

The week ahead 18—25 January 2026



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
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
Monday 19 January	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd Week of the Year	Special Intention
Tuesday 20 January	St Columba's	9.30am 11am	2nd Week of the Year Funeral Rory Maclaren RIP	KO: Holy Souls DM: Betty Jack RIP
Wednesday 21 January	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Agnes	Andrew McLuskey RIP
Thursday 22 January	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd Week of the Year	KO: Holy Souls DM: Elspeth Palmer RIP
Friday 23 January	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd Week of the Year	Deacon John Smith
Saturday 24 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Francis De Sales 3rd Sunday of the Year	Intentions Fr. Sean Bradley People of the Parishes
Sunday 25 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of the Year	DM: Helen and George Winter RIP KO: Jacqueline Heron-Douthart

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 18 January readings: p125

First reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

Psalm: 40 (39): 2 4ab 7-8a 8b-9 10 R 8a 9a

Response: Behold, I have come Lord, to do your will

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3

Gospel: John 1: 29-34

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 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

God's invitation to relationship. Free 6 week prayer course online to introduce people to ways of praying from the **Epiphany Group**. Supporting you into a deeper prayer life through: facilitators' input (all trained spiritual directors with the **Epiphany Group**); guided prayer experience; sharing. Participants say: *I am forever changed due to the course and very excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer.*; *It has been eye-opening the different ways that we can pray and hear God's voice.*
Course dates: Mondays: 23 Feb (7-9pm); 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March (7-8.30pm).

For information www.epiphanygroup.org.uk to register email: waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk
Flyers at the back of the church

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 Second Sunday of the Year —Year A 18—25 January 2026

Even though this is the year of Matthew, we begin with a reading from John. The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time respects an old liturgical theme of different epiphany's or manifestations of Jesus.

In the first chapter of his Gospel, John brings forth a number of witnesses to tell the reader who Jesus is. Chief among these is John the Baptist. In our reading the Baptist refers to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' and the 'Chosen One of God', two messianic titles.

The designation 'Lamb of God' suggests the Passover lamb, whose blood delivered the Israelites from the destroying Angel. But it also suggests the suffering servant of Isaiah who was likened to a lamb being led to the slaughter.

Jesus is the one who will suffer and die for the sins of the world. He is also God's chosen servant and thus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy (first reading).

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 - 25th January.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Eph 4: 4).

Day One: Our calling

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called (Eph 4:1).

Day 2: Bearing with one another in love

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bear with one another in love (Eph 4:2).

Day 3: The bond of peace

Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).

Day 4: Called to one hope

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Eph 4:4).

Day 5: One faith, one baptism

One Lord, one faith, one baptism (Eph 4:5).

Day 6: Our Lord and Father

One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all (Eph 4:6).

Day 7: God's gift given in baptism

One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all (Eph 4:6).

Day 8: Growth in Christ

The gifts he gave were for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (cf. Eph 4:13).

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 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
Monday 19	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 20	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 11am, Funeral Rory Maclaren RIP , St. Columba's
Thursday 22	7pm, St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council, Parish room
Friday 23	Men's Group Annual Mass & Meal. 6.30pm Mass at St. Columba's, followed by meal in Church Hall
Sunday 25	Third Sunday of the Year —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 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



Today 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. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacraments.

Special collection today for White Flower, SPUC Appeal 2026: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) are holding their annual appeal **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.

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

St. Peter's website annual review. Could all who lead ministries at St. Peter's review their pages and get back to Juliet **asap** with changes: julietmackellaig@gmail.com

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

St. Thomas of Aquin's High School Ceilidh, Saturday 24 January, doors open 7pm, St Columba's hall. Everyone welcome. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Drinks and food will be sold on the night. Donations welcome and you can enter the raffle.

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

The Teens Group is Wednesday 28 January, 7pm (for P7-S4). Join for games, chat and snacks 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 your interest at teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Save the date: Our second 'Eat and Share' 7-9pm Thursday 29 January, St. Peter's Parish Room. Bring food to share and Fr. Daniel will lead a discussion on the topic of The Diocese of Bauchi and the differences between his experience in his own Diocese and his first four months with us.

Save the date: Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February. St. Peter's Parish Council has a project to help vulnerable people in India, through our partner, the St. Agnes charitable foundation, who help poorest Indian children living in some of the worst conditions. We aim to **raise £500 to pay school fees** (St. Agnes foundation will provide the schooling). £75 covers a year's school fees/needs for one child. The average price of a coffee in Edinburgh is £3.50, 21 cups equals 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 jam or cacti for your home? You can do this Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February at the St. Peter's Parish charity stand. We can't help everyone but maybe we can help fellow Catholics in a country which is not covered by large international organisations.

