



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

19th September 2021 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – year B

First Reading Wisdom 2:12,17-20; Psalm 53 "The Lord upholds my life.";

Second Reading: James 3:16-4:3; Gospel: **Mark 9:30-37**

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: 19th September 9.30am 26th September 11.30am

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

This week Thursday morning Mass in St.Margaret Mary's is at 11.30am

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As you will see below we have made some changes to do with returning to Mass. Please read the notes carefully, as the co-operation of everyone is essential to help us all develop a way of being at Mass with which everyone feels they are safe.

As we go on and hopefully more people return to Mass, it is likely that some more changes may have to be made.

We do need more help. If you feel you could help with passkeeping please speak to one of the ushers or phone Fr. Hand.

I am meeting Mr. McDevitt (Holy Cross) and Mrs. Burgess (St. Paul's) a week on Monday to discuss this year's sacramental preparation. I have already met Rose and Eileen to discuss the First Confession and First Communion preparation for the children at non-Catholic schools.

I hope to see you soon.

Fr. Hand

Returning to Church

The following changes to our present way of working are based on our response of 22nd August to the Bishops' letter of 10th August.

The basic points of our response were:

- The bishops are emphasising that aerosols are a bigger danger of infection than surfaces.
- Ensuring Good Ventilation.
- Maintaining good hygiene on entering and leaving the church.
- Practising respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Wearing masks or face coverings.
- Test and Protection is to be maintained.
- As far as we are aware we are still to keep the Mass to a moderate length so that the congregation is not in the church longer than necessary.
- We will keep the 1 metre distancing for the present, though we will adapt if necessary by putting two people into the presently sealed off benches.
- We are still to avoid congregating or crushing together.
- *We would like to add: **Whatever other changes happen we will do everything to avoid having the churches so full that some might feel uncomfortable or apprehensive.***

The following proposals are made in line with the Bishops' letter and our analysis of the needs of the parish. Please feel free to comment on them; we will be monitoring the effectiveness of them regularly. As always we will be evaluating them in the light of the infection rate.

Booking: In line with the proposals of the bishops **we will cancel our booking system** starting and including next weekend 25th/26th September. Please come in good time for Mass, as if the numbers go up the passkeepers will have to have time to help parishioners to seats. We think it is important to try and fill up the church from the front, so that we can see which seats are free. We ask your co-operation with this.

Test and Protect: Legally we have to fulfil the requirements of the Test and Protect scheme. To help us do this we have drawn up lists of people who are normally at a particular Mass. If you normally go to a particular Mass please check your name is on the list. After that you don't have to do anything, other than if on a particular week you are not going to be at that Mass phone the present mobile (**07546454419**), formerly for booking, or email the parish. If you are at a different Mass or have a visitor please sign in at the back of the church.

Sanitising the churches: In line with the bishops' comments that the main danger of infection is air borne aerosols, we will work at increasing the airflow through our churches. We will reduce the work and effort required with regard to sanitising the churches. Each church is cleaned thoroughly every week. Holy Cross will also be sanitised after the 9.30am Mass. St. Margaret Mary's will also be sanitised after the 11.30am Mass and after the 1.00pm Mass. Both churches will be sanitised after funeral Masses, Baptisms and special Masses.

Offertory procession and bringing back our servers: Because of the present high rate of infection we are delaying these for several weeks. Do however contact Fr. Hand now if you are interested in serving.

The other points of our letter of the 22nd August still stand, including Communion is still to be received in the hand.

Laudato Si Rosary: St. Margaret Mary's at 3.00pm on 26th September.

You are welcome to St. Margaret Mary's for an outdoor Rosary based on Pope Francis's themes on climate and creation from Laudato Si.

Fr. Hand: Fr. Hand will be on holiday from Wednesday 29th September until Thursday 14th October. If you need to contact him, please do as soon as possible. He will also be on retreat from Monday 8th November until Friday 12th November.

Fabric Committee: 7.00pm Tuesday 21st September.

