



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)

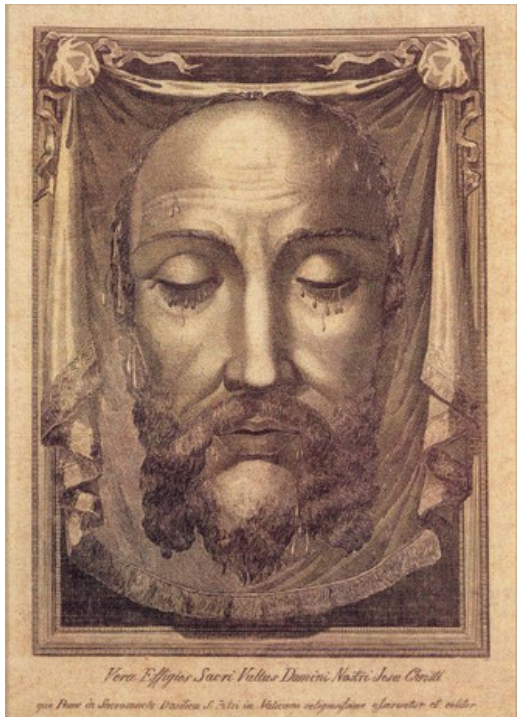
2ND MARCH 2025 | 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 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)
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ORDO

4th Mar The Most Holy Face

5th Mar Ash Wednesday



DEVOTIONS AFTER MASS

Monday: St Philip Neri

Tuesday: The Cause of Venerable Margaret Sinclair

Wednesday: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove Tuesday, 4th of March: 12:30pm Mass in honour of the *Feast of the Holy Face*, followed by veneration of the image. From 5:45pm to 6:45pm, there will be a Holy Hour of Adoration, Confessions and Benediction, after which all are invited to the rectory for **pancakes** until 9pm.

Ash Wednesday, 5th of March. There will be three Holy Masses with the Distribution of Ashes: 6:45am, 12:30pm, and 5:45pm. Please **return last year's palms** to the baskets at the back of the church by Sunday 2nd March. These will be burnt and used for the ashes.

Join us on **Saturday 15th March** for the second **St Patrick's Day Hooley**. Lunch, music, and entertainment are from 2:00pm to 4:30pm at Lauriston Hall (beside Sacred Heart Church). **Tickets: £10**, available at the shop from Sunday 23rd February. *Sign-up sheets close Friday 7th March.* A Novena will be prayed after daily Mass leading up to the feast. On St Patrick's Day itself, 17th March, Masses will be at 10:00am (Low Mass) and 5:45pm (Sung Mass).

The Brothers of the Little Oratory – A weekly gathering of lay men, echoing St Philip Neri's meetings with prayer, hymns, short sermons, and recreation. Meets in the rectory after Monday's 5:45pm Mass.

The Society of Saint Margaret – A group for women seeking holiness through spiritual reading, prayer, and service. Meets Friday evenings. Contact Emma McGowan for details: emmakmcgowan@outlook.com.

Dear Friends,

As we start Lent this Wednesday, let's take advice from St. Basil the Great, written in 379: "People, there is no island, no continent, no city or nation, no distant corner of the globe, where the proclamation of Lenten fast is not listened to. Armies on the march and travellers on the road, sailors as well as merchants, all alike hear the announcement and receive it with joy. Let no man then separate himself from the number of fasters, in which every race of mankind, every period of life, every class of society is included."

The richest sources of what Lent was like come from the Middle Ages, where the severity of lent was seen in all aspects of life. As a child, I remember being taught to give up the things you like. So, since then, every Lent for me has involved giving up Chocolate, my great love. Does this make me worthy of the promise and hope of Easter? No. The people in the Middle Ages knew that abstaining from things helped them enter into the sacred character of Lent; into the spiritual combat of the desert and the desolation of Calvary. This is highlighted by the sober state of the Church: silencing the organ, forbidding flowers to adorn altars, and the prohibition of weddings. Since the sixth century, the Gloria and Alleluia have been omitted from the Mass during this season. In some places, it was customary for churches to put up a Lenten cloth called the *Velum Quadragesimale*; a large curtain adorned with symbols of the passion.

