



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

8th November 2020 – 31st Sunday of the Year - A. page 152.

First Reading: *Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14*; Psalm 23: **“Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.”**

Second Reading: *1 John 3:1-3* Gospel: **Matthew 5:1-12a.** *“How happy are the poor in spirit.”*

Masses this weekend

Saturday 7th November 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 8th November 9.30am Holy Cross, 11.30am St. Margaret Mary's, 1.00pm Polish Mass St. Margaret Mary's.

Masses next weekend:

Saturday 14th November 5.30pm Holy Cross; Sunday 15th November 9.30am Holy Cross, 11.30am St. Margaret Mary's, 1.00pm Polish Mass St. Margaret Mary's

Sunday 8th November-Saturday 14th November:

Monday, Wednesday, 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: booking system on parish website, mobile phone 075464 54419, parish e mail address.

Liturgy: 7th Nov./8th Nov. 5:30pm Singing, 9:30am Singing, 11:30am Singing. Holy<Holy and Eucharistic Acclamation

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: Preface of Sunday II EP II

Please note that on 14th and 21st November the 10.00am Mass is the First Communion Mass in St. Margaret Mary's. There is no Saturday 10.00am Mass in Holy Cross. On 28th November the 10.00am First Communion Mass is in Holy Cross. For these Masses all places are reserved for those involved in the First Communions.

Mark Smith: How Covid affects our Society and Church Tuesday 10th November at 7.00pm : Please see notice below about this and try to take part. If you would like to come, please contact the parish office by email or phone by 5th November.

Advent Reflection: On Tuesday 1st December 7.00pm- 8.15pm, Fr. Andrew Garden, parish priest of St. David's, Dalkeith, will lead an Advent Reflection in Holy Cross church. If you would like to come along please book by email or the parish phone by 27th November.

All government safety policies will be followed at both events. Please note that depending on the Covid situation the arrangements for these events may have to be changed at the last minute

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Last Sunday two children made their First Communion at the Polish Mass and this Saturday four children made their First Communion in St. Margaret Mary's. We have seven other Communion Masses between now and the 29th November. Congratulations to all of the children. They have prepared well under strange and difficult circumstances. These small celebrations are not what we thought about at the start of the preparation, **but we are helping the children keep in mind that what is essential is receiving Jesus in Communion.** Thanks to the parents and carers for supporting the children in their preparation; they too are having to cope with a celebration very different from what they expected. We also keep in mind the grannies, grandads, aunts and uncles who cannot be present. A special thanks to the teachers and catechists who under awkward conditions have prepared and are preparing the children.

Please keep supporting the children and one another in our prayers and in our keeping in contact with fellow parishioners. Many parishioners are not yet ready to return to Mass, but we welcome those who have been coming and those who are preparing to return. Could we make it our special prayer this week that, whether we are praying in the churches or at home or through the streamed Mass, **we are praying as one parish community.**

Sincerely, Fr. Hand

Mark Smith: How Covid affects our Society and Church:

There is a lot in the media just now about how the Covid virus is likely to have serious effects on our society and Church. **On Tuesday 10th November at 7.00pm we invite 15 parishioners** to come to Holy Cross parish hall and hear our parishioner Mark Smith, Professor of Social Work at Dundee University, share his thoughts on various areas we need to pay attention to. Many people are concerned about such questions as mental health and the effects of unemployment, but let us also celebrate what we have learned and gained through our experience of the last seven months.

After Professor Smith's talk there will be an opportunity for us to share our thoughts and then a general question and answer session. **If you would like to come, please contact the parish office by email or phone by 5th November.**

Zoom meeting- Tuesday 17th November 7.00pm: A Zoom meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 17th November. A recording of Professor Smith's presentation will be shown and then there will be a discussion, which Mark has kindly agreed to take part in. We are aware that many people are not yet ready to gather in the hall, and so we invite you to take part in the Zoom meeting. **Please sign in by email or phone by Monday evening 16th.** Full details of how to join the meeting will be available next weekend.

Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession

First Communion: St. Margaret Mary's: 8th November Polish Mass at 2.30pm; Saturday 14th November 10.00am and 1.00pm; Saturday 21st November 10.00am Sunday Class children.

Holy Cross: Sunday 22nd November 2.00pm; Saturday 28th November 10.00am and 1.00pm; Sunday 29th November 2.00pm.

This means the 10.0am Mass on Saturday mornings 7th, 14th and 21st November is transferred to St. Margaret Mary's.

Because of the restriction on numbers **only the parents or carers and the brothers and sisters of the children making their Communion can take part in these Masses;** they should be from the same household. Thanks to the school staffs and our catechists who are working hard to prepare the children for the First Communion. **Please keep all the children and parents in your prayers; this is one way we can all share in the restricted Communion celebrations.**

Advent Reflection: On Tuesday 1st December 7.00pm, Fr. Andrew Garden, parish priest of St. David's, Dalkeith, will lead an Advent Reflection in Holy Cross church. Please book a place by 27th November.

Special Collections: As we said previously the pastoral council recommended that we pay from parish funds what our special collections would normally have come to, as the various groups and Church activities are suffering from not getting the funds they would normally have got. Here is a list of the collections from 2019. Our recommendation is that we pay the equivalent for 2020 from parish funds. **We would however invite contributions from the parish towards the payment of the collections.** Please use the normal means of payment if you would like to donate. There will also be boxes available from next week for two weeks. We are aware that there is financial pressure for many just now, but for those who are able this is an opportunity to support the various activities listed below.

Please note:

- i. That the missionary society changes from year to year and this year it goes to the Columban Fathers.
- ii. A substantial contribution has already been made to the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund and this will not be repeated this year.
- iii. The St. Vincent de Paul boxes are not normally seen as a special collection but due to the fact that their income has collapse and that we anticipate demand for their services next year, we have included the society in our list.

Justice & Peace	409.44
African Missions & Holy Places	500.68
Catholic Education	435.15
Papal & Episcopal Charities	1218.62
Communications	435
Peter Pence	569.61
Lenten Alms	226
Ecclesiastical Students Fund	574.45
SCIAF Boxes	273.84
Missionary Society	1131.75
Missio	1006.75
SVDP	

Seniors Christmas Lunch

Due to the current covid 19 restrictions we are unable to hold our Senior Citizens Christmas lunch, however, we are proposing to deliver a Christmas lunch instead.

If you would like to receive a Christmas lunch on Saturday 12th December, please contact Pat Shearer on 07546 454419

Message from Archbishop Cushley: 'The Archdiocese is launching an online Diploma in Catechetics in January. It's open to anyone who wants to learn more about their faith and to deepen their understanding of Catholic theology. It's easy to take part. Each Thursday evening you join a 45-minute lecture on Zoom from the comfort of your home. Her email is on the poster at the back of the church. Find out more on the news section of the Archdiocesan website or visit our Facebook and Twitter.'

Booking for Mass

None of us finds booking for Mass to be something we can adjust easily to. It is strange to have to be doing this when we are trying to welcome people to come to the church. As you know Holy Cross has 20 places and St. Margaret Mary's has 32. We can however take up more than that if there are households coming together, as a household can sit together in a bench. We cannot however take more than 50 as this is the government limit for any church.

Depending on the balance of families and individuals we can take between 20—50 (though in Holy Cross for instance that would mean 10 families of 5, which is highly unlikely).

From now on the booking through phone and email will run from **Monday morning to Saturday 4.30pm**, and on line from **Monday morning until Thursday 9.00am**.

Points to Remember: As you know all of our policies to do with Mass during this Covid time are to do with keeping safe by reducing the risk of cross infection. We are committed to parishioners feeling safe. This week please keep in mind:

- **Touching Surfaces:** The importance of as much as possible avoiding touching flat surfaces.
- **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.

