



Holy Cross Parish

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Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Hand

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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 July 2021 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time– year B

First Reading Amos 7:12-15; Psalm 84(85) *"Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help."* Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14; Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Mass Times: 5.30pm vigil HX; 9.30am HX; 11.30am MM; 1.00am MM (see end of newsletter for details).

Sacrament of Penance: If you would like the Sacrament of Penance please contact Fr Hand.

Streamed Mass: 11th July 9.30am 18th July 9.30am

Go to the parish website to click on the link for the streamed Mass.

Please note that due to holidays there may be some difficulty in streaming the Masses on 18th and 25th July. Please check with the parish office.

Maciej is always willing to provide information: phone on 0131 552 3957.

Booking for Mass: Please book, using the **mobile number 07546454419** or **Online** use the normal Holy Cross Website booking system (**BOOKINGS**) to submit your request.

Please note that the online bookings are open from Monday 9.00am to Thursday 12.00 noon. The mobile phone is open from Monday 9.00am to Saturday 12.00 noon. If there are spaces and there is someone available to take the phone it may be answered after that.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Scottish government is expected to announce changes to its Covid policies on 19th July. The bishops have already made some changes that can be made in the light of present policies especially for areas in level 1. We will consider them at the same time as the expected changes from the government. I think it is important to consider them carefully and then plan to implement them, keeping in mind how we can best help everyone to understand them and help put them into practice. In the meantime, please follow the guidelines and policies that are already in place. In particular, please keep in mind the importance of booking. Two of our Masses are reaching the limit; that makes it important to be able to tell people there are places or not. It also helps the passkeepers to maximise how many we can put into church safely; as you know a family of three can occupy one place. We have kept one another safe since the Lockdown started; please keep up your efforts as we go into this period of change and uncertainty. As you know the infection rates in Edinburgh are very high.

I ask everyone to read the Pope's message for the Word Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We are asked to pray and think about how best we can respond to the message.

Fr. Hand

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 25th July

Pope Francis has called for a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. He is calling on the Church to value all generations; each generation has a contribution to make to the work of Jesus and the Church. On this day he is calling on grandparents and the elderly to continue to share in the spread of the Gospel. He says, 'Because there is no retirement age

from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new. `

Please read the Pope's message attached to the newsletter. After the summer we can consider how to follow through on it. Some parishes have grandparents' groups involved in developing the life of the parish.

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage

Due to the pandemic, there is no Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes again this year, but you can join our Virtual Pilgrimage from Friday 9th July to Friday 16th July by logging on to Virtual Pilgrimage | edinburgh-lourdes.com. There you will find our daily programme and can click on each day to follow the different events offered. We hope you will join us in prayer for all or part of the Pilgrimage.

Heating and the Environment Meeting: 7pm Monday 5th July

This meeting had to be postponed because of illness. It will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.

Would you like to join the gardening team? Do as much as you like or as little as you like!

The gardens of our two churches are much appreciated. We do, however, need more help to keep them up to the standard we are used to. We need help in weeding, moving and general gardening. You don't have to be a specialist; your willingness to offer your time is sufficient. Please leave your details at the parish office and someone will contact you.

Pastoral Council: The meeting scheduled for 14th July has been changed to 21st July in order for it to be able to take into consideration the government Covid proposals due on the 19th July.

Safety in the Church: Policies July 2021

A reminder of what you are asked to do in keeping one another safe. This is also a reminder of how to help the passkeepers and cleaners who as well as their normal duties have to help you follow the Church directions of how to follow the Church directions.

- Booking the seats is important in helping us allocate safely places in the church.
- Put on your mask on approaching the church
- Observe the 2 metres distancing
- Take care not to congregate outside the doors of the churches and halls
- Sanitise your hands both on entering and leaving.
- Go directly to your seat as shown by the passkeepers
- Protect other parishioners by not going to talk to others in the church unless you have an important reason.
- Come forward for Communion as invited by the passkeeper.
- Communion is to be received on the hand. Please keep your hand flat. If you offer a cupped hand and the priest touches your hand accidentally he has to go and sanitise his hands.
- After Communion please do not kneel at the altar rails or touch anything unnecessarily.
- After Communion continue to leave by the side door. Some people are faster than others. Please be patient and maintain the 2 metres distance if at all possible.
- Do not linger immediately outside of the church.
- The church is sanitised and aired after each use. This requires helpers? Are you willing to help.
- **Holidays:** We ask everyone to follow the government policies about people leaving the country on holiday and returning from holiday. Also, if anyone has visitors from overseas, especially from 'amber' countries, please make sure that they understand what is required of them.

At the parish councils on 21st July we will look at some of the liturgical changes that the bishops have proposed for level 2 and then for levels 1-0. Some changes are being proposed with regard to music and singing. We do not propose any changes until after the meeting on 21st July. Each parish has to consider how to introduce the proposed easing of the lockdown with regard to the church. The bishops will continue to advise us on any changes proposed in the coming months.

We pray for Fr. Martin Eckersley who was ordained in the Cathedral this Saturday and **Fr. Bobby Taylor** who was ordained on the 29th June.

