

The week ahead 23 - 30 March 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 22 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	2nd Week of Lent 3rd Sunday of Lent	Susan Collier RIP
Sunday 23 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Lent	Kenneth & Margaret Green (60th Wedd. Anniv) People of the Parishes
Monday 24 March	No Service		3rd Week of Lent	
Tuesday 25 March	St Columba's	9.30am	The Annunciation of Our Lord	Andrew Forrester RIP
Weds 26 March	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	
Thursday 27 March	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Mme Francine Estachy
Friday 28 March	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	
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

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 160

First reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Psalm: 103 (102) 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

Psalm response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

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St Peter's



St. Columba's

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

Stations of the Cross Mondays in Lent, 7.45pm on Zoom.

Join Catholics from across Scotland to pray for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Includes a brief reflection from a member of the clergy each week. **Monday, 24 March, 7.45pm** with John Deighan, CEO of SPUC. 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.

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

Third Sunday of Lent —Year C

23 - 30 March 2025



Here we see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents that befall people are inflicted by God as a punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews that they will lose the promises unless they repent.

The barren fig tree symbolises the barren state of Israel. But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short. The Pharisees had no time for sinners. They believed that sinners should be written off. Jesus didn't agree, and told them so in the story of the barren fig tree.

The attitude of the vine owner was 'chop the tree down: it's only taking up space'. It's an attitude that seems eminently reasonable. But the attitude of a man who didn't care about the tree itself. He had done nothing for the tree. He had put nothing of himself into caring for it. He was only interested in the end product - figs. Chopping the tree down was an easy option. That way he didn't have to do anything to help it become fruitful.

The attitude of the gardener was very different. He was a tenderer of fruit trees. He was a lover of fruit trees. He cared about this little tree. He had sacrificed himself for it. A thing becomes precious to us, not only because of what we get out of it, but also what we put into it.

The Parable has been called the parable of the second chance. Sometimes we're not willing to give people a second chance. We tend to be harsh on others until we need a second chance ourselves. The real message of the parable is that God is patient with sinners. But the parable also makes it clear that there is such a thing as a last chance. If people refuse chance after chance, the day finally comes, not when God has shut them out, but when they have, by deliberate choice, shut themselves out.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

During the week I met for the first time with the local ministers of the Morningside area. We had a pleasant morning coffee and spoke about some of the various services that had happened in the past and looked forward to what could be achieved in the future. Suggestions ranged from joint services, to sharing food together to even having a musical evening using the resources within our communities. **Have you any interest or energy to be involved in such a venture?**

Two dates for the future diary:

1. I will be leading the Prayer Breakfast Service at Newington Trinity on **Thursday 17 April, 7.45am - 8am** followed by breakfast. All welcome.
2. Christ Church (at Holy Corner) is celebrating its 150th anniversary with Choral Evensong on **Sunday 1 June 2025 at 4pm**. The Preacher is Archbishop Leo Cushley and I will read the lesson. Parishioners are extended a warm welcome.

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502

St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterchurchedinburgh.org.uk

St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.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@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk

St. Columba's Hall hire:

James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...



Sunday 23 March	Third Sunday of Lent —Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Monday 24	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 25	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 8pm Fabric and Maintenance Committee St. Columba's, Parish room
Wednesday 26	7- 8.30pm, Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's Middle room (first floor)
Thursday 27	7pm, Zoom meeting (third of four): 'Hope', hosted by Canon Kenneth, details below
Friday 28	After 09.30 Mass at St. Peter's - Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29	10 for 10.30am Synodal meeting, St. Columba's hall
Sunday 30	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*

Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last week at both St. Peter's and St. Columba's.

The third of our series of four Zoom meetings, **hosted by Canon Kenneth 7 - 740pm Thursday 27 March** on the 'Pilgrims of Hope'. All welcome. Zoom details are on 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

Support SCIAF this Lent. In Colombia, many people are impacted by ongoing violence and conflict. With your help, we can give shelter, food and water for those caught up in violence, provide safe havens for children affected by conflict, and help communities rebuild their lives, long into the future. For information on how to support communities in Colombia, visit SCIAF's sciaf.org.uk

Wednesday 26 March, 7pm. This week is the third 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. If you're interested in coming ask your parent/guardian to register interest emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

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

Saturday 29 March 10am for 10.30am. Synodal meeting in St. Columba's hall, the topic is how to ensure that we are a welcoming parish. Owen Dudley Edwards will introduce it by considering the role of a pass-keeper.

