

St Margaret of Scotland Pilgrimage.

Sunday 2nd June 2019.

11.00a.m: Pilgrims Together: Celebrating the Legacy of St Margaret.

Joint Service at Dunfermline Abbey Church, led by Rev MaryAnn Rennie, Minister of Dunfermline Abbey and Fr Christopher Heenan, Parish Priest of St Margaret's Catholic Church, Dunfermline. Fr Heenan will be the preacher at the Service. All are warmly invited to join in this historic event.

12 noon: Guides will be available to lead groups on tours of the sites associated with St Margaret. The tours will be child friendly. Or simply enjoy all that Dunfermline has to offer.

2.15p.m: Procession with the Relic of St Margaret of Scotland leaves from the Louise Carnegie gates of Pittencrieff Park to St Margaret's Church.

3.00p.m: Mass at St Margaret's Church led by Archbishop Leo Cushley.

After Mass individuals and families are encouraged to venerate the relic of St Margaret.

Ecumenical Service to launch St Margaret's Pilgrimage on 2nd June

The annual St Margaret's Pilgrimage on 2nd June will begin this year with a joint ecumenical service at Dunfermline Abbey, led by Rev MaryAnn Rennie, Minister of Dunfermline Abbey and Fr Christopher Heenan, Parish Priest of St Margaret's Catholic Church.

The service, entitled: "Pilgrims Together: Celebrating the Legacy of St Margaret" will pay tribute to the important historical and religious figure who introduced many aspects of life still known today. Most notably she established the ferry crossing from Edinburgh to Fife for pilgrims travelling to St Andrews. North and South Queensferry and the new Queensferry Crossing are named in her honour.

Fr Chris Heenan said:

"I'm delighted that St Margaret's Pilgrimage will begin with a joint service in the Abbey. Margaret is an exceptionally important figure to Dunfermline as well as the whole of Scotland so it is fitting that a celebration of her life is as inclusive as possible."

Rev MaryAnn Rennie said:

"Margaret was Queen of Scotland as well as a Saint and her connections with the Abbey are evident even today. Her contribution to life in Scotland is remarkable from her generosity to the poor, her influence on manners and etiquette and her religious devotion. I look forward to welcoming everyone to the service and a joyful celebration of this fascinating woman."

The St Margaret's Pilgrimage was originally established in 1899 and was revived by Archbishop Leo Cushley in 2015. Visitors from around Scotland are expected to attend this year.

Guides from Discover Dunfermline Tours will be on hand after the service in the Abbey to take people to visit local sites associated with St Margaret. Suitable for families and children, the tour will last around an hour and include St Margaret's shrine at the east end of the Abbey, the base of Malcolm's

Tower where Margaret and the royal household lived and St Margaret's Cave, which was her private place for prayer nearly 1000 years ago.

Lochgelly Brass Band and local pipers will be playing to provide a festival atmosphere while the procession with the relic of St Margaret makes its way from the Louise Carnegie Gates of Pittencrieff Park at 2.15pm towards St Margaret's Church, where Archbishop Cushley will celebrate Mass in at 3pm. After the Mass, individuals and families are invited to come forward to receive a blessing with the saint's relics.