



# 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)

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9th MARCH 2025 | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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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  
*(and during or after every Mass, and on request, when a priest is available)*

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## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the recent **White Flower Appeal**. We raised £348.76, a very generous per capita donation,

This month, there are quite a few Masses that have no intention yet assigned to them. Why not request Mass be offered for a loved one as a spiritual gift this Lent?

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

The schola for the 11am Mass is seeking new members, particularly female voices. Singing experience is preferred but not necessary. Contact musical director Rory Lamb for more details: [rory.l.a.lamb@gmail.com](mailto:rory.l.a.lamb@gmail.com)

## ORDO

**10th Mar** St John Ogilvie

## DEVOTIONS AFTER MASS

*Monday:* St Philip Neri

*Tuesday:* The Cause of  
Venerable Margaret Sinclair

*Wednesday:* Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help

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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 of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions available

### SUNDAY

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

Dear Friends,

This Lent the devil wants us to either drown in penances or to feel discouraged and give up. Lent should be about what God wants for us, not our self improvement list. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us to keep our eyes on the prize, not chocolate, but the unity with the Lord to reach heaven. Here is list that might help, taken from the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit:

**Fortitude:** The virtue Fortitude is the ability to choose what is right even when everything inside and outside of us tells us to run away in fear. The devil hates Fortitude. He wants us to skedaddle from our Lenten work. Let us stand firm in pursuing good in the face of suffering. When we believe in the promises of Christ, this is faith. When we have confidence not in ourselves, but in Him, this is hope. When we are motivated by love, this is charity. Then, we can grow in the virtue of fortitude.

**Generosity:** The Holy Spirit prompts us to do good works. The Catechism (#1695) says, “to act so as to bear the fruit of the Spirit by charity in action”. Simply put, the easiest way for people to see Christ in our lives is through our generosity. The devil hates us to be selfless, he likes us to say, “I’m busy” or “Not quite just yet”. Generosity is in line with the Fiat of Our Lady, ready to serve and to use our time and talents. Giving to charity must always be done out of love and without calling attention to yourself. To anyone who might be tempted to boast about how much he has contributed, Archbishop Fulton Sheen applies this cautionary remark: “never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left”. Lent is the time to be enriched by service, love, sacrifice and courage, so we can be ready to be at His holy Service.

**Chastity:** St Philip Neri says that, “Chastity is impossible without the Eucharist”. Lent helps us to see the damage caused by our sins, but also experience the lightness of being forgiven. We cannot fix all the errors of our sins. We must confess them, of course, but the devil knows that chastity is the hardest area to guard and therefore, that’s where he likes to hover around. Lent is the time to become free from our addictions, especially in the area of chastity, and, with the help of His presence in the Blessed Sacrament, be free from horrible things. Remember, keep praying because the devil hates it. Keep going to confession and receive Holy Communion as often as you can, because the devil hates it. Pray to the Blessed Mother every day for holy purity and courage, because, the devil hates that too.

**Joy:** St Philip Neri reminds us that, “A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one”. In Lent, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are effective in chiselling and refreshing stony hearts. But what do they have to do with joy? There’s an ancient saying in the Church, *lex orandi, lex credendi*: “the law of prayer is the law of belief,” or to put it another way, “as we pray, so we believe” (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1124). The task of Lent without joy can be easily lost. Holy Joy is about anticipating God’s presence and knowing that he is the only remedy. The devil wants us to be downcast and grumpy this Lent, don’t let him!

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr Gerard



## MAXIMS OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

### 10th March

We must pray incessantly for the gift of perseverance.

### 11th March

We must not leave off our prayers because of distractions and restlessness of mind, although it seems useless to go on with them. He who perseveres for the whole of his accustomed time, gently recalling his mind to the subject of his prayer, merits greatly.

### 15th March

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

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St Francis de Sales' sermons during Lent 1622 begin with his discourse on fasting during Lent:

"I thought of speaking to you of the conditions which render fasting good and meritorious. Understand that of itself fasting is not a virtue. It is a virtue only when it is accompanied by conditions which render it pleasing to God.

We find some people who think that to fast well during the holy season of Lent it is enough to abstain from eating some prohibited food. We know very well that it is not enough to fast exteriorly if we do not also fast interiorly, and if we do not accompany the fast of the body with that of the spirit.

Now among all the conditions required for fasting well, I will select 3 principal ones...

The first condition is that we must fast with our whole heart, willingly, wholeheartedly, universally and entirely.

The second condition is never to fast through vanity but always through humility.

The third condition necessary for fasting well is to look to God and to do everything to please Him, withdrawing within ourselves in imitation of a great saint, St. Gregory the Great who withdrew into a secret place where he remained for a time."

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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
	Gift Aid	Non Gift Aid		St Patrick's Church
23rd Feb	£385.00	£472.50	£454.00	Sort Code: 80-02-09 Account Number: 00687306

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## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

For all news and events from the Archdiocese, please visit [archedinburgh.org/news-events](http://archedinburgh.org/news-events)

### Catholic Families for Life

The latest Catholic Families for Life newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life is available at [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk)

### 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](http://bit.ly/archyouth) or for large groups please email [youth.office@staned.org.uk](mailto: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. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

### Lent Stations of the Cross

Join Catholics from across Scotland online each Monday evening in Lent for the national Stations of the Cross. Begins at 7:45pm on Monday 10 March and includes a reflection from Bishop Hugh Gilbert of Aberdeen Diocese. The event is to pray for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/Stations25](http://bit.ly/Stations25)

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

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