



St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

*Home of the Edinburgh Oratory Project
and the Shrine of the Ven. Margaret Sinclair*



Served by Father Gerard Hatton (Parish Administrator) and Father Ninian Doohan (Assistant Priest)

16th MARCH 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MASS TIMES Sunday: 9am | 11am | 4.30pm with Vespers & Benediction at approx. 5.30pm
Monday: 5.45pm
Tuesday - Saturday: 12.30pm

ADORATION Friday & Saturday: 11.30am, ending with Benediction at before Mass

CONFESSION Before every Mass, everyday
Friday & Saturday: 11.40am-12.10pm
(and during or after every Mass, and on request, when a priest is available)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Patronal Feast, St Patrick, is on **Monday 17th March** with two Masses: 10am Low Mass 5:45pm Sung Mass.

New Catholic mothers' group for mothers with babies and young children. Our first meeting is on Wednesday 26th March. We **meet weekly in the Memorial Room after the Wednesday 12.30pm mass** at St Patrick's Church for social and spiritual time over tea, coffee and snacks, with space for babies and young children to play. (Parents remain responsible for their own children at all times.) Regular spiritual support is provided by the Fathers at St Patrick's, and we aim to develop a programme of further activities such as talks on topics relevant to family life. Our central purpose is to support mothers working to raise faithful Catholic families. New members are welcome: please contact frc.oneill@gmail.com for further information or if you would like to join the group.

Would you like to **light a sanctuary lamp for a particular intention?** They burn for one week but not from Holy Thursday evening through to Holy Saturday night. The lamps can be sponsored with the proceeds going towards the costs of the Sacristy. The minimum recommended donation is £8/week. Email us or leave an envelope with your intention and preference of lamp: The Blessed Sacrament, the Lady Chapel, The Sacred Heart Chapel, St Patrick, St Joseph.

ORDO

17th Mar St Patrick

17th Mar St Joseph

There will be a triduo of devotional prayers to St Joseph after the Masses on 17th - 19th March.

DEVOTIONS AFTER MASS

Monday: St Philip Neri

Tuesday: The Cause of Venerable Margaret Sinclair

Wednesday: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

LENTEN DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

FRIDAY: Litany of the Passion after 12:30pm Mass

5:45pm Stations of the Cross with a sermon and Benediction with a relic of the True Cross

SATURDAY: 7pm - 9pm Adoration and Benediction with confessions available

SUNDAY: 10:20am Stations of the Cross with meditations from the Maxims of St Philip Neri

Dear Friends,

Moving here to the Cowgate has helped me to find the true Saint Patrick. I have some connections to Patrick - my grandfather was born on his feast day and named after him, my parish church when growing up in the South of England existed because of Irish priests and lay faithful. But my devotion to Saint Patrick was minimal and knowledge of him even more limited. I knew he was born in the British Isles, but that's it.

He was Born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, in Scotland, around the year 387. He was kidnapped at the age of 16 and forced to work as a shepherd. During his six years as a slave, he spent much time in prayer, bringing good out of an evil situation. He also learned the language of Ireland, and became familiar with the religion of the druids through his enslaver, who was a druid. When a vision led him to successfully escape, St Patrick made his way back to home and then on to France. He was ordained a priest, and later, a bishop by St Maximus of Turin, and was sent back to Ireland to bring Christianity there.

St Patrick himself tells us that he was not an educated person, but, "a sinner without learning". Like the fishermen of Galilee, Our Lord did not choose him for his great learning. But having learnt the language of the people, he had an obvious advantage over those who might have been otherwise more learned. He heard, in a dream, the Irish calling him to come back. But at the end of his confessions he tells us: "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation from which I had earlier escaped, except the gospel and God's promises."

Sadly, today Ireland and our country are in great need of missionaries to walk in the footsteps of St Patrick and undertake the work of its re-evangelisation. It seems as if the tide of secularisation and DIY spirituality, which have swept through the modern world, are worse than paganism. And how quickly too this has happened.

St. Patrick's example encourages us to be open to God's calling in our own lives, even when it leads us into unfamiliar or daunting territory. He is a saint that can inspire us all, especially as he is our parish patron. You don't need to be Irish, he is a beacon of humility, compassion, and forgiveness in the face of opposition. St Patrick reminds us that Christ and His Church are better than any "self help book".

