

The week ahead 9 - 16 March 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
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
Monday 10 March	No Service		St John Ogilvie	
Tuesday 11 March	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Evan Williams RIP
Weds 12 March	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Heather McCann RIP
Thursday 13 March	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Mgr Anthony McNally RIP and Betty McNally RIP
Friday 14 March	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Gina Sacilotto RIP
Saturday 15 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	1st Week of Lent 2nd Sunday of Lent	Gianna Picciotto RIP (2nd Anniv)
Sunday 16 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Lent	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 153
First reading: Deuteronomy 26: 4-10
Psalm: 91 (90) 1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Psalm response: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress
Second reading: Romans 10: 8-13
Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13

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

Lent Meditations (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.
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.

Prayer/Reflection
 Lent calls us to repentance.
 But if our repentance doesn't involve a change of heart, it will not lead to a change of life.
 It will be like decapitating weeds while leaving their roots intact.
 If we change our hearts, then our lives will also change.
 Lord, Grant that enlightened by the Word of God, and nourished by the food of the Eucharist, we may turn our hearts away from evil, and set them firmly on pleasing you.

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
First Sunday of Lent —Year C
 9—16 March 2025

- Luke's account of the temptations follows closely that of Matthew, except that he deliberately changes the order of the last two temptations so that the series ends in Jerusalem. This is in keeping with his theological interest in the Holy City.
- The three scenes serve to correct a false understanding of Jesus's mission. Jesus repels the tempter by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, which stresses God's will for Israel.
- The devil wanted to undermine Jesus in his faithfulness to the Father, and in his faithfulness to the mission he had received from the Father.
- Luke depicts Jesus as obedient to his Father's will, and as one who will not be turned to using his power or authority for any reason other than that for which he has been sent.
- Today's Gospel has the story of the tempting of Jesus. Some find it hard to believe that Jesus could be tempted. Was he not the Son of God, and therefore above the rest of us? But to claim that Jesus was some kind of superhuman being is to miss the whole point of the incarnation.
- The letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus was made 'completely like his brothers (and sisters). In him we have a high priest who can feel our weaknesses with us; for he was tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin' (4:15; 2:17-18). **Flor McCarthy SDB**



Canon Kenneth writes ...
 We are once again entering in the season of renewal and deepening our faith during our journey through Lent. In the Cathedral today two candidates from St. Peter's will begin the formal journey through Lent to be baptised and received into full communion with the Church. For your own personal journey through Lent:

- **Prayer:** an invitation to deepen and allow God's grace to grow our relationship with God.
- **Fasting:** creating more time and space in our lives to enable God's grace to touch us and transform us.
- **Alms giving:** to give of our time, talent and finance resources to help others in need.

There'll be an opportunity to discuss the material referenced in page three of the newsletter about the Pilgrims of Hope. I will host a series of four zoom meetings starting this coming Thursday 13 March from 7pm for about 40 minutes. All are welcome.

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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 9 March	First Sunday of Lent —Year C Children's Liturgy in St. Columba's only today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Monday 10	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 11	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Thursday 13	7pm, Zoom meeting (first of four): 'Hope', hosted by Canon Kenneth, details below
Friday 14	After 09.30 Mass at St. Peter's—Stations of the Cross
Saturday 15	10.30am The Church in Scotland: The Quiet Exodus - Ecumenism in a Time of Decline, St. Columba's Middle Hall*
Sunday 16	Second Sunday of Lent —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



Note: Children's Liturgy today only at St. Columba's.

Please remember **Joss and Victoria, from our RCIA group**, who are elected at the Cathedral on Sunday 9 March.

Stations of the Cross will take place at St. Peter's during Lent, **after 09.30 Mass** on Fridays, **beginning 14 March**.

SCIAF invites you to join their **WEE BOX Day of Prayer on Friday 14 March**. On this day, as a community, we pause to reflect, connect, and pray for peace and hope for communities in Colombia. We know that through prayer we can deepen our relationship with God, seek guidance, and offer support to those in need. For more information about the Day of Prayer please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

A series of four Zoom meetings **hosted by Canon Kenneth 7pm Thursdays starting 13 March**. Zoom details:

Weekly: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79138060566?pwd=O1Oeizvwe2wB1NSNGaU1qHeMTa7FWd.1>
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79138060566?pwd=O1Oeizvwe2wB1NSNGaU1qHeMTa7FWd.1>
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79138060566?pwd=O1Oeizvwe2wB1NSNGaU1qHeMTa7FWd.1>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79138060566?pwd=O1Oeizvwe2wB1NSNGaU1qHeMTa7FWd.1>
Meeting ID: 791 3806 0566 Passcode: 6XYFU4

