

The week ahead 8 - 15 December 2024



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 7 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Ambrose 2nd Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 8 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Advent	Katie MacEachen RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 9 December	No Service		Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	
Tuesday 10 December	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd Week of Advent	Deceased Blango family
Weds 11 December	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd Week of Advent	
Thursday 12 December	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd Week of Advent	Jessie Fernandez RIP
Friday 13 December	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Lucy	
Saturday 14 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John of the Cross 3rd Sunday of Advent	Captain Anthony Lightfoot RIP
Sunday 15 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes

Confessions
St Peter's: Saturday 11am (during Adoration) & 4.30pm
St Columba's: Sunday before 6.30pm Mass
Adoration:
 St Peter's: Saturday 11am

Sunday's readings on page 85
First reading: Baruch 5: 1-9
Psalm: 126 (125): 1-2b, 2c-3, 4-5, 6 R3
Second reading: Philippians 1:3-6; 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6



Advent Retreat Hour, Silent Night Holy Night
 Thursday 19 December 7.30 - 8.30pm, St Peter's Parish room.
 Take time out to get ready spiritually for the coming of our Lord.
 Led by the Epiphany Group. Refreshments provided.

Advent on the St. Peter's website
 During advent there are many options to guide you prayerfully through Advent with weekly and daily meditations. Visit St Peter's website homepage <https://stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk/prayer-skills/advent-meditations/>

Advent Rosary for life
 The annual Archdiocesan Rosary started 2 December on Mondays, 7.45pm through Advent. Join us to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register bit.ly/adventrosary

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter to Sharon Kedney at office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk by Wednesday evening please. St Peter's website contact Juliet MacKellaig 447 4210 or julietmackellaig@gmail.com. * You can find our Privacy Notices on the websites * The Newsletter is posted on the parish websites * St Peter's and St Columba's are parishes of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, a Charity registered in Scotland—number SC008540

St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh
Second Sunday of Advent —Year C
 8 - 15 December 2024

To underline the universality of salvation, Luke sets the event within the framework of world history. In the manner of an Old Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Saviour by calling them to repentance.

In today's gospel we hear again the lonely voice of John the Baptist 'Prepare away for the Lord make his paths straight'. This is a call to repentance.

Sadly, we don't always walk in God's way. In the hardness of heart and stubbornness of will we sometimes prefer the crooked way to the straightway, and our own way to God's way.

Let us ask the Lord for forgiveness and help. Lord Jesus take the blindness from our eyes so that we may walk in your ways. Take the stubbornness from our wills so that we may do your will rather than our own.

Take the hardness from our hearts so that we may treat others in the same friendly way you have treated us.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes

The Second Sunday of Advent already!

It is a joyful season but also a fast season. In the Liturgy of this Sunday we are introduced to the central character of John the Baptist. What we need to remember is that being baptised was new for people. The Israelites learned the Torah and went to the Temple worship. John the Baptist must have been a curious figure inviting people to think and act in a different way.

For reflection:

- how does Advent help you to grow closer to the Lord?
- What biblical character appeals to you to give you deeper insight into following the Lord?
- Where does the light of Christ lead you as we approach Christmas?

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
 Tuesday 24 December 7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
 12am Midnight Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's

Christmas Day
 Wednesday 25 December 09.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
 11.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's
 No evening Mass

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens
 frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502
 St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk
 St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk
Deacon: Rev John E Smith: johnesmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Secretaries:
 St Peter's: Sharon Kedney office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk (10-1 Thursdays)
 St Columba's: Sr Karin: sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk

St. Columba's Hall hire:
 James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 8 December	Second Sunday of Advent - Year C At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses today we celebrate the Rite of Illumination* Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish 4pm, St. Peter's Family Carol Party, Parish Room
Monday 9	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's, Parish room
Tuesday 10	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Friday 13	3.30 - 5pm St. Columba's, Main hall: Final rehearsal of St. Columba's Nativity Play
Saturday 14	11am Justice and Peace in the Middle East - a conversation, St Columba's Middle Hall. With tea and coffee from 10.30am After 12noon Mass SCIAF Advent Alternativity lunch, Parish room, St. Peter's 1pm Baptism Oran James Duffy, St. Peter's After 5.30pm Vigil Mass, St. Peter's, Parish room, pre-Christmas wine and nibbles
Sunday 15	Third Sunday of Advent - Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish 2-4pm Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, Main Hall



Congratulations to Orla and Ethan Lipscombe Baptised on Saturday at St. Peter's.

Today we celebrate the *Rite of Illumination at the 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. In preparation for 1st Confession/ Reconciliation the children promise, and their parents renew their promise, **to keep the flame of the Faith - received at baptism - alive in their hearts.**

Today, after 9.30am Mass, St. Columba's hall, **Peter Diamond from Aid to the Church in Need** joins us for tea, coffee and cakes. You can do some Christmas shopping at his **pop-up shop** at the same time.

St. Peter's Family Carol Party, today Sunday 8 December, 4pm, Parish Room. Join your music group for Carols and Christmas songs to lift the spirits.

Christmas sales of home produce at St. Peter's. Homemade chutneys and preserves are excellent stocking fillers. Buy these, fresh scones and other home baking, before and after Vigil and Sunday Masses on **Saturday 7, Sunday 8 and 15 December**. All proceeds to the Parish SCIAF Project.

Final rehearsal of St. Columba's Nativity Play is on Friday 13 December, 3.30 - 5.00 pm at St Columba's Main Hall.

Justice and Peace in the Middle East - a conversation. Saturday 14 December 11am, St Columba's Middle Hall. Tea and coffee from 10.30am. Haneen Zoabi, a Palestinian politician from Nazareth who served as a member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) 2009-2019, will give us her thoughts on what needs to happen for there to be a just and lasting peace in the region, then lead a follow up conversation. We pray every week for Peace in the Middle East - come and find what Peace might look like.

