

The week ahead 30 March—6 April 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 29 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	3rd Week of Lent 4th Sunday of Lent	Ann Traynor RIP
Sunday 30 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes
Monday 31 March	No Service		4th Week of Lent	
Tuesday 1 April	St Columba's	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	The Tully Family
Weds 2 April	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	Florence McCartney RIP
Thursday 3 April	St Columba's	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	Patricia McCormack RIP
Friday 4 April	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	Mary Walker
Saturday 5 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	4th Week of Lent 5th Sunday of Lent	
Sunday 6 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Lent	Joseph Maximilian Andrew Francis d'Inverno and Sarah People of the Parishes

Canon Kenneth apologises to Kenneth and Margaret Garden for the mistake in last week's newsletter of their surname, we do hope they enjoyed the wedding anniversary celebrations with their family.

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 168

First reading: Joshua 5: 9a-12
Psalm: 34 (33) : 2-3, 4-5, 6-7 R9a
Psalm response: Taste and see that the Lord is good
Second reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Scan to make donations



St Peter's St. Columba's

Stations of the Cross every Monday in Lent, 7.45pm on Zoom. Monday, 31 March, 7.45pm with Fr. Greg Murphy OP, from St Joseph's Dundee. Join with Fr. Greg and Catholics from across Scotland praying for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register: <https://bit.ly/Stations25>

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.

The Edinburgh Seven Hills Pilgrimage, Saturday 5 April. The route is around 27km starting and finishes at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral. This is a good opportunity to offer Lenten penance and pray for the city of Edinburgh. More details to be confirmed soon, but register your interest at bit.ly/sevenhillsapril

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
Fourth Sunday of Lent —Year C
30 March—6 April 2025



Like the Israelites of old. The prodigal son's shame is behind him. His years of wandering are over. And he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him.

Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous.

This is the best known and best loved of Jesus' parables. You could say that the entire Gospel is contained in it. Understand this, and you understand the Gospel. Some maintain that it's an unfair story. They feel sorry for the oldest son and maintain that the youngest son should have been punished to teach him a lesson. The youngest son behaved badly but he soon came to his senses. His own pain made him realise the pain he had caused to his father. So, he said 'I will go back to my father and tell him I'm sorry'. A brave decision which called for a lot of courage to carry out. He was coming home laden with shame and disgrace. He didn't need more punishment, nor to be taught a lesson. He had already learned a lesson and learned painful truths about himself. If he had met with rejection, it would have destroyed him. A child needs love, especially when he or she does not deserve it.

The story doesn't give us a license to sin. But it does show that if we do sin, we can come back. Our past can be overcome. We can make a fresh start. This is the great lesson of the parable. **Flor McCarthy SDB**

Canon Kenneth writes ...

You will see from the insert letter from Bishop Brian McGee that SCIAF celebrates 60 years this year. Over that time the Church in Scotland has contributed to many different projects in many different countries. An important aspect of their work has been developmental education in schools and universities. Sharing some of the pressing problems of the day but also inviting young people to use their skills and ingenuity to solve some of the difficult problems on the planet.

The SCIAF values derive from our Christian faith and our love and compassion for the people we serve, our overseas partners and the Catholic community in Scotland. They are firmly rooted in Scripture, Church Teaching and Catholic Social Teaching. We aim to encompass these values in all we do.

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture. It has, and continues to, challenge the world.

Integral Human Development (IHD) is much more than SCIAF's life-transforming work – it is the foundation, running through its partnerships, projects, and the way we serve our sisters and brothers around the world.

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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@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk
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James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...



Sunday 30 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent —Year C SCIAF Sunday—special collection Presentation of the Creed—Confirmation, today at both 09.30 and 11.30 Masses Children’s Liturgy at both morning Masses today After 09.30 Mass at St. Columba’s: Mother’s Day Breakfast for Mbare* 10.30, St. Columba’s: Sister Karin’s Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass at St. Peter’s and breakfast at St. Columba’s*
Monday 31	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter’s Parish room
Tuesday 1 April	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba’s 7.30pm SSVF meeting, St. Peter’s Parish room
Wednesday 2	7pm, St. Peter’s Pastoral Council meeting , St. Peter’s Presbytery dining room
Thursday 3	7pm, Zoom meeting (fourth of four): ‘Hope’, hosted by Canon Kenneth, details below
Friday 4	After 09.30 Mass at St. Peter’s—Stations of the Cross
Sunday 6	Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year C Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish (Aid to Church in need pop up shop at St. Columba’s)

Reminder that the clocks change this weekend!

Today we welcome children and parents from Primary 7 who receive a copy of the Creed in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation - which this year will be celebrated in St. Peter’s on Wednesday 7 May. This year it is significant as it is the 1700th year anniversary of the Nicene Creed being formulated.

We wish a very happy Mother’s Day to all the Mum’s today and we thank the Lord for all the Mum’s and Grandma’s who passed away and are celebrated in heaven with Our Lady, the Mother of all mothers.

***Today after 9.30 Mass: Justice & Peace Mother’s Day Breakfast for Mbare.** Help support our sister Parish in Zimbabwe by eating a delicious, fresh cooked breakfast roll with your tea or coffee. Adults £5, Children £3. Eat well to help out.