God worries about our poverty of heart this Lent, since He wants our hearts above all and saves us by The Cross of His Son. St Patrick let God lead the way, which is the most radical way of adoring the Lord in our life. His life reminds us of the transformative power of perseverance, love, and forgiveness, challenging us to embody these virtues in our own lives.

For St Patrick "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of realities that are unseen" (Heb 11:1). For us today, the challenge is similar: to bring the gospel, the good news, that is, Jesus Christ, to a parish, to a culture, to a people that may not know him or, knowing him, find it difficult to live their lives in His light. That takes courage and conviction and, with a patron like Saint Patrick to inspire us, throw us deep into the mysteries of Christ.

On the 17th have a wee dram or what you like in honour of our beloved patron.

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr Gerard

MAXIMS OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

16th March

If young men wish to protect themselves from all danger of impurity, let them never retire to their own rooms immediately after dinner, either to read or write, or do anything else; but let them remain in conversation, because at that time the devil is wont to assault us with more than usual vehemence, and this is that demon which is called in Scripture the noonday demon, and from which holy David prayed to be delivered

17th March

If young men would preserve their purity, let them avoid bad company.

21st March

When fathers have given their sons a good education, and put everything clearly and distinctly in train for them, the sons who succeed them, and continue to follow the road marked out for them, will have the advantage of seeing their family persevere in holy ways, and in the fear of God.

22nd March

In order to preserve their purity, young men should frequent the Sacraments, and especially confession. young men would preserve their purity, let them avoid bad company.



Wisdom from St John Henry Newman:

It is only as we labour to change our nature, through God's help, and to serve Him truly, that we begin to discern the beauty of holiness. Then, at length, we find reason to suspect our own judgments of what is truly good, and perceive our own blindness; for by degrees we find that those whose opinions and conduct we hitherto despised or wondered at as extravagant or unaccountable or weak, really know more than ourselves, and are above us—and so, ever as we rise in knowledge and grow in spiritual illumination, they (to our amazement) rise also, while we look at them. The better we are, the more we understand their excellence; till at length we are taught something of their Divine Master's perfections also, which before were hid from us.

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew and rebuild your life after experiencing the trauma of abortion. Healing weekends offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgemental environment to help deal with painful emotions. Participants can experience forgiveness, find peace and restore their life. The next Scottish retreat is 21st-23rd March in Glasgow. Contact Sr Andrea at sisterandrea@rachelvineyard.org.uk or on 07816942824

Abortion Recovery Care Helpline (ARCH) provides free, confidential, compassionate post-abortion support to anyone in the UK. The helpline is open 365 days a year: 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 7pm-10pm every day, contact number: 0345 603 8501. ARCH also offers counselling and support groups, more info here: <https://www.archtrust.org.uk/arch-post-abortion-support>

FINANCE

	Cash Collection	Contactless Machines
	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Non Gift Aid</i>
9th Mar	£266.00	£371.79
		£335.00

Donate by Bank Transfer

St Patricks Church

Sort Code: 80-02-09

Account Number: 00687306

BIC: BOFSGB21219

IBAN: GB65 BOFS 8002 2900 6873 06

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For all news and events from the Archdiocese, please visit archedinburgh.org/news-events

Palm Sunday Youth Day

Let your children know about this day of games and inspiring talks hosted by the Archdiocese at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB on Saturday 12 April from 11am-3pm. Includes sessions for primary school pupils (8+) and sessions for high school pupils. Register at bit.ly/youthpalm

Lent Stations of the Cross

Join Catholics from across Scotland online each Monday evening in Lent for the national Stations of the Cross. Continues at 7:45pm on Monday 17 March and includes a reflection from Fr Paul Henderson, a priest of our Archdiocese. The event is to pray for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/Stations25

Monthly 'Catholic Conversations' for Women

Women 18-45 are invited to 'Catholic Conversations' on Saturday 22 March, 3:45pm-4:45pm, at St Andrew's, Ravelston, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS hosted by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma. There will be refreshments, a video-input, conversation, and a look at the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The conversation topic will be 'The Mass'. Afterwards, all are also welcome to Holy Hour with Vespers 5:10pm-6:10pm. To register, email edinburgh@almamercy.org.

'Courage to be Catholic' national conference

This conference, hosted by Aid to the Church in Need, takes place on Saturday 29 March at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 9:30am - 4:00pm. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

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