Advent Alternativity lunch, Saturday 14 December directly after 12 noon Mass, St. Peter's. Raising funds for SCIAF. A few tickets left. Get yours this weekend or contact Norma on 0131 447 7900

Saturday 14 December after 5.30pm Vigil Mass, St. Peter's Parish room - pre-Christmas wine and nibbles.

Sunday 15 December, 1pm. Newington Churches Together Carols in Nicolson Square. Please leave the knitted Angels and mince pies at back of St. Columba's Church. These will be distributed to children at the service.

St Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, Sunday 15 December 2 - 4pm in St Columba's Main Hall. There will be mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy. Come and join our Parish pre-Christmas celebration.

Change of date: Teens Group Wednesday 18 December 7-8.30pm (for P7-S4). The Teens group (usually the last Wednesday of the month) this month it will take place on 18 December. Join us for games, chat and snacks. New members (from any school/Parish) warmly welcomed. Email teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Friday 20 December 8am - 8pm, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Cowgate. Prepare your hearts for our Saviours coming with **Adoration and Confessions** which will be available throughout the day.

St. Columba's kitchen refurbishment. Thanks to all who have assisted in the work in the kitchen and new food preparation room. Total costs were £18,430.33 on a projected budget of £21,000. Particular thanks to Dave Davis, Architect, to Farlane Whitty for liaising with workmen and John Riederer for help with purchasing goods.

SCIAF 'Real gifts' catalogues at the back of St Columba's Church. By buying these gifts you'll be supporting people struggling to exist in the poorest parts of the world.

Used stamps, there's a box at the back of St Columba's and St. Peter's for St Patrick's Missionary Society Scotland. Please leave half an inch of envelope around each stamp.

The recent Synodal meeting, 12 November, at St. Columba's introduced by Sr. Jeanette McGlone

We discussed a number of questions:

1. What is the particular role of a religious sister in a synodal, missionary Church?
2. Does the work of a religious sister suggest what particular gifts women may bring in a synodal Church?
3. Are these gifts appreciated?

A summary of the main points of the discussion is reported below:

- We must distinguish between an enclosed nun following a monastic timetable and a religious sister living in the community. Both are important. Different religious orders have different charisms and their methods of formation vary.
- The contribution of an enclosed nun is their life of prayer which can have a healing role in the wider community and this should be recognised and appreciated.
- The role of a religious sister living in the community is to accompany people on their journey through life. In a parish she can be a bridge using her insight, knowledge and skills to support her fellow parishioners in specific pastoral roles such as catechetics, teaching, and counseling. We all have a vocation.
- The work of religious sisters is influenced by generational and geographical differences, for example the sisters have more leadership roles in Africa and Asia.
- The religious sisters can have diversified and inspiring gifts that must be used not in competition but complementary to the parish priest. The skills needed in a parish include listening, creativity, empathy, wisdom,

prudence and confidentiality. Could the religious sisters help in the induction of priests from other countries?

- As Timothy Radcliffe has said the synodal process is just starting. People are listening to others whom they would previously ignore, clergy and laity working together in dialogue.
- The parish priest may have too many responsibilities. Do we need to sit down with him and discuss his vision for the parish using everyone's skills?
- Is gender important? Should we be looking at traits rather than gender? Are the differences between men and women due to learned behaviour, and if so can we change these behaviours?
- The hierarchical nature of the church is not helpful and fails to engage the vision and aspirations of women. Only the clergy have authority which means they decide whether or not to go forward with something. A priest can come into a parish and shut down initiatives with which he does not agree. Even now not all parishes have Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees.
- Like their fellow parishioners the religious sisters are subservient and potential contributions like preaching may not be fully utilised.
- People are disappointed - where are the synodal gatherings that should be taking place in the Archdiocese? Leadership should come from the top.
- Not everyone welcomes the synodal approach. Some are eager to go back to 'tradition', thinking this would reinvigorate the church without considering why people are disaffected.

'More than just a School' - Paul Hunter, Justice and Peace talk 16 November

- Paul Hunter, Head Teacher at St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School, Gracemount gave an inspiring and challenging presentation on how his school supports families living in poverty or on low incomes and how that support reaches out to the whole community.
- Paul also showed how everything the school does to support pupils, their families and the community ties in with the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland and education policy expectations.
- St. Catherine's school serves a mixed community, where 60% of all pupils are living below/near the poverty line.
- The school aims for Equity, Wellbeing and Attainment for all, and works with a range of organisations,

including the SVDP, to address financial barriers to access, offering free or subsidised uniforms, breakfasts, clubs and P7 residentials so all are included equally.

- St. Catherine's School is a hub for the community, linking with foodbanks, the police, the council, Greggs and other sponsors to offer practical support to families facing poverty.
- As budgets are squeezed the challenges grow, and increased support from fundraisers and volunteers is welcome.
- Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to contact Paul Hunter. [St Catherine's R.C. Primary School, Edinburgh | Learn – Inspire – Grow](http://StCatherine's.R.C.PrimarySchool.Edinburgh|Learn-Inspire-Grow) Tel: 0131 664 4257

Help after abortion

Abortion Recovery Care & Helpline (ARCH) helps anyone struggling after an abortion with counselling and supportive help. All services are provided confidentially, compassionately, without judgement and free of charge. Call the UK Helpline: 0345 603 8501, 7pm-10pm daily & 9am-5pm Mon-Fri or email info@archtrust.org.uk

Book donations needed for May 2025 Holy Corner book sale. Raising funds for Christian Aid. Donations to Morningside Parish Church **from Wednesday 22 January** (for details see poster at back of Church).