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Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

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34th Sunday of the Year (a).

Our Lady's

Sunday: Mass at 9.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.
Weekday: Monday – Friday 9.15 a.m.

St. Cuthbert's.

Sundays: 6.00 p.m. Vigil Mass. (Saturday night)
10.00 a.m. & 5.00 p.m. (Sunday)
Weekdays: 9.00 a.m. (Monday – Friday)
10.00 a.m. (Saturday with restricted attendance only)

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Please remember the following parishioners, relatives and friends in your prayers:

Sick: Anne Bardsley, Dominic McQue, Ara Grigor and all those who are suffering as a result of the virus whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

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Heating Replacement and Upgrade: The work on installing the new heating system is passed the half way mark and is progressing slowly. The Gas Board have still to complete their part of the installation. It follows one of the boilers being condemned in the course of its annual check. New boilers, radiators, piping both internal and external will be installed so please be careful when you are at Mass. We have been advised that Mass will be able to continue as at the moment. The boilers have been filled with water. The new boilers are in place as are new radiators. The Gas Board are due to come this coming week and begin phase 1 of their work and fit a new meter and new external pipe work before it is all tested and commissioned. Hopefully it will mean that people will no longer claim Our Lady's to be the coldest Church in the Diocese. The work is expected to take 4/5 weeks.

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Thankfully there are still no changes in restrictions for celebrating Mass. That does not mean we can afford to drop our guard and it is even more important however we maintain the rules and restrictions laid down by both the Government and the Church authorities and not ease off our efforts. Some are definitely beginning to lower their guard. Please remember that due to the additional 'check in' time needed please do not leave it until the last minute before you arrive. Arriving those few minutes early also provides an opportunity for private personal prayer while waiting for Mass to begin. As we still live with the effects of Covid, there is a risk of physical and spiritual fatigue. Perhaps we have become weary of all sorts of guidelines and simply want to push them to the back of our mind or worse still and potentially more dangerous ignore them completely so suit ourselves. We may be struggling with how we pray and how we can live our Christian lives. Please comply with the restrictions as outlined.

Physical Distancing: This is an area where people are beginning to sit closer than they should. There must be a 2 meter distance minimum between parishioners to enable the maximum people to come and be safe. The 2 meter distancing is not an option. It is a legal requirement. The point of having designated places in the church is to help limit the

risk of infection. Everyone should remain in their seat when they are shown to it. It is a temptation to go and talk to someone we haven't seen for a while, but that defeats the safety aim of set seating. There must be a 2 metre minimum distance unless you are there as a family group.

Observing the One-Way-System: In Our Lady's please enter and leave by the main door taking care to retain the social distance. You will be led to your seats. Please do not bring food or toys to Mass with you. I would also ask parents to stop their children from moving around during Mass.

For your own safety and well being please follow the directions of the Passkeepers especially when coming forward for Holy Communion. Please do not leave your seat until you are asked to do since this can compromise the 2 metre social distancing. You should also leave the Church immediately after receiving Communion following the one-way system.

You should not return to your seat again to maintain social distancing and make it possible for the area to be wiped down after each Mass. If you wish a blessing instead of Communion follow the same route as those receiving communion. Thank you very much to those who have been involved so far in cleaning the Church and also escorting parishioners to the allocated seats.

Remaining after Mass: As noted above, the seats are sanitised after each Mass so that means that we need to ask everyone to leave the church straight away after receiving Holy Communion and not return to their seats. This applies to weekday and weekend Masses

Please remember you must book each week if you intend coming and at the moment to allow a fair distribution for Mass, booking is restricted to one booking per Mass per household with a maximum of four people and you cannot sit where you wish.

The number of committed volunteers is dropping off a bit and it may be that we will not have will not be able to cope with the cleaning required. The same few dedicated volunteers are always there so some extra help would be good so that there could be a rota. This could mean that Masses will have to be cancelled. Please contact sbran2656@gmail.com if there is any way in which you think you may be able to help.

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Letter from Archbishop: Dear friends, The Archdiocese is launching an online Diploma in Catechetics in January. It's open to anyone who wants to learn more about their faith and to deepen their understanding of Catholic theology. It's easy to take part. Each Thursday evening you join a 45-minute lecture on Zoom from the comfort of your home. The course is led by Sister Anna Marie McGuan, our new Catechetics Advisor, who will be joined by priests, religious and lay people in delivering the course. I particularly invite anyone involved in the catechetical work of the Church to get involved – such as children's liturgists, RCIA team members, teachers and youth group leaders. In these days of enforced social isolation and of limited possibilities to bring people together, I think this is an excellent initiative. I sincerely encourage any of you who want to deepen your faith to think seriously about taking up this opportunity. You can register now by emailing Sister Anna Marie. Her email is on the poster at the back of the church. Find out more on the news section of the Archdiocesan website or visit our Facebook and Twitter. Sincerely in Christ, +Leo Cushley Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

I have fliers in the sacristy if you wish information.

