



# SAINT KESSOG'S

ONE PARISH – TWO CHURCHES  
St Anthony's Balfron & St Kessog's Blanefield

## Weekly celebrations: 1 - 8 September 2024

	Sun   8	Mon   9	Tue   10	Wed   11	Thu   12	Fri   13	Sat   14	Sun   15
<b>Saint Anthony's</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>							<b>9.30 am</b>
<b>Saint Kessog's</b>	<b>11.00am</b>							<b>11.00 am</b>
<b>Mass</b>	Sunday							Sunday
<b>Feast/Event</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun B	St Peter Claver				St John Chrysostom	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	24 <sup>th</sup> Sun B

## CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10 o'clock mass or any day by arrangement with Father Jacob.



**Last Sunday's  
Cash Collection**

BLANEFIELD  
£186.20

BALFRON  
£93.50

TOTAL  
£279.70

*We also thank those who donate by direct debit.*

## Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 7:31-37)

Jesus "makes the deaf hear and the mute speak," revealing Himself as the One foretold by the prophet Isaiah—the Messiah through whom God brings comfort and salvation to His people. Isaiah 35 shifts to a message of hope, envisioning the future restoration of God's people. It offers a prophetic vision of the Messianic age, when divine intervention brings healing, restoration, and peace. Today's first reading (Isaiah 35:4-7) highlights that God's ultimate plan involves both physical and spiritual renewal. In Scripture, beyond physical healing, blindness and deafness often symbolise spiritual ignorance and the inability to perceive God's truth. Therefore, this healing is also a metaphor for spiritual enlightenment and restoration—fulfilled in and through Jesus Christ. In Him, and by His command, we are "opened" ("Ephphatha," meaning "Be opened"), enabling us to hear the Good News of salvation and experience spiritual renewal. Our tongues are now freed to proclaim God's glory and spread the joy of Jesus' Gospel to the world without fear. As disciples and imitators of Christ, we are called to go out into our communities, doing good and helping the spiritually deaf and mute of our time to be opened to the grace of Jesus Christ and experience His healing. **Fr Jacob**

## Special celebrations in the Parish

If you have a special event to celebrate and would like to share it with other parishioners, such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or memorials for departed loved ones, please contact Fiona Radif ([stkessogsparish@gmail.com](mailto:stkessogsparish@gmail.com)), France Douglas ([fmdouglas61@icloud.com](mailto:fmdouglas61@icloud.com)) or Fr. Jacob ([office.stkessogblanefield@staned.org.uk](mailto:office.stkessogblanefield@staned.org.uk)) to have it included in the parish bulletin.



## Fr Jacob's Gratitude

Dear Parishioners,

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to each and all of you for the beautiful farewell celebration you organised for me last Sunday at the Village Club in Blanefield. The overwhelming love and warmth I experienced truly left me speechless, especially after Kevin, our parish chairperson, delivered such heartfelt words on your behalf. I will forever cherish your kindness, the thoughtful cards, gifts, and the generous cash donations. May God bless you all abundantly! A special thank you to the initiators, organisers, and all who served with such dedication and love. As I am moving to St. Margaret's in South Queensferry, please know that you will remain in my prayers.

God bless you all.



## Fr Alex Arrival Delayed

Fr. Alexander Longs, our new Parish Administrator, will be arriving later than expected. In the meantime, priests from St. Patrick's in Kilsyth will assist with Sunday Masses for the next couple of weeks. Our masses this Sunday will be conducted by Fr Joshua. Please note that there will be no weekday Masses during this period.

## Vocations Awareness Week

Vocations Awareness Week begins this Sunday and it is a chance for us to pray for those considering the priesthood or religious life, that they may hear God's call and respond with joyful hearts. We pray especially for Gerard Holden and Matthew McCafferty, seminarians of the Archdiocese, as well as for priests across the Archdiocese who are giving their life in service of the Church. If you want to explore the priesthood or religious life, have a chat with the Archdiocesan Vocations Director Monsignor Patrick Burke on 01334 472 856 ([vocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:vocations@staned.org.uk)) or Sister Mirjam Hugens, Director for Religious Vocations, on 0131 623 8902, ([religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)). More at: <https://archedinburgh.org/vocations/>

## Venerable Margaret Sinclair

The annual Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage takes place at St Patrick's Church in The Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1TQ on Sunday 22 September. Find out more about Margaret Sinclair at <https://stpatricksedinburgh.com/margaret-sinclair/>

### SCHEDULE

**1:30pm:** Holy Hour  
**2:45pm:** Individual blessings at Shrine  
**3:30pm:** Reflection, Novena Prayers  
presentation from Sinclair Academy  
**4:30pm:** Holy Mass with Archbishop Cushley

## Season of Creation

A Season of Creation online event will take place on **Thursday 19 September** with Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam at 7:00pm. Register at <https://bit.ly/hopeactcreation>. Event hosted by The Bishops' Conference of Scotland's Care of Creation Office.

## Healing Weekend

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 in November. Contact Andrea at [sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sisterandrea@rachelsvineyard.org.uk) or on **07816 942 824**.

## National Youth Pilgrimage

The National Youth Pilgrimage takes place in **Glasgow** on **Saturday 21 September**. The pilgrimage includes a walking tour through the streets of Glasgow City Centre, recalling the saints that walked them before us. The **event is open to ages 18-35**. Pilgrims from the Archdiocese are asked to meet outside the City Chambers in George Square at 12:15pm. Please register with Fr Robert Taylor at [frrobert.taylor@staned.org.uk](mailto:frrobert.taylor@staned.org.uk)

## Holy Year 2025

Pope Francis declared that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee. To help us prepare for the year the Archdiocese is hosting "Pilgrimage of Hope" which will feature spiritual talks, pilgrim testimonies and more. It takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on **Saturday 9 November** from **11:00am to 3:15pm**. Register at [bit.ly/holyyearevent](https://bit.ly/holyyearevent)

## Celebrating the Gift

A Scripture Reflection Day titled 'Celebrating the Gift' takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB, on **Saturday 5 October 2024** from **10:00am to 4:00pm**. The event will explain more about the **new lectionary** which is going to be introduced in Advent, and it is also a chance to reflect on the Word of God. Register at [bit.ly/scriptureevent](https://bit.ly/scriptureevent)

## Events in the Archdiocese

For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese, visit <https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>




**parish census**

In order, for us, to function well as a Parish it is important that we have up to date contact details for all our parishioners. Please take a few minutes to complete the registration form on the website:

**[www.parishofstkessog.org](http://www.parishofstkessog.org)**  
see the 'Connect' section, under 'Welcome'.

**Thank You**



Please contact  
**George Edwards on Tel: 07866 683172**  
or email: [geojoedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:geojoedwards@yahoo.com)



**PARISH BULLETIN**

If you have any news you would like included in our Sunday Parish Bulletin, please email it to Frances at [fmdouglas61@icloud.com](mailto:fmdouglas61@icloud.com) or to Fr Jacob at [stkessogs1@gmail.com](mailto:stkessogs1@gmail.com). You can find this Bulletin and previous ones at **[www.parishofstkessog.org](http://www.parishofstkessog.org)**

St Kessog's is a Parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, a registered Scottish charity (No. SCO085)  
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