

The week ahead 2—9 March 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 1 March Vigil	St Peter's	5.30pm	8th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 2 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	8th Sunday of the Year	Patricia M McDonnell RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 3 March	No Service		8th Week of the Year	
Tuesday 4 March	St Columba's	9.30am	8th Week of the Year	Brigid McEwen RIP
Weds 5 March	St Peter's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11am 7pm	Ash Wednesday	
Thursday 6 March	St Columba's	9.30am	Thursday after Ash Weds	Holy Souls
Friday 7 March	St Peter's	9.30am	Friday after Ash Weds	Douglas Hunter
Saturday 8 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Saturday after Ash Weds 1st Sunday of Lent	Katie MacEachen RIP
Sunday 9 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes

Confessions (Usual times)

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

Adoration:
St Peter's: Saturday 11am

**** No Confessions/Adoration 1 or 2 March**

Sunday's readings: page 145

First reading: Sirach 27: 4-7
Psalm: 92 (91) 2-3, 13-14, 15-16
Psalm response: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 54-58
Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45

Scan to make donations



St Peter's St. Columba's

Lent Meditations 2025: see Parish website for more detail

Weekly Lent reflections from Pray as you go
'The Pace of Grace', written for Pray As You Go by Phil Harrison SJ, is all about slowing down and taking time with God. We can use this season to see things more clearly day-by-day, and perhaps recognise that each moment is a precious gift from God.

Lent Reflection Series. The Sower and the Seed 5 March - 16 April. £30, £35 with printed booklet
Spring: a season of sowing seeds and watching for green shoots. A time to think about what we plant, what is planted in us and what is the ground of our being. To shed new light on familiar parables and look for seeds of hope in difficult times, and to consider the Sower, in

whose hands new life flourishes.
New material for each week during Lent.
Book at <https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/the-sower-and-the-seed/>

Ignatian Spirituality Centre: Daily Lent Online Retreat
<https://www.onlineprayer.net/fruits-of-the-spirit/>
We will journey through Lent 2025 in the Jubilee Year. Our Lenten journey this year therefore picks up on the Jubilee theme "Pilgrims of Hope". The letter issued by Pope Francis on the Feast of the Ascension 2024 to help us begin this pilgrimage is *Spes non Confundit*, hope does not disappoint. Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:1-2.5)
Offers daily online or via ISC app: music; image; scripture; quotation from the writings of Pope Francis.

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 at 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
Eighth Sunday of the Year —Year C
2—9 March 2025

Here it is no longer a question of love of enemies, but love of ones brothers and sisters in the community. A Christian is his brother's keeper. But one cannot undertake to guide others unless one knows the way oneself. And criticism of others must be preceded by self criticism.

People are judged by their deeds. Just as we judge a tree by its fruit, so we judge a person by his actions. Hence, the true Christian must be a genuinely good person.

It is not only ones deeds that show what kind of a person one is, So do one's words. One's words reveal what is in the heart: goodness or badness.

It is easy to see the faults of another, but a psychological war prevents us from seeing our own faults. We could be blind to certain facts about ourselves, which are perfectly clear to anyone who's lived in the same house with us or worked in the same office.

One of the main things that blind us to our own faults is a preoccupation with the faults of others. How anxious we are to correct others.

Without realising it, we can become fault finders and critics. But critics are not the ones who reform the world.

But how we hate and dread being corrected ourselves. We find it unbearable, especially if it is done by someone we don't like. There are times when correction is called for. Some people have that responsibility: parents, teachers, and leaders. Correction can be an expression of love.

Jesus tells us to take the beam out of our own eye first, and then we can think about removing the splinter from our neighbour's. In other words, we must put our own house in order first before trying to put somebody else's house in order.

We need to listen to ourselves, to look at ourselves, and then correct what needs to be corrected. We can't guide others if we are blind to ourselves.



