

The week ahead 21—28 December 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 20 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	3rd Week of Advent 4th Sunday of Advent	Jin Feng Zhang KO: Jim Gray RIP
Sunday 21 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent	DM: Pat (Patricia) Campbell RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 22 December	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of Advent	Martin English RIP
Tuesday 23 December	St Columba's	9.30am	4th Week of Advent	Fr. John Kinsler RIP
Wednesday 24 December	St Columba's St Peter's	7pm 12am	Vigil Mass of Christmas Midnight Christmas Mass	DM: David McIlwaine RIP KO: Sally O'Donnell RIP
Thursday 25 December	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	The Nativity of the Lord	People of the Parishes People of the Parishes
Friday 26 December	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Stephen	KO: Frances Toner DM: Marion Paige RIP
Saturday 27 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John Feast of the Holy Family	Peter Ellis RIP DM: Jim Gray RIP
Sunday 28 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Feast of the Holy Family	KO: Mr David Gallegos RIP People of the Parishes

Sunday 21 December readings: page 90

First reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalm: 24 (23) 1-2, 3-4b, 5-6 R cf 7c, 10b

Response: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory

Second reading: Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

Christmas Day: page 98

First reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Psalm: 96 (95): 1-2a 2b-3 11-12a 12b-13b 13cd R Luke 2:11

Response: Today a Saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord

Second reading: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Christmas and New Year Masses

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24 December No 09.30am Mass, St. Peters
7pm, Vigil Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
12am, Midnight Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's

Christmas Day

Thursday 25 December 09.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's
No evening Mass at St. Columba's

New Year's Day

Thursday 1 January 2026 09.30am Mass, the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass, the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Peter's
No evening Mass at St. Columba's

Confessions:

St Peter's: Saturday 11-11.45am
(during Adoration) and 4.30-5.15pm

St Columba's: Sunday 6-6.15pm

Adoration: St Peter's: Saturday 11am

Final Advent Rosary for Life: Monday 22 December, 7.45pm on Zoom, followed by a reflection and blessing from Archbishop Leo Cushley. <https://bit.ly/rosary25>

Celebrating the gift of life: Saturday 27 December, 12 noon Holy Mass with Archbishop Leo Cushley, St. Margaret's Chapel, Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, refreshments after. We pray for life to be respected and cherished from conception to natural death. Register, or come along <https://bit.ly/giftoflife25>. No charge.

The Open Door - free taster of Day Sessions:
Friday 16 January/6 February 10.30am - 12.00noon

Know someone who'd benefit please bring them along - there will be refreshments, nice biscuits and fun activities. We're delivering services 5 days per week (Mon-Fri). Places available for anyone over 50 who'd benefit from both practical assistance and a chance to socialise.

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



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 Advent —Year A 21—28 December 2025

Matthew seized on Isaiah's prophecy and refers it to Jesus. Born of a virgin, he will embody God's promise to be with us, and continue David's line forever. The gospel stresses the two-fold identity of Jesus. He is the son of David because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. But he is more than that. He's also the son of God. All three readings deal with the identity of the one who was to come. The identity of the child was vaguely glimpsed in the Old Testament. The New Testament reveals the true identity of this special child (Jesus).



Some people find Christmas Day a lonely day. If that should happen to us, let us not be alarmed. Loneliness can be a grace. A sense of something missing is God's way of calling us into greater intimacy with himself. In the end, only God can satisfy the longings of our hearts.

Lord Jesus, help us to welcome you into our hearts this Christmas, because without you our hearts will always be empty. **Flor McCarthy SDB**

Canon Kenneth writes ...

Christmas is always a special time when we have the opportunity as parish communities to gather around the crib and retell the Christmas story. It is a Gospel of thankfulness towards God for the great gift of his Son Jesus in the Incarnation. It is also a time of year when we gather with family and friends and give thanks for the many blessings which we received over the last year.

This is Fr. Daniel's first Christmas here in Edinburgh. You have all given him a warm welcome here in St. Columba's and St. Peter's. I am sure that he will enjoy getting to know our Scottish traditions and sharing them with his family in Bauchi, Nigeria.



Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

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Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji

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

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

Deacon: Rev John E Smith: johnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Secretaries:

St Peter's: Sharon Kedney Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk (10-1 Thursdays)

St Columba's: Sr Karin: sister@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk

St. Columba's Hall hire:

James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 21 December 4th Sunday of Advent —Year A
Children’s Liturgy at St. Columba’s morning Mass today
10.30, Baptism, Ada Josephine Schweiger, St. Columba's
Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish

Tuesday 23 Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba’s

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24 **No** 09.30 am Mass, St. Peter’s
7pm, Vigil Mass of Christmas, St. Columba’s
12am, Midnight Mass of Christmas, St. Peter’s

Christmas Day
Thursday 25 09.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Columba’s
11.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Peter’s
No evening Mass at St. Columba’s

Saturday 27 1pm Baptism, Sophia Marianna Moore, St. Peter's

Sunday 28 Feast of The Holy Family - Year A
Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
1pm, Baptism, Chloe Coulter Ogilvie, St. Peter's



A big thank you to everyone who helped in one way or another to make the our Carol Singing afternoon with Nativity Play at St. Columba’s such a wonderful event. Congratulations to all the acting buddies.

