

The week ahead 26 January—2 February 2025				
Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 25 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Conversion of St. Paul 3rd Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 26 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes Elizabeth Flynn, RIP
Monday 27 January	No Service		3rd Week of the Year	
Tuesday 28 January	St Columba's	9.30am	St Thomas Aquinas Memorial	Holy Souls
Weds 29 January	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of the Year	John Smith
Thursday 30 January	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week of the Year	Holy Souls
Friday 31 January	St Peter's	09.30am	St John Bosco Memorial	
Saturday 1 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	3rd Week of the Year Presentation of the Lord	Bill Walker RIP
Sunday 2 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Presentation of the Lord	People of the Parishes



St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh
Third Sunday of the Year —Year C
26 January—2 February 2025



Today we begin the consecutive reading of Luke's gospel, which was originally joined to Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles. The way the story is told prepares us for what happens in the Acts.

Today's gospel shows Jesus proclaiming the word of God in the synagogue at Nazareth. From the scroll of Isaiah he selected the passage that contained the prophet's messianic vision of pardon, healing, and liberation (61:1-2). Then he declared that his marvellous prophecy was being fulfilled among them (in and through his ministry).

Jesus was sent, not to the wealthy or the powerful, but to the poor and the lonely, the oppressed and the suffering. Here we see Luke's concern for the poor and the afflicted. Who are the poor? In the first place, the poor are those who live on bread alone and who never hear the Word of God. But the poor are also the dispossessed of this world, those who are waiting for liberation. The good news must not be limited to spiritual blessings only.

Flor McCarthy SDB



<p>Confessions</p> <p>St Peter's: Saturday 11am (during Adoration) and 4.30pm St Columba's: Sunday before 6.30pm Mass</p> <p>Adoration: St Peter's: Saturday 11am</p>	<p>Sunday's readings on page 129</p> <p>First reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10 Psalm: 18, 8-10, 15, resp John 6:63 Psalm response: Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life. Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 Gospel: Luke: 1-4, 4: 14-21</p>	<p>Scan to make donations</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>St Peter's St. Columba's</p>
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<p>Would you like to know how to hear God's voice more clearly? God's invitation to relationship is a six week online prayer course to introduce you to ways of praying. It will support you into a deeper prayer life through facilitators' input (all trained spiritual directors with the Epiphany Group), guided prayer experience and sharing. Participants have said: 'I am forever changed due to the course and very excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer'.</p> <p>Next course: Tuesdays 7pm – 8.30/9pm, 25 Feb - 1 April 2025. This course is offered free by the Epiphany Group of Spiritual Directors. For more information visit www.epiphanygroup.org.uk To register email waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk Flyers at the back of the church.</p>	<p>The Scottish Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi takes place 5 to 12 September 2025. With four nights in Rome and three in Assisi. To register your interest, contact Jim McKelvie j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk or on 07957 847290.</p> <p>Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place 11 to 18 July, led by Archbishop Cushley. The theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. All welcome. If you would like to read more about the theme for 2025 you can download a document from the Lourdes Sanctuary. https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25 Travel Package: In 2025, Tangney Tours will be providing the Travel Package. Tangney Tours will make the package available when it is ready and we will signpost you to the package details from this website.</p>
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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

Canon Kenneth writes ...

For many years there has been an Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 -25 January. I don't know whether it comes too quickly after Christmas or whether our congregations are too busy doing other things. This year the theme is celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. They suggest the following reflections for each day:

- The fatherhood and motherhood of God who rules the universe
- Creation as God's work
- The Incarnation of the Son
- The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit, breath of God
- The Church: Community of believers
- Baptism into the Death and Resurrection of the Lord
- Waiting for the Kingdom

One suggestion is to have the Octave around Pentecost rather than in January. Is there any interest among our two parishes to do so? If so, speak to Canon Kenneth.

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 26 January	Third Sunday of the Year—Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion, First Confession and Confirmation
Monday 27	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 28	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 8pm Fabric & Maintenance meeting, St. Columba's, Parish room
Wednesday 29	7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's Middle hall (first floor)
Friday 31	7.30pm, Friday 31 January, Concert by Candlelight for Mary's Meals, St. Peter's
Sunday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord—Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



Today we celebrate the Giving of the Gospel at the 09.30 and 11.30 Masses for those preparing for Confirmation. free of charge but **cash** donations are invited towards feeding 100 new Mary's Meals children. Please give it your support.

The special collection at the Vigil (18 Feb) and Sunday Masses (19 Feb) for the White Flower, SPUC Appeal raised £958.49 (St. Columba's £340.31 and St. Peter's £618.18). Thank you for your generosity to this Appeal.

At the recent St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council it was suggested that we donate all the books in the Parish Room to the Christian Aid sale. If you have any favourites please take them **this Sunday**. It was also suggested that if any families have children friendly books, bibles or prayer books we could have a basket for them at the back of the church and available when families needed them.

It is time to renew or join the St. Columba's 100 club. It is £20 per year and there is a monthly draw so you can win your money back. All the money goes to our sister parish in Zimbabwe. Could you give your money to Agnes Watson or any Justice and Peace member.