Flor McCarthy SDB

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

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 2 March	Eighth Sunday of the Year—Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion, First Confession and Confirmation Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish No Sunday evening Confession this week
Monday 3	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 4	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7.30pm SSVP Meeting, Parish Room, St. Peter's
Wednesday 5	Ash Wednesday — day of Fast and Abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes: 09.30 St. Peter's, 11am School Mass St. Peter's (all welcome); 7pm St. Columba's
Friday 7	10.30 World Day of Prayer service, St. Peter's 2.30pm World Day of Prayer service, St. Columba's
Sunday 9	1st Sunday of Lent —Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



* For Pastoral emergencies while Canon Kenneth is away contact Jesuits, Sacred Heart Lauriston on 07935 855 175.

Congratulations to Antonia Marie Loewy-Brooks Baptised last Sunday at St. Peter's.

Today, Sunday 2 March 5pm: a prayer service for those who've suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in support. Ecumenical and open to all. St. John the Baptist RC Church, Corstorphine, 37, St. Ninian's Road, Edinburgh. No registration required. The service may be helpful for anyone who feels that they've not had the opportunity to fully acknowledge and grieve for their loss.

Canon Kenneth returns **Tuesday 4 March for 09.30 Mass** at St. Columba's. We thank the Jesuit Priests from the Sacred Heart Church, Fr Gonzalo Castro SJ and Fr David Stewart SJ and Fr Kris van Damme FSO from the Spiritual Family The Work for celebrating Masses for us whilst Father was at his retreat and also whilst he was taking a break.

Ash Wednesday 5 March is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes take place as follows:

- 09.30 St. Peter's
- 11am St. Peter's School Mass (all welcome)
- 7pm St. Columba's

On Ash Wednesday, SCIAF launches the WEE BOX, BIG Change Appeal. This year's Lent Appeal focuses on the country of Colombia. In Colombia, violence lurks around every corner, displacing families, forcing children into crime, and leaving communities dominated by armed gangs. In Chocó, the poorest region, people face conflict, poverty, and isolation, and feel forgotten by the world. This Lent, in this Jubilee year, let's give in hope and use your WEE BOX to make a BIG CHANGE. To find out more please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

World day of Prayer: Friday 7 March

- **10.30am at St. Peter's.** St. Peter's is the host this year on behalf of the Morningside Churches.

- **2.30pm at St. Columba's (followed by refreshments).** St. Columba's is the host this year on behalf of Newington Churches Together.

The service this year is written by the Christian women of the Cook Islands. Please support this annual event.

Saturday 8 March 10am-4pm, Gillis Centre. A special Lent event. RETURN: A day to help you get back to Confession.

If you've not been to confession for a while, want to learn more and go to confession, come to this event. The day includes talks, a how-to session, Q&A, prayer, and a chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tea/coffee from 9.30am, free light lunch, free parking. Register on Eventbrite at bit.ly/return2025

Save the Date Saturday: 15 March. The Church in Scotland: The Quiet Exodus- Ecumenism in a Time of Decline. Fr. Basil Clark, Vicar Episcopal for Ecumenism & Interfaith Dialogue will give us an insight into what his duties entail and how we can reverse a decline in interest and activity in ecumenism in all churches, despite many new ministers not seeing it as a priority. St. Columba's Middle Hall. Coffee and biscuits from 10am, talk at 10.30am.

The Beginning experience weekend for those suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood **4- 6 April 2025** Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. Contact Louise (07926 571 004 or louise398@gmail.com) for details. **Applications must be returned by 21 March.**

Talk by Dorothy Parker on Berthe Morisot - Female Impressionist Artist Tues 18 March, 11am, St. Peter's Parish room. Berthe Morisot a founder member of the Impressionists, was until recently was written out of Art History. Parishioners are invited to this free event. If you'd like attend please let Norma Daniels Emm know (07576924342 or normaemm@yahoo.co.uk).

(see P3 for further Parish news...)

An Angry Spirituality

The LORD is tender and compassionate, slow to anger, most loving; God's indignation does not last forever. God's resentment exists only a short time (Psalm 103)

Passions abound in the capacious heart of God. The Jewish and Christian scriptures show us a God immersed in all passions that accompany commitment.