St. Columba's Hall Declutter: Hall storage areas are being de-cluttered. The following items are free to collect:

- 3 large and misc. assorted picture/poster frames
 - Good condition computer table
 - Serviceable Dyson upright vacuum cleaner
 - Serviceable DeLonghi portable de-humidifier
 - Good condition tupperware cake box
 - Toddler's sit-in bubble car (parked at front of Main hall beside the tables, too big to store under stage).
- If you'd like to view/collect items please see Colin McKenzie in the hall after 9:30 Mass on Sunday or text Peter on 07761 279 247.

St Columba's hall storage. Could all groups who have any items in the upper storeroom please contact Colin McKenzie to confirm what needs to remain/what can be disposed. Some "unknown" boxes have been in the store room for a considerable time and will have to be disposed of if they remain unclaimed. Many thanks.

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

Welcoming the Stranger – Immigration, Asylum and Catholic Teaching

Paul Atkin gave a presentation in St Columba's Hall entitled "Welcoming the Stranger – Immigration, Asylum and Catholic Teaching." His talk examined how the Church's teaching on charity, justice and the common good can guide Christians in responding to one of the most complex moral and social challenges of our time.

The Scale of Migration

Paul began with Home Office data to outline the scale and nature of migration to the United Kingdom. In 2024, 948,000 people came to the UK for work, study, or family reasons, while a further 108,000 sought asylum. Roughly a third of asylum seekers arrived by small boats, with the remainder entering initially on study, work or visitor visas before later applying for asylum. Most small boat arrivals were men aged between 18 and 39; the most common countries of origin included Iran, Afghanistan, Vietnam and Turkey. These figures illustrate how migration is not a marginal issue but a defining feature of modern Britain, with significant cultural and social implications.

The Church's Teaching

Turning to Catholic social teaching, Paul reminded listeners that migration and refuge are not new phenomena. In Matthew 2:13–23, the Holy Family's flight, sojourn and eventual return from Egypt showed that even in Scripture the experience of displacement is met with compassion and divine care. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2241) teaches that wealthy nations should, "to the extent they are able," welcome those who seek security and a means of livelihood they cannot find at home. However, it also affirms the right of nations to regulate immigration for the sake of the common good. Immigrants, in turn, have a moral duty to respect the laws, culture and institutions of their host country and to contribute gratefully to civic life.

Pope Leo says that every country has a right to determine who and how and when people enter. Pope Francis has urged compassion and prudence together; welcoming migrants, he said, must never mean open borders without responsibility, nor indifference to the welfare of existing citizens. True hospitality is ordered towards justice for all.

The Realities on the Ground

The presentation went on to highlight the practical realities of migration policy. While migration can bring economic and cultural benefits, it also carries costs that fall unevenly across society. Some low-skilled migration can create long-term financial pressures on the state. In addition, levels of economic inactivity remain high among some long-established migrant groups, particularly the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. Paul noted that genuine asylum must be protected, but that abuse of the system undermines public confidence and risks harming those truly in need.

He also raised issues of safety, exploitation and integration, citing recent reports of serious offences and high-profile child-exploitation and "grooming gang" cases. Such incidents, he said, highlight the need for firm but fair enforcement of the law and for honesty about the social impact of failed integration. Compassion, he suggested, should never mean ignoring justice or prudence.

Islam and Integration

Many recent migrants are Muslims so the presentation examined the religious and cultural dynamics of Islam in Britain. Tracing the development of Islamic movements such as Salafism and the Muslim Brotherhood, Paul explained that some promote very strict, sometimes violent, interpretations of faith which can clash with Western values. Most British Muslims come from rural regions of Pakistan and Bangladesh, often retaining traditional family structures and limited engagement with wider society. These realities, he argued, present both challenges and opportunities for respectful dialogue and genuine integration.

Balancing Mercy and Prudence

In closing, Paul urged a balanced Christian response: one rooted in mercy for the stranger but also mindful of justice and the common good. The Church does not teach "open borders" or "ask no questions," but rather responsible solidarity—helping those in need while sustaining a society capable of doing so. Christian charity must always be joined with discernment: we are called to love our neighbour and welcome the stranger, but always with wisdom, ensuring that compassion does not come at the expense of truth or justice.

Summary of a presentation by Paul Atkin

Reflection

Jesus, the gentle Lamb of God, died for our sins. Ours were the sufferings that he bore, ours the sorrows that he carried. For we had all gone astray like sheep, and God burdened him with the sins of all of us.

Though harshly treated, he bought it humbly, never opening his mouth to complain.

Nor was there anyone to plead his cause.

Through his sufferings he has won pardon for us all, and through his wounds we are healed.



Parish news continued...

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; then a very short discussion about it; and 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 new volunteers to our team. Please contact Aoife Palmer aoife_drew@yahoo.co.uk or 07816 876 746.

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.

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.

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**. For details see poster at back of Church.

Parish news continued page 4 ...