



# St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

*The Edinburgh Oratory in Formation  
and Shrine of the Ven. Margaret Sinclair*



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

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30TH MARCH 2025 | LAETARE SUNDAY

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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 <i>(and during or after every Mass, and on request, when a priest is available)</i>

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## DEVOTIONS AFTER MASS

*Monday:* St Philip Neri

*Tuesday:* The Cause of  
Venerable Margaret Sinclair

*Wednesday:* Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help

## SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

Sylvia's family

Thanksgiving

You can **sponsor a sanctuary lamp** for a special intention. They burn for one week with donations supporting sacristy costs (£8 recommended). Leave an envelope with your intention and lamp preference (Blessed Sacrament, Lady Chapel, Sacred Heart Chapel, St Patrick, or St Joseph) or send us an email.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are seeking some **volunteers to assist with the floral arrangements for Easter**. Experience not necessary, just enthusiasm and a pair of secateurs or scissors. We will meet in the church at 12pm on Holy Saturday. We are also looking for help with the flowers on an ongoing basis, with a commitment of one Saturday a month. Contact Madeleine Gilbey for more details: [madeleinegilbey@hotmail.com](mailto:madeleinegilbey@hotmail.com)

The flowers that will decorate our church at Easter are a sign of our joy in the Resurrection of Christ and our hope in the resurrection of those who have gone before us. We invite you to **remember deceased members of your family and friends** with a donation for Easter Flowers. Please put your names in an envelope and return it with your offering by **Sunday 6th April**. The names of those received will appear in the Easter Newsletter. Many thanks in advance.

**A new Catholic mothers' group** for those with babies and young children meets **weekly after the 12.30pm Wednesday Mass** at St Patrick's Church (Memorial Room). Enjoy social and spiritual time over tea, coffee, and snacks, with space for little ones to play. We aim to support mothers raising faithful Catholic families. New members welcome: contact [frc.oneill@gmail.com](mailto:frc.oneill@gmail.com) for more info.

There are several Masses in April which are yet to have an intention assigned. Please leave an envelope detailing your intention with your stipend in the sacristy.

You can sign up to receive the newsletter by email: <https://stpatricksedinburgh.com/newsletter/>

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## 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,

Welcome to the halfway point of Lent; we've made it thus far; so, to give us some respite, Holy Mother Church gives us Laetare Sunday. We ponder the words of Isaiah 66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast." 'Rejoice' in the Latin is Laetare. It makes sense that at this point we need a tangible expression of hope and joy in the midst of the fasting and penances in order to enter, with true depth, into the Passion and Death of Our Lord. The church and her liturgy fast like we do, with unbleached candles and the lack of flowers and other ornaments, it helps us to focus on the essentials. This Sunday, a bit of hope fills the air with the addition of Flowers and Rose Vestments indicating a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter.

While the Priest might be 'pretty in pink,' (and all the old cliches come out at this time), this has little to do with the priest's lack of masculinity. It is a spiritual maturity that recognises that our fasting is properly a preparation for the heavenly banquet, which we already have access to by virtue of the Paschal Mystery.

Laetare Sunday helps us not to lose joy as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The gift of joy is the stamina needed to go deeper into the mystery of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection. It not only helps us to ponder and pray about the current state of our hearts, but helps us to ask him to resolve the issues that prevent us from believing in the power of his resurrection.

We also keep Mothering Sunday, notice it's not 'Mother's Day'. Yes, our hearts, our prayers, our thanks, our love, and even our tears, go out for all our mothers, grandmothers - living and dead. We also pray for women who never had children, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers today, which is not an easy day for them. We also pray for those mothers who we have fallen out with and do not talk to anymore; all those mothers who felt that they were not good mothers. We can trust them all to Our Lord's Mother through the prayers of Holy Mother Church. From mediaeval times people would return to their "mother church" on Laetare Sunday. The "mother church" refers to the parish in which one was baptised, the local parish church, or even the cathedral, which was viewed as the mother church of all parishes in the diocese. They would give thanks for their gift of baptism and to help their Lenten work by going back to the beauty and holiness of the baptismal state. They would normally visit their mothers afterwards.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Fr Gerard





## MAXIMS OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

### 30th March

In order to begin well, and to finish better, it is quite necessary to hear mass every day, unless there be some lawful hindrance in the way.

### 5th April

Never say, "What great things the Saints do," but, "What great things God does in His Saints."

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## From a section of Sermon 8: Peace and Joy amid Chastisement by St John Henry Newman

*"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Job xiii. 15*

We will say, a man is a serious Christian, for of such I am speaking. He is in the habit of prayer; and he tries to serve God, and he has, through God's mercy, the reward of such a religious course of life. He has a consciousness that God has not given him up; he has a good hope of heaven. I am not speaking of the strength of it, but more or less a good hope. He does not indeed {122} often realize the circumstances of the future, he does not dwell upon what is to become of him; but I mean he does not look forward anxiously, feeling, as he does, around him the proofs, in which he cannot be deceived, of God's present love towards him. His being allowed to attend God's ordinances, his being enabled in a measure to do his duty, his perception of Gospel truths, his being able to accept, admire, and love high and holy views of things, all conspire to prove that at present, without going on to speculate or to calculate how he shall fare at Christ's judgment seat, at present he is in a certain true sense in God's favour. The feeling may vary from a mere trembling guess, a mere dawning and doubtful hope, to a calm though subdued confidence; still, something of this kind is the state of mind of all serious men. They are not in a state of immediate alarm, for the day of judgment is future; and for the present they are conscious somehow they are in God's hands as yet, and are thereby supported.

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**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@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.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>

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## FINANCE

	Cash Collection		Contactless Machines	Donate by Bank Transfer <i>St Patricks Church</i>
	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Non Gift Aid</i>		Sort Code: 80-02-29 Account Number: 00687306 BIC: BOFSGB21219 IBAN: GB65 BOFS 8002 2900 6873 06
<b>23rd Mar</b>	£229	£471.20	£431	

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## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### A message from Archbishop Cushley

"This Sunday there is a special collection at all parishes for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). 75 per cent of the collection goes to SCIAF and 25 per cent to the Archdiocesan Care Fund. Last year £38,000 was raised from this collection; £28,500 went to SCIAF and £9,500 went to the Archdiocesan Care Fund. With your kind donations Care Fund grants went to: Bethany Care Trust (Homeless support), Ukraine Project (rehabilitation centre in Ukraine), Across (Pilgrimages for people with severe disabilities) and FAFCE (Promoting Family Life at the UN, EU and Council of Europe). We pray for all those involved in charities which help those in need in the Archdiocese and across the world, including the good work of SCIAF. Thank you for your generosity in almsgiving this Lent."

### Stations of the Cross

This Monday (31 March), 7:45pm. Join Fr Greg Murphy OP, from St Joseph's Dundee, and Catholics from across Scotland praying for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register: [bit.ly/Stations25](https://bit.ly/Stations25)

### 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](https://bit.ly/youthpalm)

### Mass for Married & Engaged Couples

The annual Archdiocesan Mass for Married Couples (and those preparing for marriage) takes place at 7:15pm on Tuesday 27 May at St Mary's Cathedral. Archbishop Cushley will be the principal celebrant and will give a blessing to couples.

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