Holy Cross Parish

Postal Address - 11 Bangholm Loan, Edinburgh EH5 3AH

Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Hand

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Parish Website: hcrossmm.org.uk

Holy Cross is the Parish of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh; a Charity registered in Scotland – number SCO08540

15th November – 33rd Sunday - year A

Mass Times: 5:30pm HX (vigil); 9.00am MM (in Polish); 9.30am HX; 11.30am MM; (see end of newsletter for details).
Please check the newsletters for the coming weeks for details of weekday Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,
We warmly welcome Fr John Peter from the Cathedral to our parish this weekend. We are delighted to have him with us.
We're glad that Fr Hand's exercises are helping him recover—and he's even enjoying his wee walks! Please keep him in your prayers as he regains his strength.

World Day of the Poor – Sunday 15 November
This weekend our parish will hold a special collection to mark World Day of the Poor. This year's collection will support the Care Van, run by Bethany Christian Trust and Edinburgh City Mission, which provides food, hot drinks and practical support to people experiencing homelessness and hardship in Edinburgh city centre. You can also donate online at bit.ly/dayforpoor.

Catholic Education Week - special collection
The annual special collection for Catholic Education week is on Sunday 22 November. More details to follow.

Sacramental Preparation: The Wednesday evening 6.00pm classes started on 28th October. The Wednesday Confirmation class will start around the middle of January.

Soup & Sandwiches
Thanks to everyone who supported the Soup & Sandwiches event last Saturday, 7th Nov. It was a great success and fantastically well supported. We raised a total of **£604.90**.

Friends of Jesus Club: Missionaries of Charity invite the children to join the **Friends of Jesus Club**. We meet every Saturday at 3.30pm for activities and games in the St Margaret Mary's church hall. All are welcome.

Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima – Would any family like to receive a visit of a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima in your home?
Contact Missionaries of Charity personally or call - 07710208767

Deepening our appreciation of the Eucharist – Over 4 Sunday afternoons on the autumn you are invited to come to St Peter's, 77 Falcon Avenue, EH10 4AN for a series on deepening our appreciation of the Eucharist. Pamphlet on notice board.

Seniors Christmas Lunch – Saturday 5 December 2026
Invitations are being distributed for the Mass/Communion Service and Lunch and, of course, not everyone is on our list. Please contact Christine Watters on 07961 683809 to be added to the list if you are one of our seniors and would like to join us (there will also be a form at the back of both parish churches to add your name and contact details). Mass/Communion Service is at 12 noon in Holy Cross followed by the Christmas lunch in the hall.
To make the day a success, we need help from lots of people for:

- driving those who need help to get to and from the church,
- for welcoming everyone, serving the meal and washing the dishes (we have a dishwasher!)
- for setting up and clearing up the hall afterwards. There is a form at the back of both parish churches.

Please take time to offer your help for anything you can do by putting your details on the form.

SVDP - Children's Christmas Presents Appeal 2026
To help bring the joy of Christmas to the children of those families who are finding things difficult, particularly at this time of year, Holy Cross St Vincent De Paul (SVDP) would like to ask parishioners to donate to the annual Children's Christmas presents appeal.
The presents should be for children up to 14 years old. No need to wrap them.
There will be a box at the back of the church at the Masses of the weekend 5th/6th December.
Any donations will be gratefully received and very much appreciated.
On behalf of the SVDP we would like to thank you for your continued support.
Yours in Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Census: We have started the work on the census. We ask your co-operation with the efforts of the organising group. We are trying to develop our ways of communication; that obviously involves having good information. Please take a census form and return it.

We pray for Maureen Gaffney, who has died. Her funeral Mass will take place in Holy Cross on Thursday 19th November at 11.30am.
We pray for Margo Croan, who has died. Her funeral Mass took place in Holy Cross on Thursday 29th at 11.30.

A SCIAF Remembrance Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm on Saturday 14 November at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh. The Mass will provide an opportunity to remember and give thanks for all SCIAF supporters who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith. Everyone is warmly welcome. Teas and coffees will be served after Mass.

St Andrew's Hospice: In September 2027 Paul Greig (a parishioner of HX/MM) will be attempting to climb up Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, to raise money for St Andrew's Hospice. Hospices play a crucial part in our health system and give people dignity and compassion at the end of their lives. If you are able, Paul would be really grateful for any sponsorship you are able to give him for this important cause at the link below. www.justgiving.com/page/paul-greig-3

Red Wednesday - Aid to the Church in Need:
On Red Wednesday, 18th November, our Scottish cathedrals will join Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in celebrating Mass to remember Christians across the world who suffer just for believing in Jesus. 80% of all religious persecution in the world is directed against Christians, and our brothers and sisters in Christ desperately need our prayers and support. Will you help us 'break the silence on Christian persecution'?
Come along to Mass this Wednesday November 18th at St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh at 7pm
For more details, contact scotland@acnuk.org or call the office at 01698 337 470.

Unwrap Advent with Radio Maria UK
This Advent, prepare for Christmas with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. From Monday 23 to Friday 27 November, call Radio Maria UK on +44 (0)333 444 1211 to have your personal Gift drawn live on air, or register online and we will email it to you with a Bible quote to pray with. Register before Advent begins on Sunday 29 November to enjoy the whole journey, with special programmes and weekly emails with programme times and podcasts. Sign up at **www.RadioMaria.uk**. Questions? Call 0300 302 1251.

