

The week ahead 11—18 January 2026



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 10 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Weekday of Christmas	Joe Dunn RIP
Sunday 11 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Baptism of the Lord	People of the Parishes Jim Gray RIP
Monday 12 January	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of the Year	Fintan Doyle RIP
Tuesday 13 January	St Columba's	9.30am	St. Kentigern	David Mitchell RIP
Wednesday 14 January	St Peter's St. Columba's	9.30am 12noon	1st Week of the Year Funeral Janina Patricia McDonald	Deacon John Smith
Thursday 15 January	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of the Year	Jimmy and Maise Doherty RIP
Friday 16 January	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of the Year	Emily Kovanicova
Saturday 17 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Anthony 2nd Sunday of the Year	Jim Gray RIP
Sunday 18 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of the Year	KO: Michael & Cassie Doherty RIP DM: Bill & Rita Franchetti RIP People of the Parishes

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

Sunday 11 January readings: p118

First reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29 (28): 1-2 3ac-4 3b 9b-10 R11b

Response: The Lord will bless all his people with peace

Second reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

Parish news continued from page 2 and page 3...

St. Thomas of Aquin's High School Ceilidh, Saturday 24 January

doors open at 7pm, St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray St. Everyone is very welcome to come along. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Drinks and food will be sold on the night. Donations welcome and enter the raffle.

Edinburgh Singers Concert, 28 March, St Cuthbert's, Lothian Rd. Missed out on tickets for the Edinburgh Singers' sellout Christmas concert? Tickets for their Spring concert are already on sale from The Queen's Hall. Some glorious music for choir and organ will be performed.

Used stamps: Please put in box at the back of St. Columba's and 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.

Book donations needed for Holy Corner book sale May 2026 raising funds for Christian Aid. Donations to Morningside United Church, Holy Corner from Wednesday 14 January - Saturday 28 March 2026. See poster at back of Church.

The Archdiocese is running a series of monthly EXPLORE meetings for young women interested in finding out more about the religious life and exploring God's will. Includes talks, discussion, prayer and socialising. It takes place on the last

Sunday of the month at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN on the following dates: 4pm-7pm, Sunday 25 January; 22 February; 29 March; 26 April. To register or find out more, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

The Open Door. Do you know someone who'd benefit from a **free taster of our Day Sessions** (Friday 16 January or 6 February 10.30am - 12 noon) so, please bring them along - there will be refreshments, nice biscuits and fun activities. We're now 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, with support from trained staff and volunteers, or for families in need of respite from caring for loved ones. Day services help maintain independence, mobility and confidence, and delay the move into residential care. **Volunteers:** we're recruiting Drivers and Day Service Volunteers and our Board is seeking **3 new Trustees** with current experience in business, marketing or HR. **Please get in touch** with Lynnette or Simon on 0131-447-9757, lynnette@theopendoor.org.uk or drop in to talk with us at The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY

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 Baptism of the Lord —Year A 11—18 January 2026

The story of Jesus' baptism is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Father's beloved Son, and given power for the mission he was about to begin. This is Matthew's main emphasis.

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did he undergo it? To give an example of humility, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate his mission to sinners.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

This Sunday, The Baptism of the Lord, ends the Christmas season and begins the public ministry of Jesus.

The Gospel of Matthew is now our guide on the Sundays of the Year. We discover more about the Jewish roots of our Christian faith and the denseness of the Gospel invites us to understand better the tradition that Jesus came from.

Here in the two communities of St. Columba and St. Peter we look forward to handing on the Christian faith to a variety of our parish members.

- At present eight are in our RCIA programme preparing for entry into the Church at the Easter Vigil.
- In January around thirty families will take part in our programme preparing for first Reconciliation.
- This Sunday around twenty five families will receive the Our Father as preparation for the sacrament of the Eucharist in May and June.
- There are also around forty families preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation in May.