Next Sunday 30 March we welcome children and parents

from Primary 7 who today 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 is significant as it is the 1700 year anniversary of the Nicene Creed being formulated.

***Sunday 30 March 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.

Tuesday 2 April 7pm: 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 new tax year begins 6 April. For Gift Aiders at St. Peter's who use the weekly Lockie envelopes, these will be available during the coming week. Some Gift Aiders prefer contribute via Direct Debit. If there are taxpayers who'd like to sign up for Gift Aid see Andrew Thackrey after Saturday evening Mass or Anne Marie Douglas after Sunday Mass or give their names to a passkeeper. We may have envelopes for use by those who aren't GiftAiders but who like to use the weekly envelopes.

The St. Peter's Outreach group would like to apologise for the very late cancellation of the coffee morning on Saturday 22 March due to unforeseen circumstances. We've contacted most ticket holders and are very sorry if you were one we were unable to contact and hope that you were not inconvenienced too much. Please email Norma @ normaemm@yahoo.co.uk to arrange a refund.

Parish news continued on P3 —>

A journey of hope

Throughout the Holy Year the Holy Father desires that there is an outpouring of divine mercy that makes our world a better place. For that reason he has asked every cathedral in the world to have a special Jubilee cross made and placed in it to invite pilgrims to go there and to have their hope re-affirmed. In Edinburgh this is in St Mary's Cathedral at the National Shrine of St Andrew. Hopefully between Easter and summer we will have the opportunity as a parish community to go on pilgrimage and to celebrate the Jubilee Year.

His desire is that the wellsprings of hope bring new vibrance to the post COVID world. Many lives were profoundly affected by the pandemic and many people have found it difficult to get their life back on an even keel. This Jubilee offers a new vision of hope that will help us to flourish. It calls us back to our Christian roots and throws us on the mercy of God.

For the Christian Pope Francis hopes that the love of God that awakes in our hearts will help us to mature in the Christian life. He reminds us that these Jubilee Years in the past have been a great way of trying to restore balance and equality in a world that easily gets out of equilibrium. The believers' faith is affirmed by the sure hope of salvation in Christ. Paul in the letter to the Romans has such a vision of hope from where Pope Francis' document takes its title, hope does not disappoint (Rom 5:5).

The deepening of our personal encounter with Christ helps us to make visible those tangible signs of hope in our world. As Isaiah speaks about a reversal in the world order where lamb and lion can lay down together. So in our day that same reality will be seen when there is a fairer world, a desire to make the world resources open to everyone and a new dedication for peoples and nations of the world to make our world a more just place.

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

Each week Canon Kenneth will offer a short insight into the 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 each week for meditation.

Week Three: Our community

- Community is a matter of the heart and the mind.
- A common spirit.
- Community requires both great faith and great trust.

- Life grows richer of heart as the heart grows deeper into God.
- Leaders must be an example to the community of its best self - open, loving, hospitable
- Dealing with all the good things of life in moderation.

For meditation

1. How does your family model the best of community?
2. Where in the parish community do you get new springs of encouragement?
3. For me, community means ...

For personal reflection and communal action

Third week of Lent

Emerging in this Lenten time, we try to empathise with those who have suffered any kind of abuse, encouraging them to ask for help and healing. They are human people, I stress this, who are appealing for solidarity and assistance, who need urgent action but also and above all understanding and kindness.

Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking 41.

Reflection

Moses was filled with wonder at the sight of a bush on fire, which was not consumed by that fire.

It's a poor faith that needs miracles to sustain it.

Those who are attuned to God do not need to see miracles. They are conscious of living in a world that is sustained by God's power, and every part of which speaks of him.

Elizabeth Barrett Brown put it like this: 'Earth crammed with heaven, and every Bush afire with God. But only he who sees takes off his shoes; the rest of us sit around and pluck blackberries.'



Parish news continued...

Real Easter Eggs available from this Sunday for St. Columba's and St. Peter's parishioners. The only Easter Egg which includes message of Easter. Great for children and grandchildren. Limited number available now: £6 each. Contact paul_atkin@outlook.com

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.

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 Jacqueline_heron@yahoo.co.uk

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