During Children’s Liturgy at St. Peter’s we’ll practice ‘Away in a Manger’ to sing at Christmas Morning Mass. All children welcome, especially those who don’t usually attend Children’s Liturgy. Please speak to Alice from Music Group after Mass.

ACN Pop-up: this Sunday at coffee after 09.30 Mass at St. Columba’s meet Peter Diamond from ACN to find out how we can help fellow Christians suffering persecution and deprivation. An excellent opportunity to pick up a few last minute presents.

Mrs Phyllis Kerr’s Requiem Mass will take place **Tuesday 23 December, 11am**, St Margaret’s and St Leonard’s, 110 St Leonard’s Street, Edinburgh, followed by internment at Mount Vernon. Her son Christopher extends a welcome to all her friends and acquaintances to attend.

The weekly RCIA meeting takes a break until the new year, meeting next on **Monday 12 January 2026**.

100 Club for Zimbabwe. A great uptake in 2025 and looking to do even better in 2026. Please pay £20 per number in cash to Agnes or Steph or by bank transfer: Sort Code 831919, a/c 00103317, a/c name St. Columba’s Justice and Peace group 100 club. Please email if you’re doing this so we don’t hassle you
agnesannwatson@gmail.com
steph_mitchell@hotmail.co.uk

Fresh Start: for donations to "A Cooker for Christmas" see leaflets at the back of St. Columba’s; or scan QR code from leaflet on noticeboard. **Used/still working small appliances** can be donated to Fresh Start (bring to Sunday coffee morning or contact Justice and Peace group via stc-jp@hotmail.com). Please leave items of beddings, cutlery, cooking utensils at back St. Columba’s Church; cash can be given in the sacristy. Large electrical and other goods can be delivered direct to the office at Queensferry Drive Road.

Donations for the **Newington Church’s Together Food Bank**, collected on First Sunday: **Sunday 4 January 2026**. **Please leave donations** in box at the back of St. Columba’s.

Save the date: Laudato 'si. Ten years after Pope Francis’s great encyclical how are we doing and what has changed? **Kathleen Onori**, former Climate ambassador for SCIAF, will be addressing these questions and reminding us of the challenges thrown down by Pope Francis. **10.30am Saturday 17 January**, Middle Hall, St. Columba’s, 10am for tea/coffee.

Save the date: save the price of a coffee for January. Dear Parishioners, St. Peter’s Parish Council decided to go ahead with a project to help vulnerable people in India, through helping a charitable organisation. The aim of the project is to pay school fees for children and the target goal this January is £500. Our partner in India is St. Agnes Charitable organisation, who help the poorest Indian children living in some of the worst conditions. Further information will be available during the **first week of January**, and we thank you for all your donations and prayers.

Used stamps, of which we may have more at this time of the year. There’s a box at the back of St. Columba’s and at St. Peter’s for St. Patrick’s Missionary Society Scotland. Please leave half an inch of envelope around each stamp. Also foreign/obsolete coins for Mary’s Meals welcomed.

New Diocesan Directory on sale at back of both churches: special price £1.

Donations of warm clothing, coats and shoes etc. for men and essential accessories and backpacks, suitcases. Please leave at back of St. Peter’s and St. Columba’s Church. Small Christmas presents and cash donations to buy small presents will be appreciated.

A Christmas reflection taken from the Salesian magazine Eight Salesian Beatitudes



Next time you are in Princes Street take a moment to have a look at the mural on the wall of St John’s Episcopal Church

Don Bosco grew into his own spirituality from within a troubled and fragmented family background. The spirituality emerged from his mother Margaret who modelled for him the main virtues of Christian living on a daily basis.

She was hard-working, fair-minded, trusted in God, believed in her children’s goodness and was ready to help those whose off than herself.

The feminine and lay model of spirituality is one that Dom Bosco developed into a way of life for millions of people across the world.

Blessed are those who **show gratitude for the presence of God** in their lives.

Blessed are those who **find balance in daily living**.

Blessed are those who are **energetic in working to build the Kingdom**.

Blessed are those who have the **gentleness of the Good Shepherd**.

Blessed are those who desire to **gather people into unity and communion**.

Blessed are those who are **optimistic about people and their goodness**.

Blessed are those who **discover cheerfulness as a way to holiness**.

Blessed are those who have **concern for the little ones and the poor**.

Reflection

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