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23rd November: The Archdiocese is running a new series of catechesis events for adults, led by Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. The topic: *'Life of Faith: Where does Prayer fit in?'* The Edinburgh deanery event will take place at 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. To register, email Sr Anna Marie sranna.marie@staned.org.uk, telling her which date/time you want to attend.

24th November: Want to know more about the Archdiocese's Diploma in Catechetics? Join a 30min Zoom event at 7:30pm on Tuesday 24 November. Just use this link to take part: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86857681064> (or Meeting ID: 868 5768 1064). This is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge of our Catholic Faith. Alternatively, for more info email: sranna.marie@staned.org.uk

28th November at 2.00 p.m. Are you involved in sacramental preparation of children in your parish (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation)? You are invited to attend a Zoom event to launch the Archdiocese's new sacramental workbooks and materials. To register, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at SrMirjam.Hugens@staned.org.uk.

29th November Save the date: Archbishop Leo will give an Advent talk titled 'Unwrapping Christmas' on Zoom at 29 November at 7.00 p.m. The event is open to all. Registration details will be shared soon.

November - Month of Remembrance

November is the month when, by tradition, we pray for the eternal rest of our deceased relatives and friends. This year, in all our churches, we remember especially those who have died during the pandemic. We also pray for those who have lost someone they loved, for those who were unable to say goodbye, and for those who are suffering the pain of grief. We pray for confidence in the loving mercy of God, for faith in the Resurrection to new life, and for the hope of being reunited in God's kingdom.

There is a letter to mark Education Sunday below. Please read it since it concerns both St. Augustine's and St. Cuthbert's our Parish schools.

If you would like further information on becoming a teacher in our Catholic schools, please contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service: mail@sces.uk.com

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With every best wish and an assurance of our prayers

Father Martins and Monsignor Tony

Catholic Education Week This is usually marked for one week in the time between St Margaret's Day (16th November) and St Andrew's Day (30th November). Pupils and staff from St Cuthbert's and our local Catholic High School; St Augustine's usually attend Mass at the end of the chosen week and distribute information about our schools. This year we are unable to do this but we have shared information about

our school's commitment to Catholic Education with St Cuthbert's Parish that they will include with their Parish newsletter for Sunday 22nd November.

St Augustine's RC High School

St Augustine's High School educates young people to the highest possible standards in many ways - academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

Naturally, of prime importance are our high expectations and the academic achievement of our young people. But we are about more than that.

The Religious Education Curriculum develops our young people's knowledge of the Church and its teaching. It explores Moral questions and gives them a grounding which they will take with them when they leave school and take their place in Society. Pupils are encouraged to live out their faith and pupils have the opportunity to consider what their faith means to them.

There is a Pastoral Group which, among other things, helps organise the celebration of the liturgy as well as marking in a special way the church seasons of Advent and Lent.

In our school we see an increased awareness of the global dimension of the world and of the needs of people in developing countries. We actively support the work of agencies such as SCIAF and Mary's Meals, who work in countries where people need our support. Our Lenten Fundraising supports SCIAF and last year we gave £2,000 during Advent we support the Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal.

The school also involves itself in a number of fund-raising activities which support local charities.

Pupils are well versed in education for citizenship and take on responsibilities through their involvement in the student councils and membership of other groups. Senior pupils are encouraged through our Buddy Scheme to care and look out for younger pupils, helping their transition.

In Scotland the introduction of the CARITAS AWARD for senior school pupils is providing an opportunity for young people to respond to the Gospel by showing love and faith in practical ways and by becoming active members of local parishes and

faith communities. This year we have 75 pupils who are working towards their award.

St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

St. Cuthbert's Primary School is your friendly, local Roman Catholic Primary School, which aims to provide a positive learning environment where every member of the school community is valued, supported and encouraged to fulfill themselves as a learner and as a person to the best of their ability. We serve the community of Slateford, Gorgie, Dalry, Longstone, Craiglockhart, Barberton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno.

At St. Cuthbert's we strive to ensure that our children learn in a safe, happy and inclusive environment where they grow and develop spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically as well as academically. The publication of 'This Is Our Faith' as the Church's national syllabus for religious education, has provided teachers with a clear progression framework to ensure that the children are able to deepen their understanding of their faith and Jesus's teaching as they progress through the school stages. Our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils take part in the Pope Francis Faith Award. This Award recognizes young people who have put their faith into action and have shown "signs of love" to others. It is named in honour of Pope Francis because of the good example he sets and focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are applied at home, in school and within the parish community. Children in P6 and P7 also use the God's Loving Plan programme, created by the church, to learn about changes to the body in puberty, the sacrament of marriage and parenthood. Our Primary 3 and Primary 4 pupils work with their teachers, Fr Duffy and the whole school and parish community to prepare and receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. In normal, non-Covid times, all of our classes regularly attend, prepare and lead class celebrations of Mass throughout the year.

*Although we are living in what can be perceived
The Person of Jesus Christ*

Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland



The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

All staff appointed to a Catholic school are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.

For more information, contact SCES. Tel: 0141 556 4727, email: mail@sces.uk.com or visit www.sces.uk.com