

The week ahead 23 February—2 March 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 22 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	The Chair of St. Peter 7th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 23 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	7th Sunday of the Year	Douglas Hunter People of the Parishes
Monday 24 February	No Service		7th Week of the Year	
Tuesday 25 February	No Service	9.30am	7th Week of the Year	
Weds 26 February	No Service	9.30am	7th Week of the Year	
Thursday 27 February	No Service	9.30am	7th Week of the Year	
Friday 28 February	No Service	9.30am	7th Week of the Year	
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


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 141
First reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9,12-13, 22-23
Psalm:103, R8a
Psalm response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49
Gospel: Luke6: 27-38

Scan to make donations
St Peter's **St. Columba's**




Want to know how to hear God's voice more clearly?
 God's invitation to relationship is a six week online prayer course introducing you to ways of praying. Supporting you into a deeper prayer life through facilitators' input (trained spiritual directors with the Epiphany Group), guided prayer experience and sharing. 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 information; www.epiphanygroup.org.uk. To register email waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk. Flyers at the back of the church.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 11 to 18 July, led by Archbishop Cushley. The theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. All welcome. To read more about the theme you can download a document from the Lourdes Sanctuary. <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25>. Travel Package: Tangney Tours will provide the Travel Package and once it's ready and we'll signpost you to the details from this website.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome for Young Adults
 Archbishop Cushley leads our Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome for young adults (18+) **28 July - 4 August 2025.** Cost £1,175 includes return flights from Edinburgh to Rome, coach transfers, bed and breakfast at Casa Santa Lucia and an opportunity to take part in the Jubilee for Young People programme, including attending Mass celebrated by the Holy Father. Limited single rooms available. Email frrobert.taylor@staned.org.uk by Sunday 2 February.

The Scottish Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi—5 to 12 September 2025
 Four nights in Rome, three in Assisi. To register interest, contact Jim McKelvie j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk or on 07957 847290.

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
Seventh Sunday of the Year —Year C
 23 February—2 March 2025

Love within one's group or fellowship is a natural and universal human trait. What makes the disciples of Christ different from other people is their ability to love those outside their own group or fellowship, and even their enemies.

Jesus goes on to stress the obligations of fraternal charity. His disciples are to imitate the kindness and compassion of God. He asks them to be compassionate, forgiving, and generous towards one another, and shows them that whatever they give to others will be given back to them with interest.

It is not only for the sake of the enemy that Jesus says to us, love your enemies, it is for your own sake too. Hatred is a very destructive thing. Hatred may not destroy its object, but it was surely destroy the one who hates. 'Ten enemies cannot hurt a person as much as he hurts himself' (Proverb).

Jesus challenges us to respond to darkness with light. Revenge and retaliation only add darkness to darkness. Revenge may satisfy a person's rage but it leaves the heart empty. The escalation of evil can be stopped only by one who absorbs it, without passing it on.

Our hearts were made to love, not to hate. Love is more beautiful than hate. Hate poisons and harden the heart. Love on the other hand purifies and softens the heart. At all costs we must keep love in our heart. The image of God is at its best and brightest in us when we love.

The power of love is greater than the power of evil. Love releases extraordinary energies in us. And love is never lost. If not reciprocated, it will flow back and soften and purify the heart.

If we pray for our enemies, peace will come to us. And when we love our enemies, we can be certain that divine grace dwells in us.

Flor McCarthy SDB



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 St Peter's: Sharon Kedney Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk (10-1 Thursdays)
 St Columba's: Sr Karin: sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk
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 James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...



Sunday 23 February	Seventh 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 13.45 Baptism Antonia Marie Loewy-Brooks, St. Peter's
Monday 24—Friday 28	No services
Monday 24	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 25	As there is no Mass today there are no teas and coffees at St. Columba's
Wednesday 26	7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's Middle hall (first floor)
Saturday 1 March	No Confession, Adoration or 12 noon Mass
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 morning Mass in each Parish No Sunday evening Confession this week

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

SCIAF sale of Marmalade and home baking – thank you! The sales over the last two weekends at St. Peter's raised £412.60. Congratulations to the organisers, and a big thank you to everybody who generously supported SCIAF by buying produce from the stall.

Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, it takes place on the last Sunday of each month, 4pm - 7pm at St Columba's. The next one is **TODAY Sunday 23 February**. To register or find out more email religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

Canon Kenneth is away from Monday 24 February returning Tuesday 4 March. Arrangements for services during this period are as follows:

- There will be no services Monday 24 - Friday 28 February inclusive.
- There will be no Confession, Adoration or 12 noon Mass on Saturday 1 March.
- Visiting Priests will celebrate the Vigil Mass on Saturday 1 March and our three Sunday Masses on 2 March.
- There will be no Sunday evening Confession on 2 March.
- For Pastoral emergencies whilst Canon Kenneth is away please contact the Jesuits, Sacred Heart Lauriston on 07935 855 175.

This Wednesday 26 February, 7pm—second meeting this year 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 along ask your parent/guardian to register interest emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

A prayer service those who have suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support. Ecumenical and open to all. **Sunday 2 March 5pm**, St. John the Baptist RC Church, Corstorphine, 37, St Ninian's Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8AL. No registration required. This service may be helpful for anyone who feels that they have not had the opportunity to fully acknowledge and grieve for their loss.

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.
- **2pm at St. Columba's**
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 come and support this annual event.

The Beginning experience are holding a weekend for those suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood **4– 6 April 2025** at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. Contact Louise (07926 571 004 or louise398@gmail.com) for details.

Applications must be returned by 21 March.

Confronting aging with social connection

Shortly after the beginning of the New Year I caught an interview on the radio as I was driving to weekday Mass in St. Columba's.

This scientific researcher was saying that to confront the aging process we need exercise, diet, cut out tobacco and alcohol - all of which were not new to me.

However, his fifth point took me to a Harvard University study call "*The importance of connections: ways to live a longer life Giulia Cambieri, December 2024.*

Researchers agree that social connection can help people live longer and healthier lives. Being socially disconnected, for example, is associated with higher risk of illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, anxiety, depression and dementia.

Some in the health care systems are using an approach called social proscripting which refers patients to community resources.

I was wondering whether our Parish communities could be a resource? These resources can include social activities such as walking groups, cooking or sports classes, volunteering opportunities and creative ones from drawing classes to book clubs, to dance.



A study with 200,000 participants in 22 countries found that across the religious traditions examined, people who participate in spiritual practices go on to report better health.

Do we have any interest in exploring how we might use the resources that we have in St. Columba's and St. Peter's to make a better contribution to the community?

We have already coffee mornings, social experiences, outreach groups and support of local charities. **Any ideas, thoughts, comments speak to Canon Kenneth.**

Reflection

I lived on the shady side of the road and watched my neighbours' gardens
across the way revelling in the sunshine.
I felt I was poor and from door to door went in my hunger.
The more they gave me from their careless abundance
the more I became aware of my beggar's bowl.
Till one morning I awoke from my sleep at the sudden opening of my door
and you came in and asked for alms.
In despair I broke open the lid of my chest and was startled into finding my own wealth.

Rabindranath Tagore

Lent Meditations 2025— see Parish website for more details

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.