On this SCIAF Sunday, we pray for all mothers around the world. We thank you, Lord, for giving us this precious gift – and we thank our mothers for the love and care they provide. We especially give thanks for mothers in Colombia, who, despite the challenges they face, provide their children with the love and support they need to survive. **Please give what you can in today’s collection for SCIAF.** You can also donate to SCIAF at sciaf.org.uk/donate or by calling 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

7pm Tuesday 2 April: Annual Archdiocesan Justice & Peace Mass St. Mary’s Dunfermline followed by refreshments. Contact stc-jp@hotmail.com or speak to any Justice & Peace Group member if you’d like to attend.

The fourth and final session of our series of four Zoom meetings, **hosted by Canon Kenneth 7 - 740pm Thursday 3 April**, about the ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. All welcome. Zoom details are on both the *lent meditations and events* page

and the *newsletter and events page* of our Parish website and on our facebook page. Meeting ID: 791 3806 0566 Passcode: 6XYFU4

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

Home-made marmalade, and home-baked Simnel Cakes, on sale **after Mass at St. Peter’s on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April**, all proceeds to our SCIAF Parish Project.

Aid to the Church in Need: Sunday 6 April, Peter Diamond Community Fundraiser, Scotland, will bring a pop-up shop to the St. Columba’s coffee morning to explain how we can help Christians suffering persecution for their faith.

The new tax year begins 6 April. For Gift Aiders at St. Peter’s who use Lockie envelopes, they are available now. Some Gift Aiders prefer to contribute via Direct Debit. For taxpayers who’d like to sign up for Gift Aid see Andrew Thackrey after Saturday Vigil Mass or Anne Marie Douglas after Sunday Mass or give their name to a passkeeper. We may have additional envelopes for use for non GiftAiders.

Lent Retreat Hour: Encountering the face of God Thursday 10 April 7.30-8.30pm, St Peter’s Parish Room Refreshments. Facilitated by the Epiphany Group.

Iris, a St. Columba’s Parishioner who displayed her beautifully knitted baby cardigans recently in the hall **raised £108** for SCIAF thanks to your generous **donations.**

St. Peter’s Altar Linen volunteers needed. A rota of volunteers launder small altar linen items weekly. We need more volunteers. Duties aren’t onerous, instruction will be given. If you can help please contact Anne Donnelly annedonnelly57@gmail.com or 07963 666035.

(Further Parish news on Page 3) —>

Signs of Hope

Pope Francis calls us back to those prophetic words of Vatican II when he says that we are to **read the signs of the times and respond with generosity to the poor and vulnerable.**

We need to rediscover courage and creativity in our attempts to aim at a lasting peace in a world so disfigured by war. There needs to be an enthusiasm for life and a willingness to share it. There must be a new social covenant to support and foster hope. In this Jubilee Year there needs to be tangible signs of hope for those who experience hardship.

The Jubilee Year is not only about spiritual conversion. Pope Francis sees the Jubilee as an opportunity to right some of the wrongs in our world today. He speaks of forms of amnesty or pardon for prisoners and others who are unjustly oppressed. He calls for acts of clemency and liberation for peoples and countries who are destitute. The Pope encourages us to demand of politicians and other to remedy the remote causes of debts which can

cripple countries. Realistically some of these debts can never be repaid because of the sinful structures that were used when they were set up. The purpose of the Jubilee Year is to restore balance and achieve a better equilibrium as was the tradition in the biblical notion of the jubilee.

Pope Francis invites us to have a co-responsibility for ensuring that the manifold signs of hope bear witness to God’s presence in the world. Our Christian belief is that through the witness and revelation of Jesus our world is a better place because we know that God is watching over us and protecting us. He goes on to say that our world should be a place of welcome for all.

There needs to be a renewed urgency to put to the top of the world’s agenda that there are still billions in our world who are poor. There are many nations and people who every day lack the essentials of life. In essence we need to move away from a mentality that says the victims are to be blamed for the terrible situations they find themselves in. **The world community has to be bolder and braver in announcing new hope to all who are oppressed.**

Joan Chittister, *The monastery of the heart*

An invitation to a meaningful life, SPCK, London 2011

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

Week Four: Our service

- Benedictine spirituality is about equality and community, about service and mutual support.
- Good work is meant to build into us a respect for the order and beauty that the cultivation of the spiritual life demands.
- Co-creation, the human commitment to continue the work of God on earth, requires us to tend the

land and conserve water, to till the garden and protect the animals, to use the things of the earth in ways that enhance life now and preserve them for later generations.

- Guests, the unknown and the wandering other, are the final and authentic addition to any Benedictine community.
- A vision of life with God at the centre and people in its heart.

For meditation

- How do you take your part in the creative work of God?
- What activities can you take part in which will enhance our world?
- How open am I to welcome guests into my life?

For personal reflection and communal action

Fourth week of Lent

During this week we can take action to promote local farmers’ or fair trade and child labour free products while purchasing daily goods. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures. **Laudato Si 222.**

Reflection

The prodigal son came home empty handed. He had no trophies to show his father. He was a failure. Worse - he was a Sinner. He deserved to be punished. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed. When the father saw him coming towards him, his heart went out to him, the next minute they were in each other’s arms.

It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one’s sins.

Those who have experienced this kind of love, know something about the heart of God.

Parish news continued...

Appealing for trainers and clothing (including socks, underwear) for young men aged 18—36years. Please leave at back of Church at St. Peter and St. Columba’s.

Coffee/cake fundraising event, Weds 9 April 11.30-2.00, the

Open door, 420 Morningside Road. No set charge. Give what you can. Supporting transport costs for our Day Services. Come along and join us and bring your friends

Bright and spacious flat to share in a quiet area of Morningside. Large double room with ensuite. Preferably female applicant. For more details please contact