This was mirrored by the seriousness with which the people undertook this period of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. A good description is: a period of mourning, where there was no dances, no fêtes. Kings and nobles wrote mandates prohibiting public amusements like theatres and secular music. Courts of law were suspended. Wars, battles and hunting were discouraged to honour the Lord in His Sacred Passion.

In the lead up to Ash Wednesday there was a period called Shrovetide. We still keep Shrove Tuesday. In this little season, people were encouraged to confess their sins so they could begin Lent having repented, received absolution and done penance. This is the meaning of the word 'shrive' from which 'shrove' is derived. On Shrove Tuesday, the last of the meat, butter, sugar, milk, and eggs were consumed. That's where we get the tradition of pancakes. In some countries this was a time of carnival, an extended party. In Britain this was never the case, it was always a very serious time. Spouses were asked to abstain from intercourse and almsgiving was encouraged. Our Lent looks like a walk in a park in comparison. The strict rules for fasting included children and the fast was broken by one meal a day, at Sunset, after Vespers, mainly consisting of bread, vegetables and fruit. All animal products were avoided because they were seen as symbolic of the carnal pleasures that were to be given up during Lent in order to honour Our Lord who suffered immensely for sins of the flesh. I find it very moving how closely they live their life in connection with the life of the church. The Church's year impacted every aspect of their lives, even their clothing and diet. How sad that we have lost that wondrous part where Holy Mother Church and society are in union and not at odds. This year let us confirm ourselves to be in union with calendar of pious things at St Patrick's in order to help God change our stubborn and sinful ways.

In Jesus and Mary, Fr Gerard



MAXIMS OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

4th March

The sweetness which some experience in prayer, is milk which our Lord gives as a relish to those who are just beginning to serve Him.

5th March

To leave our prayer when we are called to do some act of charity for our neighbour, is not really a quitting of prayer, but leaving Christ for Christ, that is, depriving ourselves of spiritual sweetnesses in order to gain souls.

7th March

The wisdom of the Scriptures is learned rather by prayer than by study.

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Consider the Glorious Titles of St Joseph:

He was the true and worthy **Spouse of Mary**, supplying in a visible manner the place of Mary's Invisible Spouse, the Holy Ghost. He was a virgin, and his virginity was the faithful mirror of the virginity of Mary. He was the Cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from the intrusion of every foe.

His was the title of **father of the Son of God**, because he was the Spouse of Mary, ever Virgin. He was Our Lord's father, because Jesus ever yielded to him the obedience of a son. He was our Lord's father, because to him were entrusted, and by him were faithfully fulfilled, the duties of a father, in protecting Him, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.

He is **Holy Joseph**, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St John the Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate and Mary, the holiest of creatures.



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 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	Donate by Bank Transfer
	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Non Gift Aid</i>	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>
23rd Feb	£260.00	£411.35	£169.00
			Sort Code: 80-02-09
			Account Number: 00687306

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

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

RETURN: A day to help you get back to Confession

If you have not been to confession for a while, want to learn more and go to confession, come to this event. The day includes talks, a how-to session, Q&A, prayer, and a chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It takes place from 10am-4pm on Saturday 8 March at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Register on Eventbrite at bit.ly/return2025

Rise in Faith, Live in Hope

The Archdiocese invites high school pupils to 'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' at St Francis Xavier's Church, 11am-3pm on Saturday 15 March. The event will provide encouragement and inspiration to help our young people grow in their faith amidst the challenges they face. Includes Mass with Archbishop Cushley. Register at bit.ly/archyouth or for large groups please email youth.office@staned.org.uk

'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. Hear from inspiring speakers and help build Catholic community. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

Palm Sunday Youth Day

Let your children know about our day of games and inspiring talks 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

Annual Caritas, Justice & Peace Mass

The annual Caritas, Justice & Peace Mass takes place at 7:00pm on Wednesday 2 April at St Margaret's, East Port, Dunfermline, KY12 7JB. Fr Tom Magill of Motherwell Diocese will preach. All welcome.

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