 th September	10:00am (SMM)	Joan Hume
Friday			
Saturday	12 th September	10:00am (HX)	Anne McDonald
Saturday		5:30pm (HX)	Winnie McGregor
Sunday	13 th September	9:30 (HX)	Eileen Gillon
		11:30 (SMM)	Mass for the People

HX – Holy Cross church

SMM – St. Margaret Mary's church