



# St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

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



Clergy: Fr Ninian Doohan (Moderator), Fr Gerard Hatton (Parish Administrator) & Fr Davide Redaelli

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15th MARCH 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

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## **Monday 16th March**

5:45 pm: Holy Mass followed by Novena to St Patrick

6:30 pm: Brothers of the Little Oratory

## **Tuesday 17th March | FEAST OF ST PATRICK**

12:30 pm: Holy Mass followed by St Joseph Triduum

**5:45 pm: Sung Mass for the Feast of St Patrick**

## **Wednesday 18th March**

12:30 pm: Holy Mass followed by St Joseph Triduum

7 pm: Adult Catechism Class, "*Christ's Death and Resurrection*"

## **Thursday 19th March | SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH**

12.30 pm: Holy Mass followed by St Joseph Triduum

## **Friday 20th March**

11:30 am: Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

12.30 pm: Holy Mass

6:30 pm: Musical Oratory: The Seven Last Words of Jesus

## **Saturday 21st March**

10:30 am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in silence

11:45 am: Holy Rosary followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

12.30 pm: Holy Mass

## **Sunday 22nd March | The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am: Holy Mass

11:00 am: Sung Holy Mass followed by a talk from Fr Ninian on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land

4:00 pm: Stations of the Cross with meditations from the maxims of St Philip Neri

4:30 pm: Holy Mass (with hymns)

5:30 pm: Vespers

*Confessions are heard from 30minutes before Mass and during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. If there are priests available, they will also be heard during Mass.*

Our parish patronal feast, St Patrick's day, is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. On this date there will be an **additional sung Mass at 5:45pm.**

**Musical Oratory** is a tradition dating back to the lifetime of St Philip - a combination of music and meditations with a specific spiritual theme. Join us on **Friday 20th March at 6:30pm** for a Musical Oratory to reflect on the **Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross** as we prepare to enter into Passiontide and Holy Week.

**'Good Friday donations to the Holy Places'** A talk by Father Ninian Doohan on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land last October, after the 11am Mass on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

We would be very grateful for donations for Easter Flowers, please mark bank transfers with this intention, or leave it in the sacristy in an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers'.

This year, our parish **Lenten Almsgiving**, we will be to collect funds to contribute to the building of a new chapel in Lukla, Nepal - the gateway to Mount Everest. Please send your donations to the parish bank account (details on back page), marked, "Nepal".

Dear friends,

Lent is an opportunity to improve our habits, especially regarding our church practices. I recently saw a picture of a 92-year-old woman genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament. I see that same devotion here at Saint Patrick's, with our older parishioners kneeling for Holy Communion.

After blessing ourselves with holy water from the stoup, the freshness of our own baptism comes to mind. This helps us enter the building—the court of heaven here on earth—with fresh eyes and an open heart. It is an experience that should feel like our first, or even our only, encounter with the Lord in the Tabernacle. Our silence and contemplation, right from this first step, prepare us for the Mass itself.

The beauty of Saint Patrick's leads many into silent contemplation as we gaze with renewed eyes upon the sanctuary, the altar, and the Tabernacle.

The veil covering the tabernacle reflecting the liturgical colour, and the two impressive silver sanctuary lamps gently inform us that the Lord is present. They ask us to honour Him, just as they honour Him by their placement. Seeing the lamps, in particular, reminds us of the biblical bridesmaids who were savvy and prepared to keep their lamps burning, recognising that the Bridegroom is here and inviting us to be with Him.

When entering the church, allow your eyes to be drawn to the sanctuary, altar, and Tabernacle.

The word 'genuflect' means to bend the knee. It is a humbling act of acknowledgement—and sometimes a painful one as our bodies age. But He, the King of kings and Lord of lords, deserves it. It acknowledges the greatness of our God and serves as a personal confession of our belief in the Eucharistic Lord. This is not just a custom where we 'do our own thing'; tradition nobly demands it.

The Blessed Sacrament is not a thing, but a person: Jesus Christ, who loves us perfectly, died for us, and rose triumphant.

