



## Holy Cross Parish

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Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Hand

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Parish Website: [hcrossmm.org.uk](http://hcrossmm.org.uk)



Holy Cross is the Parish of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, a Charity registered in Scotland – number SC008540

### 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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: 11<sup>th</sup> February Sunday Mass 11.30am**

**18<sup>th</sup> 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,

This week we start Lent by taking part in the Mass and receiving Ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent is sometimes seen as a time to be got through, but it is a time to be valued and welcomed. In Lent we are invited to be open to the Spirit prompting us to develop in our Christian life, to be aware and sorry for our sinfulness, and to welcome the opportunity for renewing our faith and understanding of the Sacraments.

It is a particular time to see more clearly the suffering of our world and to be prepared to work for a better world. The Church in Scotland calls us to support particularly its own Development and Aid Agency – SCIAF. Check its website for ideas on how pray and live Lent.

Sincerely

Fr. Hand

### Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**We celebrate Ash Wednesday this Wednesday.**

**Masses and the distribution of Ashes will take place at:**

- **10.00am Holy Cross**
- **7.00pm St. Margaret Mary's**

This day is a day of fasting and abstinence when do penance to join Jesus on his Cross. We eat less and do not eat meat.

**Hymn Singalong For All Parishioners from Holy Cross and St. Margaret Mary's  
on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am-12.00 noon**

Come along to St. Margaret Mary's church on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 11.00am-12.00 noon** to sing and practise some of the hymns we use the parish. The musicians will be sharing material and leading those present in singing these hymns. This is an opportunity help develop the singing in the parish. This is also an opportunity to make any helpful suggestions you may have.

**We pray for Oliver Fullerton** who was baptised in St. Margaret Mary's on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February.  
**We pray for Zahra-Green Olufodun** who will be baptised in St. Margaret Mary's on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**World Day of the Sick – 11 February:** Today (Sunday 11 Feb) is World Day of the Sick. It 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.

**Fabric Meeting:** The fabric committee meeting takes place on Tuesday 7.00pm

**Scouts fundraising** - on February 10-11 Scouts will sell Faworki (traditional Polish cookies) during Polish and Scottish masses in 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.

### Message for Lent from Archbishop Leo

My dear friends, Ash Wednesday is this week and marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of fasting and abstinence as we head into six weeks of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday. I want to offer three things we can do in Lent.

**1. Receive your Ashes.** Make every effort to get your ashes on Ash Wednesday and embrace this day of prayer and fasting. The ashes signify repentance and death. When the priest places the ashes on your forehead, he says: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Or he will say: "Repent and believe the Gospel". So, it is a chance to come before God in humility and to say sorry for our sins.

**2. Take time out for private prayer.** Pope Francis has suspended his busy schedule for the first week of Lent to dedicate himself to private, prayerful spiritual exercises. He is putting prayer first, and we can follow that example. Whether that means getting up a little earlier to spend time with God, or switching off the TV or radio, let us prioritise prayer each day in Lent.

**3. Make sacrifices.** Often, we resolve to 'give up' something in Lent, such as chocolate, alcohol, caffeine. Done in the right spirit, with an intention to get closer to God, this is a good thing. Let us also make small sacrifices for others, to help them, especially when it may be inconvenient to ourselves. That way we can imitate Jesus who sacrificed his life for us all. Please also read the Holy Father's message for Lent 2024 at <https://bit.ly/popelent24>. God bless you!

**SPUC White Flower Appeal:** Thanks to our generosity we were able to collect **£475.72** for this appeal. Thank you.

### Preface of Sunday II EP of Reconciliation I

**Readings:** First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46; Psalm 31: "*You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.*" Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Gospel: **Mark 1:40-45**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	5.30pm HX	Sister Margaret Mary Pickering
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Polish Mass 9.00am MM 9.30am HX 11.30am MM	Angus Buchanan
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am HX	
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am MM	
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> February <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>10.00am HX</b> <b>7.00pm MM</b>	
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am MM	
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am HX	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	5.30pm HX	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Polish Mass 9.00am MM 9.30am HX 11.30am MM	

## From Archbishop

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**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>

**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](https://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](mailto:prolife@staned.org.uk)

**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](mailto: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/>