

The week ahead 2—9 February 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
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
Monday 3 February	No Service		4th Week of the Year	
Tuesday 4 February	St Columba's	9.30am	4th Week of the Year	Yvonne Bell of Canonmills
Weds 5 February	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Agatha Memorial	
Thursday 6 February	St Columba's	9.30am	St. Paul Miki & Companions	Bill Walker RIP
Friday 7 February	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of the Year	
Saturday 8 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	4th Week of the Year 5th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 9 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of the Year	Rogerson Family Special intention People of the Parishes

**Confessions**

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

**Adoration:**

St Peter's: Saturday 11am

**Sunday's readings: page 299**

**First reading:** Malachi 3: 1-4  
**Psalm:** 24 (23) , resp 10bc  
**Psalm response:** The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory  
**Second reading:** Hebrews 1: 14-18  
**Gospel:** Luke 2: 22-32

**Scan to make donations**



St Peter's St. Columba's

**Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 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.

**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 [frobert.taylor@staned.org.uk](mailto:frobert.taylor@staned.org.uk) by Sunday 2 February.

**The Scottish Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi—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](mailto:j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk) or on 07957 847290.

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter to Sharon Kedney at [office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk](mailto:office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk) by Wednesday evening please. St Peter's website contact Juliet MacKellaig 447 4210 or [julietmackellaig@gmail.com](mailto: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  
**The Presentation of the Lord —Year C**  
2—9 February 2025

**The Presentation of the Lord**

The name given to the feast in the East was 'The Meeting' or 'Coming to meet'. In Jerusalem it was celebrated as the commemoration of the Lord into his temple and there being met by the 'ideal' representatives of the Old Covenant - Simone and Anna.

The custom of processing with lights is perhaps derived from the Roman practice of greeting the emperor, or his representative, with a procession in which lights are carried and flowers thrown; Christ is our true ruler come to his people - the light of the nations. Coming forty days after the Nativity, the Presentation closed the Christmas cycle.

In accordance with the Jewish law, Jesus is circumcised on the eighth day, and like John, is also named on that day.

Luke devotes only one verse to the scene and stresses the significance of the naming. In circumcision Jesus is subject to the requirements of the law; in naming, Jesus is subject to the will of God who communicated the name through Gabriel's command (1: 31)



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday - which is Wednesday 5 March. This year **for spiritual reading** I am recommending a reflection on the rule of St. Benedict in contemporary life. *Joan Chittister, The monastery of the heart. An invitation to a meaningful life, SPCK, London, 2011.*

Over twenty five reflections she invites us to gain spiritual growth from the rule of St. Benedict. Conveniently there are six chapter headings which would correspond neatly with the six weeks of Lent. It is available in paperback (£10.99) and electronically on Kindle (£6.99).

**Six chapters as follows:**

- Our search
- Our interior life
- Our community
- Our work
- Our promise
- Our spiritual growth

**Parish Priest:** Canon Kenneth Owens

[frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk](mailto:frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk) 0131 447 2502

St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; [www.stpeterchurchedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stpeterchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; [www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk)

**Deacon:** Rev John E Smith: [johnesmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnesmith@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Parish Secretaries:**

St Peter's: Sharon Kedney [office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk](mailto:office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk) (10-1 Thursdays)

St Columba's: Sr Karin: [sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk)

**St. Columba's Hall hire:**

James Meehan: [Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com](mailto:Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com)

## This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord —Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Monday 3	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 4	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7.30pm SSVV meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Sunday 9	Fifth Sunday of the Year—Year C Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



### 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 please 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.

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

The members of the **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP), at St. Peter's**, would like to thank all Parishioners for their prayers and financial support over the past year. If any Parishioners know of anyone who would like a food parcel, a top up with their gas/electric meters or who would benefit from any support from the SSVP, please speak with a member or contact us through our details on the Parish website. Thank you.

The Archdiocese has organised a **free mini-retreat** for married and engaged couples. **2-5pm Saturday 15 February, St Kentigern's Church**, 26 Parkgrove Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR. The scriptural focus is on The Wedding Feast at Cana. The speaker is Fr. Andrew Garden (St David's, Dalkeith). Register [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-retreat-for-couples-tickets-1142645867549) or at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-retreat-for-couples-tickets-1142645867549](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-retreat-for-couples-tickets-1142645867549)

**Archdiocese Children's Liturgy Workshop Saturday 22 February.** Those involved with Children's Liturgy are invited to join this workshop from 9:30 -12:00 at The Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Registration and full event schedule at <https://forms.office.com/e/yRxbbsJ5kL>

**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](https://trybooking.com). Early bird price before 10 February £30 (concession £25) includes lunch. Contact [Scotland@acnuk.org](mailto:Scotland@acnuk.org) 01698 337 470.