Volunteer to Support Children with Special Needs in Edinburgh: Three new adult volunteers are needed for the newly forming Children SPRED (Special Religious Development) group meeting at George Square in Edinburgh on Fridays from 3pm-4pm. The spiritual programme for children with special needs fosters communion with Jesus Christ within the Catholic community of faith. Please contact Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM (srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk) if you are interested in learning about becoming a SPRED volunteer catechist for this new Edinburgh children's group.

Eucharistic Prayer Preface Sunday.- Parish Mass book page 155;
Readings: First Reading Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Psalm 128: **"Blessed are all who fear the Lord"** Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Gospel: **Matthew 25:14-30.**

Saturday	**14th November**	**5.30pm HX**	
Sunday	**15th November**	**Polish Mass 9.00am MM** **9.30am HX** **11.30am MM**	
Monday	16th November	10.00am HX	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Tuesday	17th November	10.00am MM	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Wednesday	18th November	10.00am HX	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Thursday	19th November	10.00am MM **11.30am HX**	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service **Funeral Maureen Gaffney**
Saturday	21st November	10.00am HX	No service
Saturday	**21st November**	**5.30pm HX**	Fr John McGrorry
Sunday	**22nd November**	**Polish Mass 9.00am MM** **9.30am HX** **11.30am MM**	

Special Collections: National, Diocesan and Parish January -December 2026
Note 'Sunday' includes 5.30pm Mass on Saturday

Sunday	
22/11/2026	Catholic Education
06/12/2026	Roof fund
27/12/2026	Crib

From Archbishop:

Diploma in Catechetics 2027 – Registration Now Open
Registration is now open for the Archdiocese's Diploma in Catechetics 2027, beginning Thursday 28 January. The course offers 36 weekly Zoom sessions exploring the Catholic faith, with expert speakers, guided readings and one-to-one support. The cost is £220 (bursaries available), with places limited to 100. Please encourage parishioners to consider enrolling and share the attached poster and the following registration link in parish newsletters: bit.ly/2027catechetics. For enquiries, email diploma@staned.org.uk.

Draft Conversion Practices Bill – Call for Evidence
The Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office has published a guide to help you respond to the UK Parliament's call for evidence on the Draft Conversion Practices Bill. Although the proposed legislation currently applies only to England and Wales, it could influence future legislation in Scotland. The guide highlights potential implications for parental rights and offers practical advice on submitting evidence. Deadline: 5pm, Monday 16 November 2026. The guide is available online at bit.ly/conversionbill and you can make your submission at bit.ly/uksubmission

Tech volunteer required
Are you comfortable livestreaming, recording, and uploading videos to YouTube? Do you have experience with simple video editing? The Catechetics Commission of the Archdiocese wants you to assist with posting content online for occasional Saturday events. Email srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk to learn more about this role.

Forming a Generation: an evening on sharing the Catholic faith with children and teens
On Wednesday 11 November St Mary's Catholic Cathedral is hosting Greg Finn from Mark 10 Mission, Georgia Ferrer from Alpha, and others to reflect on what children and teens need at each

stage of their faith journey. The night will include two talks, prayer, and adoration. Registration appreciated but you can also just come along. Doors 6:15pm, talks begin 6:45pm, event ends 8:30pm. Info and registration: https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/forming-a-generation (Note: this event was previously advertised as 'Little Liturgies')

A Golden Age Resounding: Schola Cantorum brings to life the music of Arthur Oldham
On Friday 20 November at 7:30pm the Schola Cantorum of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, will perform a special concert featuring the music of Arthur Oldham, the Cathedral's internationally renowned choirmaster from 1956-71. The concert is the culmination of a special project to bring to life Oldham's music from the Cathedral archives. Tickets are £12 (£10 under 18s) and are available from Eventbrite or on the door. Search 'A Golden Age Resounding' on Eventbrite.

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Retreat Day
Are you a young woman thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Come to *Explore,* a retreat day to reflect upon and explore God's will for you. It takes place from 10:00am-7:00pm on Saturday 14 November, at 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN. Includes Mass, reflections, prayer, a holy hour, and a chance to socialise over pizza. To register, email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

Red Wednesday Mass – St Mary's Cathedral
Archbishop Leo Cushley will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 18 November at 7:00pm to mark Red Wednesday, an annual initiative organised by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). The Mass will be an opportunity to pray for Christians around the world who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith, and to show solidarity with those who suffer for their beliefs.

Young Adults Mass
The Archdiocesan annual Mass for young adults takes place on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 22 November, at 7:00pm in Sacred Heart Church, 28 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ. Celebrant: Archbishop Cushley. Social afterwards.

Spanish Jesuit Scholasticism and Scottish Thought
A free event exploring the influence of Spanish Jesuit scholarship on Scottish thought takes place on Friday 6 November at 4:00pm at the Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh. The event will feature academic speakers discussing the influence of Jesuit thought on politics, law and rights. All welcome. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Go to bit.ly/jesuitscotland