We pray for Annie Thorburn whose funeral service will take place on Tuesday at Mount Vernon.

Holy Cross conference- St Vincent De Paul

The SVDP year-end was 31 March 2021 and over the past year we have received £1,039 from parishioners. During this time we made donations and provided assistance to the following:

1. Cash donations to the North Edinburgh Food Bank
2. Collected and delivered over 70 children's Christmas presents to the Salvation Army in Edinburgh
3. Purchase and delivery of groceries to a local family
4. Assistance with payment of an overdue electricity bill for a family based in Pilton
5. Purchase and delivery of groceries to a young man living in temporary accommodation, pending allocation of suitable permanent accommodation
6. Providing donations to twinned SVDP conferences based in South Africa (2No.) and southern India (2No.)
7. SVDP were unable to make home visits to the housebound in the parish due to the COVID restrictions. However, they assisted with phone calls to elderly parishioners to check on their welfare in these difficult times

Sadly, one of our long standing members, Jean Gorman passed away in January this year. A lovely lady with a heart of gold; we will miss her.

On behalf of all in the SVDP we wish to thank you all for your kind donations which makes our work possible. The need is felt even more so in the current COVID crisis which affects us all but in particular those members of our community in desperate need of assistance be it material or emotional.

Thank you. Yours in St Vincent and Blessed Frederic.

Teams of Our Lady: a sharing group for couples

Married couples are invited to come together to grow in their faith by joining the local Teams of Our Lady initiative. Up to 6 couples meet to share together for mutual support, fun and sharing. Groups often include a priest too. Teams began in the Notre Dame (Our Lady) parish in Paris in 1939, and have spread widely. They are ecumenically open, and all ages are welcome.

One couple who take part in Edinburgh said: "Teams gives us the chance to connect with other couples at various stages of the marriage and faith journey, from other parishes, from other cultures.

"It's a great place to learn and reflect on our marriage. The simple format of the meetings helps each couple and our accompanying priest give their news: what goes well for them, what goes less well and what helps each of us in our lives and spiritual journey."

To hear more, contact northern gb@teams-transatlantic.org who will put you in touch with someone from the local group to talk more about it.

COP 26: Scotland's Bishops have announced their intention to set up a 'Care of Creation Office' ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow later this year. COP26 is the twenty sixth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is to take place at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. It has been widely reported that Pope Francis is expected to attend, though this has not yet been confirmed. A briefing for Faith Communities can be found at bit.ly/COP26briefing

A letter to J&P about Assisted Dying.

You will have seen that a cross-party group of MSPs led by Lib Dem Liam McArthur is proposing to introduce Assisted Dying legislation in the Scottish Parliament, beginning consultation this autumn.

I thought you might like to see the email I have sent the MSPs concerned. My case was that even to have a political conversation about Assisted Dying will be distressing for a large number of Scots, including disabled and elderly people and those with mental health issues, and that it will introduce no conceivable good which is not already possible via the hospice movement anyway. (In Catholic terms, obviously, we would say that people who are 'assisted to die' in hospices are treated via the Thomist principle of double effect, where they are given enough morphine to prevent pain on their pathway to death, but that is very different from 'right to die' legislation, which involves the state in saying it no longer considers itself bound to protect the lives of certain of its citizens.)

I would think we would want to have a concerted campaign of letter-writing in the autumn, if the consultation does happen, but I couldn't forbear pointing out at this stage that even having the conversation at all is not only unnecessary but dangerous and distressing to vulnerable Scots. I paste the letter below.

Best wishes, Sara Parvis

Ask your MP to vote against abortion up to birth

The abortion lobby, led by the UK's largest abortion provider, BPAS, has worked with Diana Johnson MP to bring forward an amendment to hijack the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to **introduce abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth** to England and Wales. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. We are expecting that this radical proposal will be voted on by MPs this Monday.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool that makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to vote against the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAbortionUpToBirth

Foodbank: Edinburgh Food Project at St. Margaret Mary's. The foodbank has now re-opened.

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.

Prayer at Communion (May be used during streamed Mass):

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for your presence in this Eucharist: in the people gathered, in the priest, in the Word proclaimed and the sacrament of your Body and Blood. May we always recognise you in our midst; may we come one day to see you face to face, to be with your forever. Amen. (Archdiocesan Year of the Eucharist. Fr. Michael Regan.)

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: Preface Sunday of the Year I. EP III

Saturday	10 th July	5.30pm HX	Joe Rea
Sunday	11 th July	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	Mass for the People Desi McGovern
Monday	12 th July	10.00am HX	
Tuesday	13 th July	10.00am MM	
Wednesday	14 th July	10.00am HX	John Bruntisfield
Thursday	15 th July	10.00am MM	
Saturday	17 th July	10.00am HX	
Saturday	17 th July	5.30pm HX	
Sunday	18 th July	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	Peter Gorman and Chris Lewis Mass for the People

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.

Sunday Streamed Mass will be available on our website 9.30am one week and 11.30am the other.