

The week ahead 29 December 2024—12 January 2025

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
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
Monday 30 December	No Service		Christmas Octave	
Tuesday 31 December	St Columba's	09.30am	St. Sylvester I	Fr. Remon Hadid & Parishioners Our Lady of Sorrows
Weds 1 January 2025	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	Mary Mother of God	Maise and Jimmy Doherty RIP
Thursday 2 January	St Columba's	9.30am	St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen	Sierra Leone
Friday 3 January	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmastime	Maeve (very sick 2 year old)
Saturday 4 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Weekday of Christmastime The Epiphany of the Lord	Fr. Sean Bradley (Christmas)
Sunday 5 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Epiphany of the Lord	Cassie and Michael Doherty RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 6 January	No Service			
Tuesday 7 January	St Columba's	09.30am	Weekday of Christmastime	Intentions of Mr & Mrs Hugens (wedding anniversary)
Wednesday 8 January	St Peter's	09.30am	Weekday of Christmastime	Fr. Gordon Brown RIP
Thursday 9 January	St Columba's	09.30am	Weekday of Christmastime	D/M of the Doherty family
Friday 10 January	St Peter's	09.30am	Weekday of Christmastime	Fr. Eugen Lucaci RIP
Saturday 11 January	St Peter's St Peter's	12noon 5.30pm	Weekday of Christmastime The Baptism of the Lord	Fr. Nicholas Hodgson (Christmas)
Sunday 12 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Baptism of the Lord	David Mitchell RIP 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. Columba's**




Mass times



SCAN ME

Readings	Sunday 29 Dec: p105	Sunday 5 Jan: p 115	Sunday 12 Jan: p118
First reading	1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm	84	72 (71) response 11	104
Second reading	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24	Ephesians 3:2-3a 5-6	Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Gospel	Luke 2: 41-52	Matthew 2:1-12	Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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
Feast of the Holy Family —Year C
 29 December 2024—12 January 2025

Holy Family 29 December 2024

This tells the story of how the 12 year old Jesus got lost in Jerusalem. The incident shows the love Mary and Joseph had for Jesus. Afterwards Jesus went down to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and obeyed them. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience (Heb. 5:8).



We are inclined to say that Jesus got lost in the temple. It would be true to say that he began to find himself in the temple. Here the boy Jesus calls God his Father - this is the core of the story. And here he begins to show his wisdom, a wisdom that amazes those who hear him. This anticipates the kind of amazement at his teaching that will mark his ministry. In Luke's infancy narrative, Mary is the only adult who will last into the public ministry and even into the beginnings of the Church. She is presented to us as a model Christian believer.

The Epiphany of the Lord 5 January 2025

For Matthew, the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the good news of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection.



God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Hence, Matthew shows the Magi, who were Gentiles, receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox: the Jews who have the Scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore Him. There is nothing to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was merely the means by which the great mystery was revealed - the revelation of Christ as the saviour of the Gentiles too.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

Many thanks to all who helped to prepare both our churches for the Christmas liturgies. Over our four Christmas Masses we were able to celebrate the birth of the Christ child and to pray for peace in our world.

The Church in her liturgy continues to move us forward. In celebrating the feast of the Holy Family we enter into the story of Jesus' life. In the solemnity of the Epiphany we acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah that was prophesied of old.

In St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, and in all cathedrals around the world, on the feast of the Holy Family this year Pope Francis has asked that a wooden cross be placed for veneration during the Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope. We hope to have a walking pilgrimage to the cathedral probably sometime after Easter. We can say Mass at the shrine, pray the Jubilee prayer before the cross and have a cup of tea or coffee in the cafe. There will also be the option of going by bus and meeting the parish group in the Cathedral.

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 29 December	The Holy Family—Year C Breakfast for Zimbabwe at St. Columba's; hot filled rolls coffee/tea*
Wednesday 1 January	09.30am Mass the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Columba's 11.30am Mass the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Peter's No evening Mass
Thursday 2	09.30am Mass St. Columba's (normal services resume)
Sunday 5	The Epiphany of the Lord Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Monday 6	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 7	Teas and coffees after Mass in St. Columba's 7.30pm SSVP meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Sunday 12	Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



***Breakfast for Zimbabwe today at St. Columba's;** hot filled rolls and coffee/tea in plenty for our friends in Zimbabwe.

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

In Scotland the Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace takes place on Sunday 5 January 2025, Feast of the Epiphany. Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace includes Prayers of the Faithful and Archbishop Bill Nolan's Letter, as chair of Justice and Peace Commission in Scotland. Thanks to the people in both of our Parishes who give freely of their time and effort putting Catholic Social Teaching in action.

At **11.30am Mass, 12 January** we welcome Victoria Groom as she is accepted into the Order of Catechumens, and offer up our prayers for her as she continues her journey of faith to receive the sacraments of initiation; Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, at the Easter Vigil 2025.

