



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

25th July 2021 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time– year B

First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 144(145) "You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires." Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6; Gospel: John 6:1-15

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: 25th July 9.30am 1st August 11.30am

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

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,

As you will see below some major changes have taken place with regard to Mass in the churches; the numbers have been increased and we can sing in the churches. I ask your co-operation in these changes. Please be aware that many people are still apprehensive about coming to church. Perhaps this is a moment when you could talk to someone who is still not sure about coming to Mass; perhaps an offer to accompany them might be of great help to a person trying to decide whether to come or not to Mass. With many people having had the two parts of the vaccinations this may be the time when more parishioners may feel they can come back to Mass.

I also encourage you to look at the note on the meeting to do with the heating of our premises. These are difficult questions and it would be good for as many parishioners as possible to have some knowledge of the issues.

On this world day for grandparents and the elderly, we pray in gratitude for the love and kindness that the grandparents of the parish share with their families with and so many others.

Fr. Hand

Heating and the Environment Meeting: 7pm Monday 26th July Holy Cross Hall

The parish house boiler and the boiler of Holy Cross hall are 27 years old and most probably will have to be replaced soon. Also further restrictions are likely to be imposed on the relatively near future on the use of fossil fuels. Teresa Keenan is giving information on alternatives to fossil fuels in Holy Cross Hall on Monday 26th July at 7.00pm. This is one of the parish's responses to Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si' on the environment and climate change.

All are welcome but please **let the parish office know if you would like to come** along so that we can set out the hall safely. All Covid safety measures will be taken.

Change in Covid Regulations.

From Archbishop Cushley

- We can move to one metre of physical distancing instead of two metres. That means most churches will be able to increase their capacity.
- Congregational singing is allowed, albeit behind face coverings (singing is already allowed in Level 1 areas).
- The maximum attendance at weddings and funerals will rise to 200.

Please note that all other procedures you have in place should remain:

- Face coverings must still be worn inside church, unless exempt.
- Names and telephone numbers of those attending church must still be taken.
- Sanitiser should still be made available for parishioners.

Each parish should assess the needs of its parishioners and work out how best to implement the changes.

The pastoral council intends to implement some of the changes suggested on Sunday 1st August if the arrangements can be made in time.

Increase in numbers: Because of the reduction of the minimum social distancing from 2 metres to 1 metre, we will be able to get more people into the churches. At the moment, St. Margaret Mary's has 32 places and Holy Cross 20 places. From next week St. Margaret Mary's will be 62 places and Holy Cross 42 places. We need to keep in mind that each church can take more than the minimum number of places if there are couples or family households coming along. In that instance a couple could take one place or a family household of 6 take two places.

Booking of seats is still to be done and now it is especially important, because, with the potential increase in numbers, it will be more complex for the passkeepers to place people in the church. The plan at the moment is to ask families to go to one side and individuals to the other side. Please accept the direction of the passkeepers; it is meant to ensure that as many people as want to can get into the church.

Communion: We hope to work out a plan so that people can go safely back to their seats after Communion. We are still working on this. This would mean at the end of Mass passkeepers having to direct people to leave the church row by row. We are meant to avoid 'crowding' as much as possible. On leaving the church please do not congregate directly in front of the church doors. We will say more about this next week.

Music: Congregational singing is possible again. Masks, however, have to be worn during the singing, as well as the during the rest of Mass. It is also possible for a cantor to during the Mass. A small group can also help lead the singing. As part of our parish policy there will be no more than three in any group and each will have to maintain the 1 metre social distancing policy. We are working at the moment on how to place the music leaders in the safest possible way. Masks have still to be worn.

We are conscious that there is an increased amount of direction having to be given at the moment, but we ask your continued co-operation with what is going on. Our basic policy is that we implement the Church's policies so that we can make our churches as safe as possible. To do that we need everyone's co-operation.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 25th July

This weekend we celebrate World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis is calling on the Church to value the contribution that grandparents and the elderly make to family and society's life. They are a source of rich experience of life and faith for the whole Church. Often grandchildren depend on their grandparents for any sense of the whole Catholic life of both taking part in the Mass and living the Mass in daily life.

Try and get in touch with your grandfather or mother today. Perhaps there is an elderly person you know who would appreciate a call.

Some parishes have grandparents' groups who make a major contribution to parish life. We will look at that later in the year.

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

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 IV. EP III

Saturday	24 th July	5.30pm HX	Philip and Nancy Kerr
Sunday	25 th July	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	Eileen Murdoch Mass for the People
Monday	26 th July	10.00am HX	
Tuesday	27 th July	10.00am MM	
Wednesday	28 th July	10.00am HX	Betty Daly
Thursday	29 th July	10.00am MM	
Saturday	31 st July	10.00am HX	
Saturday	31 st July	5.30pm HX	Mass for the People
Sunday	1 st August	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	Intentions of Howden and Kerr families

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.

Prayer for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,
help families and society
to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

Pope Benedict XVI