

24 December 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent,
Year B

Holy Mass
9.00am, 11.00am & 4.30pm

Readings begin **page 90**

1st Reading:

2 Samuel 7: 1 - 5, 8 - 12, 14 - 16

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 88: 2 - 5, 27, 29

I will sing for ever of your love,
O Lord.

2nd Reading:

Romans 16: 25 - 27

Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 1: 38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 1: 26 - 38

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Church open 8.00am - 7.00pm daily,
Monday - Saturday

Monday 25 December

Holy Mass 9.00am
11.00am

Benediction with carols
4.00pm

Tuesday 26 December

St Stephen

Holy Mass 12.30pm
with prayers to Venerable Margaret
Sinclair for her cause

Wednesday 27 December

St John

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm
Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm
Holy Mass 12.30 pm

Thursday 28 December

The Holy Innocents

Holy Mass 12.30 pm

Friday 29 December

Holy Mass 12.30pm

Saturday 30 December

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm
Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm
Holy Mass 12.30pm

Sunday 31 December

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Holy Mass
9.00am, 11.00am & 4.30pm

We pray for the repose of the soul of
Maria Civita Gallo whose Requiem
Mass was celebrated at 9.30am on
Friday 22 December. May she rest in
peace and rise in glory. May all who
mourn her passing experience the
consolation of the Lord

Copies of **Catholic Directory 2024**
for the Archdiocese of St Andrews
and Edinburgh priced £3 are now
available at the shop.

St Patrick's RC Church Edinburgh
National Shrine of Venerable Margaret Sinclair

Served by

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Fr Ninian Doohan, Assistant Priest

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Dear Friends,

Home Alone is one of my favourite Christmas movies. The film is set in suburban Chicago, a city with strong Catholic roots, and many beautiful churches, and incidentally the young protagonist, Kevin, and his family, have an Irish surname McCallister. The film starts with a strong sense of familial bond as Kevin's family and its extended members are preparing to visit Kevin's uncle and his family in Paris.

In the film we glimpse into a terrifying circumstance of forgetting a child. Then we really begin to know Kevin, he will celebrate Christmas no matter what happens, we see his ingenuity of safeguarding the home from robbers, and, in the end, the wicked men get their comeuppance, Kevin's mother gets home from a long-haul trip to hug her forgotten son. The film reiterates that restoration happens because of Christmas Day, or as the song goes "Man will live for evermore because of Christmas day."

Faith is constantly present throughout the film. Towards the end of the movie Kevin is in the church on Christmas Eve, the choir sing "Long lay the world in sin and error, pining Till He appeared and the soul felt it's worth"

The scary old neighbour Marley is in the pew across the aisle. Kevin is terrified for a moment, but before he could run away, the man has slipped in next to him and started a conversation. "This is the place to be if you feel bad about yourself," the old man Marley says, piercing the heart. Kevin turns the question back to the old man. Then we hear Marley's saga of estrangement, of proud men with tempers, a father who cannot apologize to his son, a grandfather who sneaks into a church to catch a glimpse of the sweet voice of his granddaughter.



Kevin keeps on asking questions, until we finally realize that the old man is neither scary nor proud, but ultimately afraid. Afraid of rejection, afraid of vulnerability, afraid that the seeds of love that had grown in his heart could be killed once again.

The church is the place for people like the Old Man Marley who are lonely and scared, who feel very bad about themselves. But not everyone can recognize this. Those wicked men, lovers of material goods and violence, feel so very bad about themselves and believe that God sees them damned. Doomed to roam the streets and never to enter the glowing sanctuary of the church, they are the essence of those souls who have not felt their worth. But the Old Man somehow has an insight into how Christ comes for the sick and the sad, which was why in the end he is redeemed.

In the final scene of the movie, Kevin looks out of his window to see the Old Man hugging his granddaughter, and peace settling down like the snowflakes on them all. Kevin smiles, and the film ends - leaving one wondering if Marley is the protagonist here, the real individual who was acutely "home alone," but in the end found his family.

Come Home this Christmas, and bring others with you.

Wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Fr Gerard and Fr Ninian

Finance:**Sunday 17 December collection**

GA £ 198.00
 NGA £ 406.72
 Special collection
 Christmas Flowers
 £ 20.00



Donate online by scanning the QR code.
 Thank you for your support.

Making a donation:

You may wish to consider taking out a standing order for your weekly / monthly contribution, in this case, the parish account details are:

St Patricks Church
 Bank of Scotland
 Sort code: 80-02-29
 Account No: 00687306

During Advent **Confessions** will be available half an hour before each Holy Mass as well as during and after Holy Mass whenever there is a priest available.

Pray for **Gele** Bishokarma, from Nepal and a member of our parish, who is to be / was **baptised** on Christmas Eve and has **entered full communion** with the Catholic Church.

Please pray for the **people of Bethlehem** and the Holy Land .

The **Requiem Mass** of Catherine Finnigan will take place at 12.30pm on Friday 5 **January** 2024. We pray for the repose of her soul and for the consolation of all who mourn her passing. May Catherine rest in peace and rise in glory.

The **Advent Pro-Life Rosary** continues on Monday 18 December) at 7:45pm. Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Explore the richness & depth of our Catholic faith with the **Diploma in Catechetics** from the Archdiocese, led by Sr Miriam Ruth Ryan RSM. Tune in each Thursday at 7:30pm for an expert-led Zoom Webinar. Includes guided readings, one-to-one support & a retreat. Course begins Thursday 25 January 2024. Visit bit.ly/archdiploma2024. Questions? srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk

Archbishop Cushley is encouraging us to consider making a donation to **Friends of the Holy Land** in Advent. He said: "It is a non-political Christian charity & the donations will be used to provide aid & support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time." A Diocesan donation page has been set up at bit.ly/archhollyland More information at www.friendsofthehollyland.org.uk/about-us

Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and **explore God's will** in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, the first one takes place on Sunday 28 January, 4-7pm at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues each month at the same time/venue: 25 Feb, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 12 May and 22 June. To register or find out more, please email religiousvocations@staned.org.uk Please save the date - details to be confirmed soon.

Mass Intentions

24 December	9.00am	People of the Parish	
24 December	11.00am	The Oratory Project	
24 December	7.00pm	Karl Adnan Bhatti	RIP
24 December	11.45pm	Sick & Housebound	
25 December	9.00am	Jean Curran	Recent death
25 December	11.00am	Anonymous	Special Intention
26 December	12.30pm	Sick & Housebound	
27 December	12.30pm	Davidson Family	
28 December	12.30pm	Sick & Housebound	
29 December	12.30pm	Sick & Housebound	
30 December	12.30am	Anonymous	Special Intention

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