Save the date: 10.30am, Saturday 18 January, Peter Diamond, Aid to the Church in Need speaks on current programmes and initiatives with reference to India. Middle

'What is needed for a just and lasting peace in Palestine' – Haneen Zoabi. Justice and Peace talk 14th December

Haneen Zoabi, a Palestinian-Israeli politician from Nazareth, served as a member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) for the Balad party from 2009-2019. 25 people attended the talk to hear Haneen's stark appraisal of the current conflict and its background from the Palestinian perspective, as well as her insights into the requirements for a fair and lasting future peace in Palestine.

She believes firmly that those responsible for oppression must be held accountable, for the sake of their own humanity as well as Palestinian humanity, and that love requires accountability before there can be any just or

Hall, with tea and coffee from 10am, talk begins at 10.30.

School for contemplation online for those seeking a more contemplative way of praying and living. 7 online sessions **Sunday 12 Jan - 23 Feb 2025.** For info and to apply please contact the Administrator: enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk or 01492 514223. Flyers at back of Church.

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 across 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 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWu8zqairUk> and <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19302#!/DonationDetails> All help or donations 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).

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.

lasting peace. Haneen saw signs of hope of liberation in the future, through outside pressure worldwide from the younger generation and the Jewish diaspora as well as liberals in Israel itself, and she invited us to join in putting pressure on the UK government and universities.

Mike Mineter from the Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission attended the meeting and pointed us to the 2009 Kairos Palestine Document, a call to action. We should be aware of Christian Zionism – and ready to undermine it. Those attending the meeting gave a donation to CAFOD who are working with Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular partners in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel to tackle humanitarian crises and protect human rights.

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord commemorates when Jesus Christ was revealed as the Messiah. The Gospel of Matthew recounts that three wise men from the East visited our Saviour after his birth and acknowledged him with gifts representing kingship, priesthood, and death.

The Feast of the Epiphany highlights key themes in the story of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. These themes help us understand the importance of Jesus' birth and His mission for all people:

- **Jesus as Light:** Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. He guides all people to God.
- **Universal Mission:** Jesus came for all nations and people. His salvation is not limited to one group.
- **Fulfilment of Prophecy:** Isaiah's prophecy about light and gifts is fulfilled in Jesus. The gifts of the Magi show this connection.

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- **Humility and Kingship:** Jesus is a humble king. He shows true power through love and gentleness.
- **Inclusiveness:** Paul teaches that both Jews and Gentiles share in Jesus' promises. The Epiphany shows that everyone is included in God's plan.
- **Guidance of the Star:** The star leads the Magi to Jesus. This shows God's guidance to all who seek Him.
- **Gift-Giving:** The Magi bring gifts to honour Jesus. This shows recognition of His kingship and divinity.
- **Contrast with Herod:** Herod's fear and violence contrast with Jesus' humble birth. This shows the difference between earthly and heavenly kingship.

Taken from Young Catholics

Magi Quiz: how many can you get?

Answers in next newsletter: 12 January 2025

1. How many Wise Men (Magi) visited Joseph, Jesus and Mary in Bethlehem?
 - A) Four
 - B) Two
 - C) The Bible does not say
 - D) Three
2. Which King of Israel wanted to kill the baby who would grow to become the Messiah?
 - A) Flavius Josephus
 - B) Caesar Augustus
 - C) Herod
 - D) Quirinius
3. Who wrote the text of the Epiphany carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are"?
 - A) Father Josef Mohr
 - B) Phillips Brooks
 - C) John Henry Hopkins Jr.
 - D) Charles Wesley
4. The story of the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) appears in the Gospel according to whom?
 - A) Mark
 - B) John
 - C) Luke
 - D) Matthew
5. Which of the following is not a kind of Three Kings Cake?
 - A) La Rosca de Reyes
 - B) Kulitch
 - C) Galette des Rois
 - D) Dreikönigskuchen
6. Whose poem "The Journey of the Magi" begins "A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a

journey, and such a long journey"?

- A) William Butler Yeats
 - B) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 - C) O. Henry
 - D) T.S. Eliot
7. What is the origin and meaning of the word 'epiphany'?
 - A) From the Greek, meaning "to show forth"
 - B) From the Latin, meaning "astrologers/magicians"
 - C) From the Greek, meaning "before Lent"
 - D) From the German, meaning "after Christmas"
 8. What are/were the three traditional names assigned to the Wise Men (Magi)?
 - A) Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar
 - B) Peter, Paul and James
 - C) Huey, Dewey and Louie
 - D) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
 9. "The Adoration of the Magi" commissioned in late 15th Century as an altarpiece for the Augustinian monks of San Donato a Scopeto in Florence. Unfinished and now hangs in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Who painted it?
 - A) Andrea del Verrocchio
 - B) Leonardo da Vinci
 - C) Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi
 - D) Sandro Botticelli
 10. What is myrrh?
 - A) The Arabic word for silver
 - B) A mercurial compound used to treat flesh wounds
 - C) Nutmeg
 - D) The dried sap of an African tree used anciently in embalming ointments and burned at funerals.



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