

The week ahead 22—29 December 2024



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 21 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Peter Canisius 4th Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 22 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes Catherine Royan RIP and Elsie Wilkins RIP
Monday 23 December	No Service		St. John of Kanty	
Tuesday 24 December	St Columba's St. Peter's	7pm 12am	Vigil Mass of Christmas Midnight Christmas Mass	Sally O'Donnell RIP
Weds 25 December	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	The Nativity of the Lord	People of the Parishes
Thursday 26 December	St Columba's	9.30am	St. Stephen	Leo and Ivy Tully (RIP)
Friday 27 December	St Peter's	9.30am	St. John	
Saturday 28 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	The Holy Innocents The Holy Family	Fr. Michael Johnston (Christmas) David McIlwaine RIP
Sunday 29 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Holy Family	People of the Parishes

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

Adoration:
St Peter's: Saturday 11am

Scan to make donations:

St Peter's



St Peter's, Edinburgh

St. Columba's



St Columba's, Edinburgh

Readings	Fourth Sunday Advent: page 90	Christmas day: page 97
First reading	Micah 5: 2-5a	Isaiah 9: 2-7
Second reading	80 (79) response v4	96 (95) response Luke 2-11
Psalm	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Titus 2:11-14
Gospel	Luke 1: 39-45	Luke 2:1-14

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
Fourth Sunday of Advent —Year C
 22—29 December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- The story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth is an appendage to the two Annunciation stories, and brings together the mothers affected by them.
- Mary is portrayed as making her way in haste, a haste inspired by her friendship and charity but yet more by her recognition of a divine invitation. At Mary's greeting Elizabeth felt the infant stir in her womb. This indicates the connection there is between John and Jesus.
- Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognises the blessedness of Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.



Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

Christmas is a time of gathering. We gather as a Parish community to retell the story of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. We give thanks for the gift of the Christ child to the world and the revelation of God's love for each of us and the world. We gather also with family and friends to enjoy each other's company and to celebrate.

As a Parish community of St. Columba's and St. Peter's it is also a time of welcome. Welcoming people back home to be with family and also welcoming those who are searching for a deeper meaning to life and faith.

My prayer for us all is that we should allow the mystery of the Incarnation to touch our lives and grow in those Christmas gifts of peace and joy.

Have a very happy Christmas!

Reflection

Christmas is a feast of the heart
 it reveals to us what the heart of God is like,
 and shows us what the human heart is capable of.

Christmas is the one time in the long calendar of the year
 when people open their shut-in hearts to one another.

And the extent to which we open our hearts,
 will be the extent to which we will experience
 the great joy the angels announced to the shepherds,
 because joy is the fruit of love.

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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 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year C
Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December No morning Mass or teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
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

Thursday 26 December 09.30am Feast of St. Stephen, St. Columba's

Friday 27 December 09.30am St. Peter's

Saturday 28 December 12 noon Mass, St. Peter's
5.30pm Vigil Mass, The Holy Family, St. Peter's

Sunday 29 December The Holy Family
Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



A big thank you to everyone who helped in one way or another to make the our Carol Singing afternoon with Nativity Play at St. Columba's such a wonderful event. Congratulations to all the acting buddies.

£452.85 was raised at the St. Peter's Alternativity Lunch last Saturday and **£565. 81 raised by the sale of festive fare** at St. Peter's over the past few weeks, for our SCIAF Advent Appeal. Thank you to Bruce and Annie for all the home-baking and preserve making and to all who generously supported the fund raising efforts.

St. Columba's has given £100 to the Foodbank for Christmas. **Thanks to the generous donors.**

Thanks for the support from both Parishes for the warm clothing and trainers/shoes for asylum seekers and for the knitters of Christmas angels. The angels were distributed at the Newington Churches Together carols, Nicholson Square and to the children at the Nativity play in St. Columba's.

Grateful thanks for the recent donation of £2,000 towards the renovation of the St. Peter's Sanctuary.

In common with many places we now have **QR codes available for donations** to both Churches. Details on rear page of the newsletter.

