



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

11th October 2020 – 28th Sunday of the Year - A. page 137.

First Reading: *Isaiah 25:6-10*; Psalm 22: **“In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever”**.

Second Reading: *Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*

Gospel: **Matthew 22:1-14.** *“Invite everyone you can to the wedding.”*

Feast of St. Margaret Mary: Friday 16th October.

Mass 10.00am in St. Margaret Mary’s. The Mass will be streamed at 7.00pm.

Masses next weekend:

Saturday 17th October 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 18th September 9.30am Holy Cross, 11.30am St. Margaret Mary’s, 1.00pm Polish Mass St. Margaret Mary’s.

Sunday 11th October-Saturday 17th October:

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday - Holy Cross 10:00am

Tuesday, Thursday – St Margaret Mary’s 10:00am

Booking for Mass Places: Please make sure you are following the booking system.

Note that from Thursday midday only the mobile phone can be used.

Ring 07546454419 or

Email hx_mm@btinternet.com. or

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.**

Liturgy : 10th /11th Oct: 5.30pm Singing Holy, Holy and Eucharistic Acclamation , 9.30am Organ, 11.30am Organ

16th /17th Oct: 5:30pm Singing, 9:30am Singing, 11:30am Singing

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: Preface for Sunday IV and EP for Reconciliation I

Volunteers Needed

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The bishops' letter below starts by quoting St. Paul in the Galatians : '**Let us not grow tired of doing good.**' It may be that we are growing tired of carrying out all the policies and practices that the government considers necessary for the public health of the nation. It may be that we are simply tired and also very anxious. The bishops are inviting us to keep going with all the measures necessary to control infection. In doing that we are doing the public service of prayer and building up of our community. Many in our country do not agree that that is a public service. We know however that a country needs strong spiritual life to grow.

One of the challenges facing the parish at the moment is how best to celebrate our First Communions. Some might want to further postpone them until they can be celebrated in better weather and in the way in which we have grown used to. I can understand that, but in the end it is important that the children do receive Communion soon, so that as they start returning to Mass when the situation improves, they can receive Jesus in this special way. The way of doing it is important, but it is not as important as actually receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

Our original information on numbers led us to plan 10 ten weekday Masses for the celebration. A change in the numbers making their Communion enables us to plan eight Masses which we can do at weekends. We are notifying the parents at the moment. We hope the families will find this helpful.

We hope to have a celebration for the families and the children whenever this is possible, but at the moment we cannot tell when this might be. The tight restrictions which we implement at the moment with regard to numbers, seating and the length of the liturgy will apply. We think we can however develop a Mass that is both joyful and hopeful. Only parents and brothers and sisters can be present, and we know this will cause pain to grandparents and other family members. We ask the support, however, of everyone in our plans, as we make sure we celebrate the Communion but also do our part in our country's battle with infection.

We ask the families' co-operation in the First Communion celebration both at the Mass and in anything that follows the Mass. The rules with regard to where and how families can mix are still in force.

I would like to encourage families to think of what happens when a baby is baptised in hospital. The basics the priest may do is to pour water over the baby's head in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Often when the baby has recovered, the baby, family and friends are invited to the church for '**the supplying of the ceremonies**'. This means that although we cannot baptise with water again, we can celebrate the many rich ceremonies that surround the pouring with water. Often the family hold some kind of party after it. We can think in the same lines for the First Communions. The reception of Communion happens, and at some time in the future there can be another celebration Mass with some parish and family gatherings.

Let us not tire of doing good. We keep living and developing our parish life. It is tempting to let ourselves run out of steam and sit back. What we are being asked to do is keep developing in prayer so that we can live fully the life of Jesus in the our daily lives.

God bless,

Fr. Hand

As well as trying to respond to Pope Francis' call to deepen our understanding of his Letter 'Laudate Si' with regard to Creation and to Climate Change, we have arranged a talk and discussion on **10th November on how the effects of Covid will affect our individual lives and society in general**. The talk will be given by Professor Mark Smith of the parish; how we will actually organise the evening will depend on the situation with regard to how we can meet.

We have also organised an evening on **1st December with Fr. Andrew Gardener** who will be leading us in an evening of reflection and prayer at the start of Lent. Again how we actually do this will depend on whether we can meet or not.

Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession

First Communion: Arrangements are nearly complete for the celebrations of the delayed First Communions. Arrangements had been made to celebrate them on weekday evenings because of the number of Masses there were going to be necessary. Due, however, to a change in the numbers we can celebrate the Communions with eight Masses. We therefore have changed them to Saturdays and Sundays in November. Letters have gone out to the parents with the details.

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.

First Communion 2021. More information will be given in December

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.

Archbishop's Pastoral Letter: Please see the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter on his website: www.archedinburgh.org or on parish website.

We pray for Macanthy Nnaemeka Offor, son of Emeka and Ifeome Offor, who will be baptised in Holy Cross church today.

Foodbank : Edinburgh Foodbank is from the end of October going to be using St. Margaret Mary's Hall on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday morning. We are glad to be able to help this important work

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

200 Club - September draw

The September draw for the 200 Club took place online after Mass on Sunday 4th October. The monthly prizes are 1st Prize - £100 and 2nd Prize - £50.

The result was:-

1st Prize No 64 David Shearer - £100

2nd Prize No 29 Balfour Thomson - £50

There are still numbers available for new members of the 200 Club. Please contact Robert McGee on 07733003081 or robertbmcgee@btinternet.com for more information.

Bishops' of Scotland Message to Clergy and People

Let us not grow tired of doing good. (Gal 6:9) The Covid-19 Pandemic has presented the Church with unprecedented challenges. It has brought about the temporary closure of Churches and, following the resumption of public worship, the introduction of rigorous health and safety measures to prevent transmission of the virus.

Since the resumption of public worship our parishes have been meticulous in controlling infection and ensuring the safety of all those who cross the threshold of a Catholic church. The Bishops wish to commend the work and cooperation of priests, parishioners and volunteers whose extraordinary efforts have ensured that Catholic churches are among the safest places for people to attend in the midst of this Pandemic.

However, we are now at a fragile point. The rate of Covid-19 infections is on the rise across Scotland and public anxiety is increasing. At this critical moment, we ask that we all persevere in our efforts to reduce the risk of transmission and to ensure that our parishes and communities adhere to all infection control measures that have been put in place.

Our discussions with the Scottish Government assure us that Government is aware of our extremely careful protocols and trusts us to see to our public worship and parish life with the discretion of responsible citizens. We, for our part, assure Government that we are employing this discretion for the good of public health in accordance with the law.

On that basis, we have every confidence that, if parishes continue these high standards, public worship and parish life can carry on and we will continue to attend to the spiritual welfare of the nation.

From long experience of plagues and disasters, the Church knows how the want of prayer and faith can do great harm to the spiritual wellbeing of nations, and how our public worship - owed to God – can bring His special divine assistance in times of national trouble. Now, more than ever, our church doors need to be open, and consolidating our hard work to date will ensure this blessing for ourselves and for our country.

From SCIAF: All of us at SCIAF want to say a huge thanks to you and your parish for supporting us during these difficult times. We look forward to giving you a total which has been raised for our **WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal** later in the year.
See Holy Cross Website and e mail.

Edinburgh Jesuit Centre: Please see poster on Holy Cross website and email Wezi Mhura (producer of Black Lives Matter mural trail) 13th October 7.30pm
Login using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814> or Meeting ID: 236 509 2814

We will also be livestreaming to our Facebook page!

40 Days for Life:

A peaceful prayer vigil will take place outside the Chalmers Clinic in Edinburgh from 23 September to 01 November. The purpose is to pray for an end to abortion; parishioners are asked to consider taking part for an hour or so. For more details visit www.40daysforlife.com/edinburgh

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	3 rd October	5:30 (vigil)	Ordination Anniversary of Bishop Doyle.
Sunday	4 th October	9:30am	Mass for People
		11:30am	Paul O'Neill
Monday	5 th October	10:00am (HX)	Eileen Gillen
Tuesday	6 th October	10:00am (SMM)	Joan Hume
Wednesday	7 th October	10:00am (HX)	Harry McCusker
Thursday	8 th October	10:00am (SMM)	Anne McDonald
Friday		10.00am (SMM)	Mass for People of Parish.
Saturday	9 th October	10:00am (HX)	Special Intention
Saturday		5:30pm (HX)	Intentions of Tippett Family
Sunday	10 th October	9:30 (HX)	Theresa Canning
		11:30 (SMM)	Mass for People

HX – Holy Cross church

SMM – St. Margaret Mary's church