***Saturday 15 March 10.30 (refreshments from 10am). 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.

We are delighted to announce that Fr. Andrew Brookes OP, from St. Albert's Chaplaincy, has kindly agreed to celebrate the **Easter Triduum** in St. Columba's:

- Holy Thursday 7pm
- Liturgy of the Passion, Good Friday 3pm
- Easter Vigil Saturday 8pm

High School Pupils: Rise in Faith, Live in Hope. The Archdiocese invites high school pupils to 'Rise in Faith, Live in Hope' at St Francis Xavier's Church, Falkirk, (a short walk from the Grahamstown train station), **11am-3pm Saturday 15 March**. The event will provide encouragement and inspiration to help our young people grow in their faith amidst the challenges they face. Includes Mass with Archbishop Cushley. Register at bit.ly/archyouth

Coffee Morning in Aid of SCIAF Lent Appeal. The St. Peter's Outreach Justice and Peace Group are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 22 March 10.30 - 12 in the Parish room. In aid of those who suffer so much from the violence in Colombia. Tickets cost £7.50 and will be on sale after 11.30 Mass on Sunday at St. Peter's.

The Open door hopes to run Volunteer-led Coffee/Cake **Wednesdays starting 9 April 11.30 - 14.00** raising funds towards cost of transport to/from the Day Care Services. **Volunteers needed.** email: simon@theopendoor.org.uk or call 0131-447-9757. See poster at back of Church.

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.

Become a Pilgrim of Hope!

It is the personal privilege of the Pope to call a Holy Year. Pope Francis did so in the Bull of Indiction, *Spes non confundit*, which translates, *Hope does not disappoint* (Rom 5:6). Also at the beginning of 2025 he had his autobiography published with the title, *Hope*. Originally it was to be published after his death but he gave permission for it to coincide with the great Jubilee. It is well worth a read as it gives many insights into his immigrant roots and his desire to be on the side of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable. There is a history available at www.jubilaem2025.va which gives an overview of Holy Years since 1300.

What is the purpose of this Holy Year called Pilgrims of hope?

- It is an invitation to journey together as a pilgrim people to rediscover the virtue of hope. Hope is both a gift and a duty.
- It is a gift based on God's promise of salvation to his people and the assurance that he will watch over them and guide them always.
- It also provides an impetus for action now calling all Christians to confront the present ills of society with the leaven of the Gospel.
- It is to animate parish community into taking actions that the theological virtue of hope may help them deepen their desire for the kingdom of God.

Hope calls Christians in a way that is meant to transform the earth. Pope Francis enumerates a variety of signs that should be fruits of our action during this Holy Year.

In pictorial form the logo draws together some of the main themes of what the Holy Year wishes to achieve. It

shows four stylised figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They are embracing one another, indicating the solidarity that must unite peoples. It should be noted that the first figure is clinging to the cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters.

Oftentimes personal circumstances and world events call for a greater sense of hope. This is why the lower part of the cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves. As is well known the anchor has often been used as a metaphor for hope. In fact, in maritime jargon, the hope anchor is the name given to the spare anchor, used by vessels for emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms.

It should be noted that the image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more towards the Cross.

The cross is by no means static, but it, too, is dynamic bending towards and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope.



Joan Chittister, The monastery of the heart. An invitation to a meaningful life, SPCK, London 2011

Each week, during Lent, Canon Kenneth will offer a short insight into the six topics that helps us understand the rule of St. Benedict. These are to encourage you to read the reflections and I will offer three questions each week for meditation.

Week One: The rhythm of a better life

The search for God is an attempt to complete the incompleteness of life. To live the God life Benedictine spirituality ascribes as it's foundation that we must

immerse ourselves in the word of God.

- Who will dwell in your tent O God?
- Who will good rest upon your holy mountain (psalms)
- Listen! And faithfully put into practice. A balance of community, contemplation and commitment. The beating of a cosmic heart.

For meditation

1. Where in your life do you feel close to God?
2. What helps you settle down to a time of prayer?
3. When did you last try a new form of prayer?

For personal reflection and communal action

First week of Lent

During this first week of Lent, we focus on respecting others with our words: talking respectfully to and about everyone, especially avoiding words that can stigmatize that person.

It must never be forgotten that "loving the most insignificant of human beings as a brother, as if there were no one else in the world but him, cannot be considered a waste of time". **Fratelli Tutti 193.**

SCIAF WEE BOX PRAYER.

God of Peace and Justice as we journey through Lent, help us to be mindful of those with whom we share God's Creation, our Common Home.

May our praying, fasting and giving, help us to draw ever closer to You, and inspire us to find new ways to bring dignity, joy, peace and justice to others, especially this year to the people of Colombia. Amen

