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

22nd November – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the universe 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,
I am recovering well from my knee replacement. The hospital advice is that after 6-8 weeks most people are ready for return to work, preferably on a phased basis.
I intend to return to the parish on 27th/28th November for the weekend, still being helped by Fr. John Peter. I will say Mass on Monday morning 30th November at 10.00am to celebrate St. Andrew's Day. I will then be at the Redemptorist Monastery at Kinnoull for a brief retreat. There will be no Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of that week. Liturgies of the Word and Communion will continue, and there will be Mass on Saturday 5th December at 12.00 noon before the Christmas dinner; there will be no 10.00 am Mass.
Advent services will be on Wednesday 9th, 16th and 23rd December at 7.00pm; further details will be given next week. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Catholic Education Week – Special Collection
This year's Catholic Education Week theme is *To Know God, Love God and Serve God*. The special collection supports the promotion and development of Catholic education across Scotland. Your generosity helps the Church continue its mission of educating young people in the Catholic faith. Thank you for your support. You can donate online at bit.ly/scottishcatholiceducation.Find out the latest news at bit.ly/scesnewsletter.

World Day of the Poor – We collected **£687.94** for that purpose. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Christmas Raffles - Christmas Raffles time again. We have 3 Christmas Raffles; Hamper & Bottles, tickets £1 per strip. Case of Red Wine and a Case of White Wine, there are only 100 tickets for each of the Red and White Wine Raffles, £5 per ticket. Tickets on sale after all weekend masses. We are looking for donations for the Hamper & Bottles raffle please, sheets at the back of the churches.

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

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 took 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.

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

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 Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Psalm 23: **"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want"** Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Gospel: **Matthew 25:31-46.**

Saturday	**21st November**	**5.30pm HX**	Fr John McGrorry
Sunday	**22nd November**	**Polish Mass 9.00am MM** **9.30am HX** **11.30am MM**	
Monday	23rd November	10.00am HX	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Tuesday	24th November	10.00am MM	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Wednesday	25th November	10.00am HX	Mass
Thursday	26th November	10.00am MM	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
Saturday	28th November	10.00am HX	No service
Saturday	**28th November**	**5.30pm HX**	
Sunday	**29th 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:

Young Adults' Mass
The Archdiocesan annual Mass for young adults takes place this Sunday (22 November) at 7:00pm in Sacred Heart Church, 28 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ. Celebrant: Archbishop Cushley. Social afterwards.

Job Vacancy: Support and Property Administrator
The Archdiocese is recruiting a full-time Support and Property Administrator, based in Edinburgh. Salary circa £26,000. Closing date: Tuesday 24 November. For details and to apply, visit bit.ly/archjob26.

Formation Morning for RCIA leaders
RCIA leaders and those who assist them are invited to the yearly formation morning hosted by the Catechetics Commission at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on Saturday 12 December 2026. The day will include opportunity for Confession, Mass, and inputs on the divinity and humanity of Jesus from Fr Andrew Garden. Register at bit.ly/rciaevent

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. Register at bit.ly/2027catechetics. For enquiries, email diploma@staned.org.uk.

Catholic Conversations with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan
Women of all ages are warmly invited to *Catholic Conversations* 3:45pm-4:45pm in St Andrew's Parish rooms at 77 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS, on Saturday 28 November. The discussion topic will be prayer for the souls in purgatory. There will be refreshments, a short input, and opportunity for discussion. Participants are also invited to 5:10pm Holy Hour with Adoration, Rosary, and Vespers afterwards. To register email edinburgh@almamercy.org or call 0131 343 3380.

New Podcast
Canon Hugh White, a retired priest of the Archdiocese with 60 years' experience as a priest, has launched a new podcast in which he shares his thoughts and reflections on faith and life. Listen at linktr.ee/CanonHughWhite.

Advent Rosary for Life
Pray the Rosary every Monday evening at 7:45pm throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Following the Rosary, a guest speaker will give a brief reflection. Duration: 30 mins. Begins Monday 30 November. Register at bit.ly/adventrosary26

Archdiocesan events
More events are listed at archedinburgh.org/events