Laudate Si: Pope Francis's letter on Creation, Climate Change and the Environment.

The whole Church is being encouraged to pay attention to these issues. As a first step we will use some of the themes of Pope Francis in our Masses and services during Advent to help us become more aware of the challenge of the Gospel with regard to Creation and Climate. We have been in touch with Fr. Clarke the vicar episcopal for Caritas; he has supplied some material and us in touch with one of the diocesan justice and peace network which is supporting parishes trying to develop their understanding of Laudate Si. **Would you be willing to help with this work? Contact the parish office.**

Missio

October is Mission Month, please support the work of MISSIO. Text MISSIOSCOT to 70085 to give £3 or visit www.missioscotland.com/donate

Foodbank: Edinburgh Food Project is 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. It started last Monday. The Edinburgh Food Project is associated with the Trussell Trust and will follow their procedures. **We are waiting for information of what kind of food is required and then we will create a collection point in each church..**

Parish Catechists: Launch New Sacramental Resources

Are you involved in sacramental preparation (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) of children in your parish? You are most welcome to attend an event to launch the new sacramental workbooks and materials. The zoom event takes place on **Saturday 28 November at 2pm**. A link for the event will be sent to you upon registration. To register, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at SrMirjam.Hugens@staned.org.uk

Scottish Interfaith Week 2020

Ask Me Anything shows. Young people from eight different faiths have been answering questions about their faith sent in by school pupils from across Scotland. The shows will be premiered during Scottish Interfaith Week on our Scottish Interfaith Week YouTube channel at the following link: <https://bit.ly/367I5k4> The shows will be available to view from 9am on each of the days as outlined below and will remain on the channel to watch any time.

9th November - Jewish and Sikh

10th November - Buddhist and Hindu

11th November - Baha'i and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

12th November - Muslim

13th November - Catholic and Protestant

Abortion consultation

From Archdiocese: The Scottish Government is carrying out a consultation regarding the extension of the abortion 'pills by post' scheme beyond the current pandemic. SPUC has created a simple guide to help you fill out the consultation so please visit spuc.org.uk and search 'Scottish DIY'. Please pray for the unborn.

From SPUC: The Scottish Government is holding a consultation on whether to continue the practice of sending dangerous abortion pills to women to undergo abortions at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Scottish Government's questionnaire in order to stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the questionnaire. Please go to www.spuc.org.uk/Scottish-Consultation

In God's Image

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland would like to hear from you if you wish to propose any changes to 'In God's Image', the safeguarding policy manual for the Catholic Church in Scotland. They state: "We want to hear from lay people, as well as from clergy and religious. Above all, we are keen to hear from survivors or victims of abuse so that the church can plan to ensure sensitive responses to all allegations and concerns." Closing date is 30 November. Please go to bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2.

Safeguarding Webinar

If you have a safeguarding role in the Church, please consider registering for a Zoom webinar hosted by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding on Saturday 14 November from 11am-1:30pm. The webinar will focus on safeguarding and online risks in the pandemic. To register email: registration@scsafeguarding.org.uk

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: 5DhvJ

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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)

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Stipends:

Saturday	7 th November	5:30 (vigil)	Joan Hume
Sunday	8 th November	9:30am	Madeline McParland
		11:30am	Mass for the People
Monday	9 th November	10:00am (HX)	Martin and Maura
Tuesday	10 th November	10:00am (SMM)	Special Intention
Wednesday	11 th November	10:00am (HX)	Cathy, Jessica, Lauren Boschi
Thursday	12 th November	10:00am (SMM)	Intentions of M. Hand
Friday			
Saturday	14th November	10:00am SMM	
Saturday		5.30pm	Mass for the People
Sunday	15 th November	9:30 (HX)	Sister Consolata(Smyth)
		11:30 (SMM)	Joe Andrades

HX – Holy Cross church

SMM – St. Margaret Mary's church