St Philip Neri loved the Blessed Sacrament and instilled this love in his sons. Everything flows from the Sacrament of Peace. He said, "Our sweet Jesus, through the excess of His love and liberality, has left Himself to us in the Most Holy Sacrament." He exhorts us: "Let all go to the Eucharistic table with a great desire for that Sacred Food. Sitientes! Sitientes! [Thirsting! Thirsting!]"

Let us see how we can do better during these final weeks of Lent.

In Jesus and Mary,

Father Gerard Hatton

# M A X I M S O F S T P H I L I P N E R I

## 15<sup>th</sup> March

Without prayer a man will not persevere long in spirituality; we must have recourse to this most powerful means of salvation every day.

## F A T H E R F A B E R ' S H Y M N T O S T P A T R I C K

This is the full, original text of this hymn as it appears in an 1860 edition of Fr. Faber's Oratory Hymns. This text appears in the 10th edition (1906.) of the St. Basil's Hymnal (1889) with the differences noted below. It is listed for St. Patrick's Day in both hymnals:

All praise to St. Patrick, who brought to our mountains  
The gift of God's faith, the sweet light of His love!  
All praise to the shepherd who showed us the fountains  
That rise in the Heart of the Saviour above!  
For hundreds of years,  
In smiles and in tears,  
Our saint hath been with us, our shield and our stay;  
All else may have gone,—  
St. Patrick alone—

He hath been to us light when earth's lights were all set,  
For the glories of faith they can never decay;  
And the best of our glories is bright with us yet,  
In the faith and the feast of St.\* Patrick's Day.

There is not a saint in the bright courts of heaven  
More faithful than he to the land of his choice;  
Oh, well may the nation to whom he was given,  
In the feast of their sire and apostle rejoice!  
In glory above,  
True to his love,  
He keeps the false faith from his children away:  
The dark false faith,  
Far worse than death—

O(1) he drives it far off from the green sunny shore,  
Like the reptiles which(2) fled from his curse in dismay;  
And Erin, when error's proud triumph is o'er,  
Will still be found keeping St.\* Patrick's Day.

Then what shall we do for thee, heaven-sent father?  
What shall the proof of our loyalty be?  
By all that is dear to our hearts, we would rather  
Be martyred, sweet Saint! than bring shame upon thee!  
But oh! he will take  
The promise we make,  
So to live that our lives by God's help may display  
The light that he bore  
To Erin's shore:

Yes!(3) Father of Ireland! no child wilt thou own,  
Whose life is not lighted by grace on its way;  
For they are true Irish, O(4) yes! they alone,  
Whose hearts are all true on St. Patrick's Day.

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## FINANCE

	Cash Collection		Contactless Machines
	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Non Gift Aid</i>	
<b>22nd February</b>	£222.00	£378.56	£455.00

### ***Donate by Bank Transfer***

*St Patricks Church*

Sort Code: 80-02-29

Account Number: 00687306

BIC: BOFSGB21219

IBAN: GB65BOFS80022900687306

**We would also be very grateful for any donations to our growing Oratory in Formation community.**

*Oratory Project*

Sort Code: 83-06-08

Account Number: 21447970

BIC: RBOSGB2L

IBAN: GB90RBOS83060821447970

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## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### **Final vote on Assisted Suicide**

This Tuesday (17 March) the Scottish Parliament is expected to have a final vote on Assisted Suicide. Please share your concerns now with your MSPs. Use the letter writing tool at <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

### **Special Collection**

This Sunday there is a special collection for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). 75 per cent of the collection goes to SCIAF and 25 per cent to the Archdiocesan Care Fund, which supports various good causes. Last year £32,067 was raised from this collection in the Archdiocese. Thank you for your support.

### **Stations of the Cross**

The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent at 7:45pm. Concludes with a reflection from a guest speaker. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/stations26](http://bit.ly/stations26)

### **Catholic Conversations for Women**

All women are welcome to this event with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma on Saturday 28 March, 3:45pm-4:45pm in St Andrew's Parish rooms at 77 Belford Rd, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS, for a faith-focused discussion on Holy Week. Join us for a Holy Hour following with Adoration & Vespers from 5:10pm. Register at [edinburgh@almamercy.org](mailto:edinburgh@almamercy.org) or call 0131 343 3380.

### **Save the Date**

The annual Day for Altar Servers will take place at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh on Saturday 5 September 2026.

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