The revelation seems to be that passions are the price of love. The stoic vision of a God of control diverges sharply from the biblical image of a God of desire. The biblical evidence seems to insist, anger cannot be rejected out-of-hand. The goal instead, as captured by the psalmist and echoed in Paul's advice to the believers in Ephesus, is to "be angry and not sin (Ps4;4 Eph 4: 26).

Anger often erupts as a raw, unruly emotion. To serve its best purposes, our passion requires refinement. Honing anger's arousal to the work of virtuous action is an angry spirituality's most practical task.

The discipline that shapes our passion into the virtues of courage and temperance.

Reflective exercise

- Consider experiences of anger - yours or someone else's - in the public arena: in civic life, in politics, at work or school, within the church.
 - **First**, list several instances when anger in these social settings was, in your judgment, detrimental or damaging
 - Concretely, what were the negative effects of these angry incidents?
 - As you see it, what factors contributed most to making anger negative in these cases:
 - factors in the combatants?
 - factors in the bystanders?
 - factors in the larger setting?
 - **Then**, list examples when anger in the social settings had positive outcomes
 - Practically, what were the good effects you noted?
 - What factors: people, values, attitudes, behaviours, circumstances - help anger produce these positive results.

Adapted from *James and Evelyn Whitehead, Shadows of the heart. A Spirituality of the Negative Emotions, Crossroad, New York, 1994.*

Prayer/Reflection

A tree is judged by its fruits.

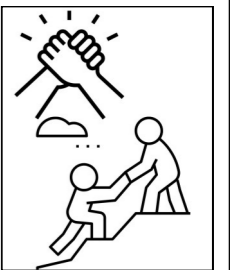
A sound tree produces good fruit. An unsound tree produces bad fruit.

In the same way a person can be judged by his or her deeds.

A good person produces a harvest of good deeds;
a bad person produces a harvest of evil deeds.

Lord, help us to shun all evil, and to live a life of genuine goodness.

Then our deeds will flow from what we are, as naturally as good fruit from a good tree.



'El Salvador – Church of the Poor' Fr Henry McLaughlin: Justice and Peace talk, 15 February

Fr. Henry McLaughlin, a missionary for 38 years in El Salvador and Mexico, challenges us to be the Church for the poor, and gave us insights into his life with the Church of the Poor.

He asks us to think about the forgotten poor in Latin America, oppressed by imperialism and war, whose stories we seldom hear. And he invites us to be inspired by their practice of the Faith, despite all their hardships. One parish might have 200,000 people in 360 villages, each one visited by a priest just once a year for baptisms and marriages. During the year, in the absence of a priest, each

village will gather in the open air for a Mass lasting several hours led by the laity, focusing on the Liturgy of the Word. The Gospel is read 2 or 3 times so all can hear, then groups gather to discuss the Gospel and share their thoughts with the other groups. Many are illiterate but all are included and all learn to know the Gospel well – perhaps better than we do.

Fr. Henry also invites us to learn from their emphasis on reconciliation over retribution, on concern for others more than ourselves and on caring for the gift of creation.

To follow Jesus is to have a loving heart that leads to loving actions towards those in need: if the church is not for the poor, then how can it be Christian?

Parish news continued...

We're in **need of Jam Jars** for jams, marmalades and chutneys to be sold at St. Peter's events in aid of SCIAF. Ideally traditional straight-sided 1lb (380gm) jar, or "Bon Maman" style faceted jar, with its own gingham printed lid. If jars and lids could be washed out and labels removed, that would be perfect. Jars can be left at the back of St. Peter's Church, or on the doorstep of Bowmont Tower, 41 Greenhill Gardens. Thank you.

The Open door is looking to run Volunteer-led Coffee and Cake Wednesdays starting **9 April 11.30 - 14.00** to raise funds to help towards the rising cost of transport to and from the Day Care Services. **Volunteers needed.** If you like making people feel welcome, love conversation over coffee and cake, can help set up, serve, clear up or bake and would like to help, please get in touch: email: simon@thependoor.org.uk or call 0131-447-9757. See poster at back of Church for more details.