Laudato Si meeting: Saturday 25th September 11.00am

We pray for Monty Snider who was buried in Seafeld Cemetery at 1.30pm on Monday 13th September.

We pray for David Tippett who has died. His funeral Mass will be at St. Margaret Mary's at 11.30am on Thursday 23rd September.

We pray for Gordon Harrison who has died.

Sacramental Preparation

The registration forms for those **starting** the two year period of preparation for First Confession and First Communion will be available on 21st September. The forms for Confirmation will be available also that day. For those with children at non-Catholic schools, please contact Fr. Hand by the 20th September if you want to register. For those who have completed the first year of preparation we will check that they still intend to go forward for First Communion.

How and when the Communions will be celebrated will be confirmed next year.

Dementia: Hope on a Difficult Journey An event for those supporting friends or family with dementia will be held at the Gillis Centre, Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, from 2-4pm on Saturday 6 November. A talk will be led by Dr Adrian Treloar, and there will be a chance to share experiences before a time of prayer in St Margaret's Chapel, onsite. Light refreshments will be served. The event is organised by the Archdiocesan Marriage & Families Commission. To register please visit bit.ly/DementiaEvent2021

Safeguarding Webinar for all who have a PVG

The Bishops of Scotland invite clergy, religious, church employees and volunteers across Scotland to a national safeguarding webinar at 11am on Saturday 2 October. It will be a chance to find out more about the safeguarding document *In Gods Image v2* and reflect upon its implications for your safeguarding role. The link to register is: bit.ly/3gQRdPu

Tea and Coffee after 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross church): Hopefully, it won't be long now until we can offer hospitality after Mass on Sundays. It's been a long time since many of us have had a proper catch up after Mass and been able to meet people who have moved into the parish. If you are able to help on the rota, please get in touch with me (Pat Shearer 07484 366042/ patricia.shearer@btinternet.com). The more we have on the rota the merrier and the fewer times you'll be needed during the year!

Season of Creation: 1st September-4th October (Feast of Creation)

Our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. Pope Francis. LS

Fr. Sean McDonagh : Faith Based Challenge. Thursday 23rd September. See poster
Laudato Si Rosary: St. Margaret Mary's at 3.00pm on 26th September.

26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, Glasgow 1st-12th November.

Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition:

If you haven't already, please consider signing the [Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition](https://thecatholicpetition.org/?source=direct_link&). An opportunity for Catholics worldwide to listen to Pope Francis and act out our faith." https://thecatholicpetition.org/?source=direct_link&

Event: Shakespeare: A Catholic Perspective

Explore the Bard's plays in a six-week webinar series titled Shakespeare: A Catholic Perspective. The event is organised by the Archdiocesan Catechetics Commission and it began on Monday 6 September at 7:30pm. Register at bit.ly/ShakespeareWebinar

Courses at Gillis Centre

Applications are now open for a variety of courses run by St Mary's University at the Gillis Centre Campus in Edinburgh, starting this autumn. testimonies from students on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (bit.ly/ArchYouTube). All details at www.stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh

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 yours forever. Amen. (Archdiocesan Year of the Eucharist. Fr. Michael Regan.)

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: Preface of Sunday III EP III

Saturday	18 th September	5.30pm HX	Mass for the People
Sunday	19 th September	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	
Monday	20 th September	10.00am HX	Zitkus Family
Tuesday	21 th September	10.00am MM	
Wednesday	22 th September	10.00am HX	
Thursday	23 th September	11.30 MM	Funeral David Tippett
Saturday	25 th September	10.00am HX	
Saturday	25 th September	5.30pm HX	
Sunday	26 th September	9.30am HX 11.30am MM 1.00pm MM	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.

Booking for Mass: Please book, using the **mobile number 07546454419** or **Online** using 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.

Directions from the Passkeepers: Please co-operate with the passkeepers when coming out for Communion and coming out of the benches after Mass. We want to carry out the various movements of people before, during and after Mass as safely as possible.