### 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 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. Participants feedback: 'I am forever changed due to the course and very excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer'.  
**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 visit [www.epiphanygroup.org.uk](http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk). To register email [waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk](mailto:waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk). Flyers at the back of the church.

**Donegal County Council is seeking photographs of Donegal people** at work in Scotland between 1940 and 1990 for an upcoming exhibition. Participants are encouraged to share images, stories, documents or objects that reflect the working lives of Donegal people in Scotland. The exhibition will be launched in spring 2025. For more information contact [donegalcscotland@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:donegalcscotland@donegalcoco.ie) or +353 74 916 3824.

## 'Persecuted and Forgotten?' – Peter Diamond, Aid to the Church in Need

Justice and Peace talk 18 January 2025

Peter Diamond, Community Fundraiser Scotland for **Aid to the Church in Need** gave an informative talk on the scale of persecution of religious minorities in 140 countries around the world, highlighting that 80% of those suffering religious persecution are Christians.

ACN works to ensure that these Christians - and in some countries other persecuted religious minorities including Muslims - are not forgotten but are supported by prayer and practical help.

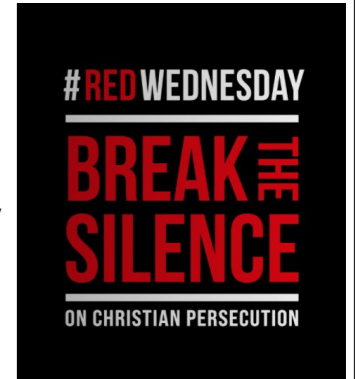
ACN works to build up the church by supporting the training of seminarians, providing Mass stipends for priests and funding the rebuilding of churches in war-torn areas. ACN also supports refugees. ACN highlights systematic religious persecution and urges our governments to exert pressure for change.

ACN invites us to join the **Scottish Catholic Conference**

'Courage to be Catholic' in Glasgow on 29 March and be inspired by speakers including bishops from Palestine and Nigeria. Registrations here: [ACN Scottish Catholic Conference 2025 Tickets, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow | TryBooking United Kingdom](https://www.acnscotland.org.uk/2025-tickets)

ACN also invites us to support the annual **Red Wednesday** events in November, and to write to our MPs highlighting the global persecution of Christians as a foreign policy issue.

And of course donations are always welcome. [Aid to the Church in Need | Donate](https://www.acnscotland.org.uk/donate)



## Twenty-one Ecumenical Councils over 1900 years

### There were twenty-one Ecumenical Councils over 1900 years. We are only going to look at seven.

These comprised the hierarchs of the undivided Church (i.e. both East and West), and are accepted as authoritative, not only by Catholics, but also by the Eastern Orthodox Church and many Protestant denominations.

#### First Council of Nicaea

The First Council of Nicaea (20 May – 25 July 325) formulated the original Nicene Creed.

#### First Council of Constantinople

The First Council of Constantinople defined in four canons the Nicene Creed, which is still used in the Catholic Church. Most importantly, it defined the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

#### Council of Ephesus

The Council of Ephesus proclaimed the Virgin Mary as the Theotokos (Greek Ἡ Θεοτόκος, "Mother of God" or "God-bearer").

#### Council of Chalcedon

The Council of Chalcedon defined the two natures (divine and human) of Jesus Christ. "We teach unanimously that the one son, our Lord Jesus Christ to be fully God and fully human." [8]

#### Fourth Council of the Lateran

The Council mandated every Christian in serious sin is to go at least once a year on Easter to confession and to receive the Holy Eucharist. The council formally repeated Catholic teaching, that Christ is present in the Eucharist and thus clarified transubstantiation. [18] It met in only three sessions in November 1215.

#### Council of Trent

The Council issued condemnations on what it defined as Protestant heresies and it defined Church teachings in the areas of Scripture and Tradition, Original Sin, Justification, Sacraments, the Eucharist in Holy Mass and the veneration of saints.

The Council of Trent is considered one of the most successful councils in the history of the Catholic Church, firming up Catholic belief as understood at the time. It convened in Trent between 13 December 1545, and 5 December 1563, in twenty-five sessions for three periods.

#### First Vatican Council

The Council, also known as Vatican I, was convened by Pope Pius IX in 1869. In the short time, it issued definitions of the Catholic faith, the papacy and papal infallibility.

#### Second Vatican Council

The Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II, was convoked by Pope John XXIII. It issued:

16 magisterial documents

four constitutions (on restoration of liturgical ritual, on the nature of the Church, on its relation to the modern world, and on promotion of Scripture and Biblical studies);

nine decrees (the mission activity of the church, the ministry and life of priests, priestly training, the apostolate of the laity, the renewal of religious life, the pastoral office of bishops, ecumenism, Eastern Catholic churches, and media and social communications); and

three declarations (on Christian education, on non-Christian religions, and on religious liberty).