



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 SC008540

4th February 2024 – 4th Sunday - year B

Mass Times: 5.30pm (vigil); 9.30am HX; 11.30am MM; 9.00am MM (in Polish) (see end of newsletter for details).

Streamed: 4th February Sunday Mass 11.30am 11th February Sunday Mass 11.30am

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

Confessions: HX after 10.00am Mass Saturdays; MM 11.15am Sundays, or on request.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Thanks for Fr. McLaughlin for celebrating the Masses last Sunday.

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 14th February and is the start of Lent. It is a day of fasting and abstinence when the Church asks us to eat less and not eat meat as a sign of our willingness to be with Jesus on the Cross and to be at one with those in world who suffer injustice and hunger. This penance should also help us to pray and work for justice in our world, as well as showing our hope in the next.

Take some time to pray and think about how we can use the time of Lent to deepen in our faith and how we practice it.

Sincerely

Fr. Hand

SPUC White Flower Appeal 3rd and 4th February: The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child works to protect the rights of the unborn child. There will be a retiral collection to support the work they do. We also pray for all working protect life and women who find themselves pregnant in very difficult circumstances.

'SPUC's Vision is a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortions. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.' SPUC)

World Day of the Sick – 11 February – The 10.00am Saturday Mass 10th February will be celebrated as the Mass of the World Day of the Sick. The World Day of the Sick was introduced by St Pope John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes being a place of pilgrimage renowned for healing. Please pray for the sick of our parish and the family members, friends and professionals who help them.

Bacon Rolls for Lourdes Fundraiser - Bacon rolls will be available after 9.30am Mass on Sunday and on the first Sunday of the month thereafter. This is a reminder that the fundraiser is to send a youth helper to Lourdes in July this year. If you are interested in going to Lourdes as a youth helper, please don't hesitate to speak to Fr Hand or Pat Shearer.

Scouts fundraising - on February 10-11 Scouts will sell Faworki (traditional Polish cookies) during Polish and Scottish masses in Granton St Margaret Mary's Church. Money from sell will help our girls to pay for summer camp.

Jubilee 2025 - The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is *Pilgrims of Hope*. For more information, visit the official website <https://www.giubileo-2025.it/en>. A Facebook page has been set up that will highlight resources and events in Scotland - search 'Holy Year Scotland 2025'. To help us prepare, the Holy Father has established 2024 as a Year of Prayer dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world". Resources will be available soon.

Thrift Shop: Because of health reasons Joan Tillbrook has retired from running the parish thrift shop at St. Margaret Mary's after many years of service. We thank her for this work and remember the parishioners who worked there with and before Joan. The shop will be closed temporarily while we consider the way ahead for it.

Diocesan Catholic Directory: Copies of this directory with a lot of information about the diocese are on sale at the back of the church, priced £3.

Finance Committee: Tuesday 6th February 7.00pm.

Synod Preparation Group: Wednesday 7th February 7.00pm.

Laudato Si Group: Saturday 10th February 10.45am in the parish house.

Preface of Sunday IV EP of Reconciliation II

Readings: First Reading Job 7:1-4,6-7; Psalm 146: *"Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted."*
 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23; Gospel: **Mark 1:29-39**

Saturday	3rd February	5.30pm HX	Sister Francis
Sunday	4th February	Polish Mass 9.00am MM 9.30am HX 11.30am MM	Joyce Keller Mass for the People
Monday	5 th February	10.00am HX	
Tuesday	6 th February	10.00am MM	
Wednesday	7 th February	10.00am HX	
Thursday	8 th February	10.00am MM	
Saturday	10 th February	10.00am HX	Mass for the Sick and for all those who give time to Pilgrimages to Lourdes
Saturday	10th February	5.30pm HX	
Sunday	11th February	Polish Mass 9.00am MM 9.30am HX 11.30am MM	

From Archbishop

Valentine's Retreat - The Archdiocesan Valentine's Retreat for married and engaged couples takes place at St Kentigern's Church, Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR, on Saturday 10 February 2024, 2-5pm. It is an ideal way for couples to spend time together in quiet reflection and prayer, in thanksgiving to God for each other and all the positive things that spring from your relationship. Creche available for children of primary school age and older. Register at <https://bit.ly/valretreat>

Day for Catechists - If you are involved with RCIA, children's liturgy, sacramental preparation or any other catechist role, please register for the Archdiocesan *Day for Catechists* at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on Saturday 9 March from 10:30am-3:00pm. While the day is aimed at Catechists, all are welcome. Visit <https://bit.ly/dayforcatechists>

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 – The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 5-12 July 2024. To find out more visit <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes24>

Lourdes Mass - The February Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place at 3pm today (Sunday 4 February) at St John the Baptist Church, 37 St Ninian's Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh EH12 8AL. The Mass is organised by the Edinburgh Lourdes Pilgrimage team. Refreshments in hall afterwards. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross - Join people across the Archdiocese each Monday throughout Lent for our annual Stations of the Cross. It takes place on Zoom at 7:45pm, beginning on 19 February, and lasts around 30 minutes. We will be praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/lentstations

Free places at SPUC Youth conference! - SPUC's Youth Conference is a weekend which brings together 200 like-minded young pro-lifers to learn effective strategies and fuel your passion for defending the most vulnerable among us – unborn children and their mothers. The Conference runs 23-25 February at Yarnfield Park Training Centre in Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NL. The Archdiocese has five fully funded places available, including travel. To apply: <https://bit.ly/youthconference24> or contact the Pro-Life Office: prolife@staned.org.uk

World Day of the Sick – 11 February - The World Day of the Sick was introduced by Pope St John Paul II to help us remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their caregivers. He chose this day because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes being a place of pilgrimage renowned for healing. Please pray for the sick of our parish and the family members, friends and professionals who help them.

Lent Retreat in Daily Life: Pathways Through the Desert - The Edinburgh Jesuit Centre is offering a retreat in daily life for Lent, 'Pathways through the desert', in partnership with St Paul and St George Episcopal Church, York Place. It begins on Sunday 18 February and runs for five weeks, finishing on Sunday 24 March. Participants are asked to set aside some time each day for prayer (usually 20 to 30 minutes) and to meet once a week with their individual prayer guide. For more information please email ejcretreats@jesuit.org.uk

Retreat for young adults - The ARISE retreat on Saturday 24 February is for 16-35 year-olds across Scotland to gather for a day of faith, fun and friendship at St Albert's Chaplaincy, George Square, Edinburgh. The day includes Mass, Adoration, talks, small group discussion, opportunities for Confession and more. Tickets £15 which includes lunch & dinner. Register at <https://www.youth2000.org/events/Edinburgh>

Remembering Service - A service for those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support, to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise their loss and help with healing. Sunday 3 March, 5:00pm at St John the Baptist RC Church, Edinburgh. Ecumenical and open to all.

Events in the Archdiocese - For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese visit <https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>