

**31 December 2023**

**Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph.**

**Year B**

Holy Mass

9.00am, 11.00am & 4.30pm

Readings begin **page 106**

**1st Reading:**

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2 – 6, 12 - 14

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 127: 1 – 5

O blessed are those who fear the  
Lord and walk in his ways!

**2nd Reading:**

Colossians 3: 12 - 21

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Colossians 3: 15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your  
hearts;

let the message of Christ find a home  
with you

Alleluia!

**Gospel:**

Luke 2: 22 - 40

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

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

**Monday 1 January**

*Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

Holy Mass 5.45pm

with Devotions to St Philip Neri

**Tuesday 2 January**

*St Basil & St Gregory Mazianzen*

Holy Mass 12.30pm

with prayers to Venerable Margaret  
Sinclair for her cause

**Wednesday 3 January**

*Most Holy Name of Jesus*

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm

Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm

Holy Mass 12.30 pm with  
prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Thursday 4 January**

Holy Mass 12.30 pm

**Friday 5 January**

**Requiem Mass** of Catherine Finnigan  
12.30pm

May Catherine rest in peace and rise  
in glory. We pray for all who mourn  
her passing that they may experience  
the consolation of the Lord

**Saturday 6 January**

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm

Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm

Holy Mass 12.30pm

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**

Fr Gerard Hatton, Administrator

Fr Ninian Doohan, Assistant Priest

**Contact:** 0131 556 1973

stpatriksparish@outlook.com



Dear Friends,

Nativity scenes and stars for Catholics are interwoven with Christmas decorations. And of course it all originated with a Saint. This year we celebrate 800 years of Saint Francis of Assisi who had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he created the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223. St. Francis was inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave. It is likely this event which deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus, who was born into the world in such poverty, humility, and simplicity. In fact, St Francis founded his new religious Order to imitate these very virtues.

He told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something that will recall the memory of that Child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. St Francis who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent at that time in Italy. Not much has changed!



St Bonaventure who was there that night said St. Francis "stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem."

The Nativity is much more than just as a pretty Christmas decoration. The nativity scene is a powerful Catholic tradition. It is a visual aid for meditation on the humility, simplicity, and poverty of Christ which He embraced from the moment of his Incarnation out of His unfathomable love for us.

A blessed New Year

Fr Gerard

**Finance:**

Details for 24, 25 & 31 December collections will be available in our newsletter of either 7 or 14 January



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

**Confessions** will be available before, as well as during and after Holy Mass whenever there is a priest available.

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.

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](http://bit.ly/archdiploma2024). Questions? [srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk](mailto:srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk)

The **Archdiocesan Music Day** is on **Saturday 27 January 2024** at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. It is for those who contribute to the liturgy in their parish through music and/or singing, as well as for anyone interested in finding out more about sacred music. Please save the date - details to be confirmed soon.

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](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk) Please save the date - details to be confirmed soon.

On **9 October 2024**, the church which is now St Patrick's will celebrate its **250th Anniversary** as a Christian Church. We are planning an event that will bring together the Christian communities who have worshipped here during this time. As part of this planning we would like to hear from parishioners & others who may have specific memories of St Patrick's - stories, anecdotes, photographs etc. If you would like to contribute please speak to Uriel or email her at [u.jamieson@btinternet.com](mailto:u.jamieson@btinternet.com)

**Mass Intentions**

|             |         |                      |  |
|-------------|---------|----------------------|--|
| 31 December | 9.00am  | Ann Gallagher        | RIP  |
| 31 December | 11.00am | People of the Parish |  |
| 31 December | 4.30pm  | Brian Gibson         | Recent death                               |
| 1 January   | 5.45pm  | Sarah Anne Boyle     |  |
| 2 January   | 12.30pm | Sick & Housebound    |  |
| 3 January   | 12.30pm | Michael Brennan      | Anniversary, 31 December                   |
| 4 January   | 12.30pm | Hazel Martin         | RIP  |
| 5 January   | 12.30pm | Martin Kane          | Repose of the soul<br>Birthday Remembrance |
| 6 January   | 12.30pm | Anonymous            | Private Intention                          |

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