Feast of the Holy Innocents, 28 December. Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. 12 noon at the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Refreshments and social afterwards. Registration helpful for catering: <https://bit.ly/archprolifeevents>

Mass for the Opening of the Jubilee Year. Archbishop Cushley will solemnly open the Jubilee Year 2025 for the Archdiocese with Holy Mass and the blessing of the Jubilee Cross at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, at **midday on Sunday 29 December.** Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit www.iubilaeum2025.va for more details about this special year.

Used stamps, of which we may have more at this time of year - 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.

Winter Appeal - Edinburgh Street Pastors have been sharing God's love, listening, caring and helping on Edinburgh's streets since 2009. Teams are out each Friday and three Saturdays a month in all areas of the city centre talking to, and assisting, folk to help them stay safe and happy; sometimes when they're at their most vulnerable. Details of their work and the Winter Appeal Fundraising can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWu8zqairUk> and <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19302#!/DonationDetails> All help or donations would be very gratefully received.

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).

Are you a charity or community group looking for space in Morningside? The Open Door Edinburgh ground floor former cafe space is available. They are seeking expressions of interest from charities and community groups, especially a charity that would like to run a joint venture charity shop. Email: hello@theopendoor.org.uk or phone 0131 447 9757 to speak to Simon or Lynnette. 420 Morningside Road.

The Open Door aims to reduce loneliness in our South Edinburgh community with a focus on older people, many living with dementia, physical disabilities and other challenges. **Running four weekly Day Service groups for older people - 60+, and their families and carers.** For more information: email hello@theopendoor.org.uk or phone 0131 447 9757 and ask for Simon or Lynnette.

Pilgrims of Hope - the Holy Year 2025

Canon Kenneth recently was on a call with the British Embassy in Rome and the Embassy to the Holy See in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

Top tips on your Jubilee Pilgrimage...

Planning your trip

1. The calendar of events can be found at www.iubilaeum2025.va/en
2. To take part in events and to pass through the Holy Doors at Saint Peter's Basilica and the other three Papal basilicas you must register for a free digital pilgrims card, using the above link
3. Ensure you have the relevant travel insurance
4. Ensure you've got your Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) Before you travel www.ghic.org.uk
5. Check FCDO travel advice before you set off www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/italy

When in Rome

1. Take care of your belongings and watch out for pickpockets especially on public transport and in crowds
2. always carry photo ID or a copy of your passport with you
3. if you lose your passport, you need to apply online and purchase an Emergency Travel document to get back to the UK www.gov.uk/emergency-travel-document
4. If you need a taxi use an official white one
5. Dial 112 for emergency services in Italy and +39 06 4220 0001 for the British embassy in Rome

Today a Saviour has been born to us, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

The season of Christmas

Preceded only in importance by the celebration of the Paschal mystery, the Church has no more ancient a tradition than the celebration of the Christmas season:

- from Jesus humble birth in Bethlehem
- the announcement of his birth to the shepherds by angels
- the revelation to the Magi and their subsequent adoration of the child
- his Baptism in the river Jordan and
- the Father's declaration of Jesus' beloved son and
- the beginning of his public ministry

The other feasts of Christmas time (St Stephen, St John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God) all have an intimate connection to the Lord's manifestation.



The 'spirit of Christmas'

There is such a thing as the 'spirit of Christmas'.

People have tried to kill that spirit. Herod tried, Hitler tried, many other tyrants tried, but they didn't succeed. It has survived human greed, and every human failing one cares to mention.

Even though our culture has become almost totally secularised, the Christmas spirit still manages to percolate through. Christmas was born out of love, and carries on out of love. It springs from God's gratuitous love for us. We would do well to allow ourselves to be possessed by the spirit of Christmas.

Christmas creates a climate that encourages us to reveal our better natures. It gives us a chance to show our humanity to the world. And it has the power to move the human heart like nothing else.

Charles Dickens said 'Christmas is the one time in the long calendar of the year when people freely open their hearts to one another'. So if we feel the impulse to be forgiving, charitable and loving, let us not think twice about it.