Children's liturgy is on **every Sunday throughout the school term time**. All primary school age children are welcome. Pre school children are also welcome if they feel happy to come on their own with the other children. We gather for around 10 minutes, we enjoy listening to the Gospel, singing and doing some colouring in. We look forward to welcoming you—The Children's Liturgy team St. Peter's.

Wednesday 29 January, 7pm—the first meeting of 2025 of our Catholic Teens Group (for P7- S4). Meeting monthly 7-8.30pm (last Wednesday of the month) at St. Columba's Hall to have fun and learn more about our faith. A good number of young parishioners joined last year. If you're interested in coming ask your parent/guardian to register your interest by emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Save the date: Friday 31 January 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Concert by Candlelight for Mary's Meals. A family friendly and highly entertaining evening. Entry is

free of charge but **cash** donations are invited towards feeding 100 new Mary's Meals children. Please give it your support. **Please check the [St Peter's website pages](#)** for your ministry (or hand on to someone who has taken over from you) and please reply with any changes or suggestions **before the end of January** to Juliet (julietmackellaig@gmail.com or <https://stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk>).

Conversations in the Spirit Saturday 1 February 11am - 3pm: a synodal event with Fr. Matthew Nunes from Liverpool Archdiocese - on how to participate in Parish synodality - will be held at the Gillis Centre in Strathearn Road. Mass at 10am. Bring a packed lunch. Details and registration from bit.ly/inthespirit25.

Join Religious brothers and sisters **on Sunday 2 February at St Mary's Cathedral** with 12 noon Mass to celebrate the World Day of Consecrated Life. It is a chance to meet some of those who live and work in the Archdiocese and to pray for more vocations to the Religious Life.

The February Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at **4pm on Sunday 2 February in St Cuthbert's Church**, 104 Slateford Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1PT. Archbishop Cushley will be the principal celebrant.

The Newington area 'World Day of Prayer' 2025: **Friday 7 March 2pm:** this year will be held in St Columba's. **Volunteers are needed** for organisation, please contact Agatha Kai-Kai (07711 796 916).

Aid to the Church in Need Scottish Catholic Conference 'Courage to Be Catholic' Saturday 29 March 2025, 09.30-4pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Mass 5pm at St. Aloysius. Hear from inspiring speakers, meet representatives from Catholic organisations from around Scotland and build a Catholic community. Register on trybooking.com. Early bird price before 10 February £30 (concession £25) includes lunch. Contact Scotland@acnuk.org 01698 337 470.

Some suggestions for spiritual reading

Pope Francis, *HOPE: The Autobiography*, Penguin Random Books UK, 2025. Just recently published for the Holy Year of Hope Pope Francis shares his personal legacy.

Gregory Boyle, *Cherished belonging. The healing power of love in divided times*, Avid Reader Pres, New York 2024. He shares with us two unwavering principles: we are all unshakably good and we belong to each other.

James & Evelyn Whitehead, *Nourishing the Spirit. The healing emotions of wonder, joy, compassion and hope*, Orbis Books, New York, 2012. They reflect on the blessed and brokenness of the human person in the light of the life of Jesus.

Murray Bodo and Susan Sing, *Pilgrims in Assisi. A retreat with Francis and Clare*, Tau-Publishing, Phoenix, 1996. Get to know Francis and Clare better whether you are able to visit Assisi or not.

Henri Nouwen, *The return of the prodigal son. A story of home coming*, Darton-Longman and Todd, London 1992. A spiritual classic in which Nouwen shares his journey from reflecting on Luke's parable and Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Particularly appropriate in this year when we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Joyce Rupp, *Prayer seeds. A gathering of blessings, reflections and poems for spiritual growth*, Ave Maria Press, Indiana, 2017. Rupp is a well seasoned spiritual guide who offers a wide variety of resources to nourish the spiritual life.

Reflection

Human beings are frail and foolish.
In our foolishness and short sightedness we imagine divine grace to be limited,
and for this reason we tremble.
But the moment comes when our eyes are opened, and we see that grace is infinite.
Grace demands nothing from us but that we await in confidence
and acknowledge it in gratitude.
Grace makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular.
Grace takes us to its bosom and proclaims a gentle amnesty.

Isak Dinesen

Grace

Parish notices continued...

Fresh Start contacted us to thank Parishioners for all your support over the Christmas period ...

'Fresh Start's Christmas campaigns couldn't have happened without the incredible generosity of our volunteers, donors, and supporters like you. What we achieved together: Gifts for 265 children; 190 festive Food Hampers and through your donations, our Just Giving page for Cookers for Christmas reached almost £6.5K used to purchase white goods such as cookers, fridge freezers and washing machines for those in need, enabling them to prepare warm, home-cooked meals and wash clothes at home not just for Christmas but beyond. Our Cookers for Christmas page is still open for donations during January via Freshstart's website.'

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

Rosary in a year podcast

From the makers of 'the Bible in a year' and 'the Catechism in a year' comes 'the Rosary in a year.' In Ascension's 'Rosary in a Year' podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world. Listen to discover via your podcast provider:

- How to build a daily habit of prayer
- How to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary - The Biblical foundations of the Rosary
- How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina) - The power of Mary's influence in your life ...and more

Bright and spacious flat to share in a quiet area of Morningside. Large double room with ensuite. Preferably female applicant. Available from Mid February. For more details please contact Jacqueline_heron@yahoo.co.uk