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

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

Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji

FrDaniel.Magaji@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.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 11 January	Baptism of the Lord —Year A Children’s Liturgy at both morning Masses today At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses we celebrate the Presentation of Our Father* 10.30 St. Columba’s: Sister Karin’s Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 12	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter’s Parish room
Tuesday 13	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba’s 6pm, P3 Parent’s meeting, First Reconciliation, St. Peter’s Parish Room
Wednesday 14	12noon, Requiem Mass Janina Patricia McDonald RIP , St. Columba’s
Thursday 15	7pm, Justice and Peace Outreach Group meeting, St. Peter’s Parish room
Saturday 17	10.30am, Talk: Kathleen Onori, former Climate ambassador for SCIAF, St. Columba’s Middle hall
Sunday 18	Second Sunday of the Year —Year A Children’s Liturgy at both morning Masses today SPUC White Flower appeal—second collection 11.30am Mass—Entry into Catechumenate of our RCIA group members Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish

Congratulations to Chloe Coulter Ogilvie, Baptised at St. Peter’s on **Sunday 28 December**.

new volunteers to our team. Please contact Aoife Palmer aoife_drew@yahoo.co.uk or 07816 876 746

Congratulations to Leo Joseph Spencer and Margot Lyra Leigh Spencer, Baptised at St. Columba’s, **Sunday 4 January**.

Congratulations to winners of St. Peter’s SCIAF 200 Club: Annual draw: Douglas Hunter (£50); December draw: Catherine Gray (£25) and Maddie Horne (£15). Thank you to all those who supported our fund raising efforts during Advent. We purchased, on behalf of the Parish, the gift of "Water for a Village" £1200 and donated £1000 to the Advent Appeal for The Batwa People of Rwanda, see sciaf.org.uk for details of this appeal.

Today we celebrate the ***Presentation of Our Father** at 09.30 & 11.30 Masses. Children preparing for First Holy Communion will receive the prayer of the Our Father during their journey of growing in faith and their relationship with God.

Congratulations **James Meehan** winner of the St. Columba’s 100 club.

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of **Janina Patricia McDonald RIP**, a parishioner at St. Columba’s. A Requiem Mass will take place at St. Columba’s on **Wednesday 14 January at 12noon**.

White Flower, SPUC Appeal 2026 - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **next weekend 17/18 January**. SPUC exists to transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes unthinkable. The Society is actively leading the fight in courts, classrooms and culture to achieve this mission. Through these efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC at this critical time for our country.

Justice and Peace Outreach Group first meeting of 2026: this **Thursday 15 January, 7pm**, St. Peter’s Parish Room. We’re always happy to welcome new members with fresh ideas in promoting the Social Teaching of the Church.

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of **Rory MacLarn RIP**. The funeral will take place in St. Columba’s on **Tuesday 20 January, 11am**.

St. Peter’s website annual review. Please would all those who lead ministries at St. Peter’s review their web pages and get back to Juliet MacKellaig **before 18 January** with any changes julietmackellaig@gmail.com

Fr. Daniel is away to Manchester for a few days break and to meet some of his Nigerian priest friends. He had a typical experience as a rail passenger arriving two hours late at Manchester Oxford Street! He will then go onto St. Beuno’s in Wales for five days retreat walking in the footsteps of the great English Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Laudato ‘si, ten years on. Saturday 17 January, St. Columba’s Middle Hall. 10am for coffee/biscuits, talk starts 10.30am. **Kathy Onori** is the Laudato Si Movement representative serving on the Archdiocesan Caritas Justice and Peace Commission. She works tirelessly to raise awareness and is actively involved in their campaigns. She will explain to us about her work in the diocese, the objectives of the movement and its current activities.

When in Hospital. If you have a family member or friend in the Royal Infirmary at Little France who needs a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain ask the ward Sister to page the on call Chaplain. Similarly if you need pastoral care at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital in Morningside the duty nurse can page the Roman Catholic Chaplain.

Next Sunday 18 January at 11.30am Mass, Scott Dunlop, Chin Chun Lui, Sricheta Karmaker, Isla Tierney, Steven Turner, Cansu Senturk and Erdi Senturk will be accepted into the Order of Catechumens. We welcome them along with Angus Field and Edward Robinson who will be received into the Church and be Confirmed respectively, as they continue their journey of faith to receive the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, at the Easter Vigil 2026. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacraments.

Volunteers needed to join St. Peter’s Children’s Liturgy team. The Children’s liturgy celebrates the gospel reading from a resource that allows the children to understand the reading at a younger level; we then have a very short discussion about it; followed by an activity (usually colouring in). New volunteers needed to join the team. No previous experience working with children required; the role is open to anyone over the age of 18, male or female. The only requirement is that all new leaders must join the PVG Scheme and attend a safeguarding training session (PVG and training session will be organised by our Parish Safeguarding co-ordinator). After that you’ll receive induction and support from the team. We’d love to welcome

Parish news continued on page 3 and page 4 ...

The Papacy of Pope Francis



The Justice and Peace Group’s latest talk was delivered by Dr. Sara Parvis on the Papacy of Pope Francis.

a significant influential role during the Covid Pandemic - in shutting churches and encouraging vaccination. His moral authority ensured that others followed, saving many lives.

It was at this time, with the publication of *Amoris Laetitia* (March 2016), that an anti-Francis movement started, led by Cardinal Pell. This slowed him down but he simply found alternative routes to achieve his ends. He had a gift for people politics and was praised for having a good relationship with his predecessor Pope Benedict -their exchanges were amicable.

From October 2023 he made a nightly call to Holy Family Church in Gaza.

His washing of prisoner’s feet on Maundy Thursday was another good example of his humility. He also travelled to many countries—68 in fact.

Sara started by asking everyone present on what had impacted them most about this Papacy. There were many comments about his focus on the poor, his ability to attract attention and influence outwith the church, and very simply his amazing humility.

He quietly planned the election of his own successor. It was just before he went into hospital on 6 February 2025 that Francis appointed Robert Prevost as Cardinal Bishop from Cardinal Deacon. Sara was absolutely convinced of his intention in so doing, and in fact he started his plan of action back in 2022. He wanted this American to be elected the next Pope. Of the new Cardinals he appointed many were from poor countries which had not been represented in the past. 135 were eligible to vote in the conclave and 133 were there. At least 50 over the age of 80 also attended general congregations.

He was Pope for 12 years (13 March 2013—21 April 2025). He was the first Latin American Pope and the first Jesuit Pope. Born in Argentina of Italian parents he spoke fluent Spanish and a “colourful” Italian. His papacy displayed the best Jesuit elements. He earned the title “The Pope of surprises!”

During his pontificate he released 11 Encyclicals and Apostolic Exhortations. They include *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Amoris Laetitia*, *Dilexit Nos*, and *Laudato Si* which is arguably the most well known. This was aimed at political leaders and scientists-focusing on care for our planet.

Pope Francis had his shortcomings - in many people’s eyes he was weak on dealing with abuse issues, he did less for women than many had hoped, and his strong sense of mercy meant he flouted canon law on several occasions. There were also many criticisms of his diplomatic policy particularly with China. Nevertheless, he crammed a tremendous amount into these 12 years and was an incredible sign to the whole world.

Pope Francis was also very concerned with other issues of justice and peace. In the Year of Mercy 2015/16, he returned power to priests to grant forgiveness to those who had had abortions, a power previously reserved for Bishops. He played

Talk summary by John Riederer

Reflection

To be Baptised is to be Christened, that is, to be made like Christ.
But this doesn't happen automatically.
We have to grow into it.
Towards the end of his life a saint was asked if he was a Christian, and he replied, ‘not yet’.
Baptism is like the planting of a seed.
It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen.



Parish news continued...

between his experience in his own diocese and his first four months with us.

Week of Christian Unity 18 -25 January 2026. The Newington Churches Together will celebrate the week with a service on Sunday 25th in the Community Church, Edinburgh, 41A South Clarks Street, EH8 9NZ.

Save the date: Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February. St. Peter’s Parish Council has started a project to help vulnerable people in India, through our partner, the St. Agnes charitable foundation, who help the poorest Indian children living in some of the worst conditions. We aim to **raise £500 to pay school fees** for poor children (the St. Agnes foundation would provide the schooling). £75 will cover a year’s school fees and needs for one child. The average price of a coffee in Edinburgh is £3.50, 21 cups of coffee is equal to the fee for a school year. Could you pay the price of a coffee towards the school fees of a child in India or buy a jar of redcurrant jam or some cacti for your home? All can be done Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February when St. Peter’s Parish will have a charity stand for donations and sale of the jams and plants. We can’t help everyone and solve all problems everywhere but maybe we can help fellow Catholics in a country which is not covered by large international organisations. See you in January at the charity stand.

Men’s Group: Annual Mass & Meal Friday 23 January. Mass in St. Columba’s at 6.30pm followed by hot meal in the Church Hall. Names by 16 January please.
Contact: f.gill@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

The next meeting of our **Teens Group** will take place on **Wednesday 28 January, 7pm** (for P7- S4). Join us for games, chat and snacks on the last Wednesday of the month at St. Columba’s halls. New members from any school or Parish warmly welcomed. Ask your parent/guardian to register interest, emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Save the date: Our second ‘Eat and Share’ will take place in St. Peter’s Parish Room **7-9pm Thursday 29 January**. Bring some food to share and Fr. Daniel will lead the discussion on the topic of The Diocese of Bauchi and the differences

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