

8—15 February 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 7 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	4th Week of the Year 5th Sunday of the Year	Intentions of Fr. Michael Johnston
Sunday 8 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes
Monday 9 February	St Peter's	9.30am	5th Week of the Year	Professor Adrian Brady RIP
Tuesday 10 February	St Columba's	9.30am	St. Scholastica	
Wednesday 11 February	St Peter's	9.30am	5th Week of the Year	Intentions James Harley
Thursday 12 February	St Columba's	9.30am	5th Week of the Year	
Friday 13 February	St Peter's	9.30am	5th Week of the Year	Intention of Mrs Lilian Keegan
Saturday 14 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Cyril & St. Methodius 6th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 15 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of the Year	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 8 February readings: p133
First reading: Isaiah 58: 6-10
Psalm: 112 (111): 4-5 6-7 8a 9 R 4a
Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5
Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

God's invitation to relationship
 An introduction to Ways of Praying

EPIPHANY GROUP
 rooted in the Ignatian tradition

A short prayer course on Zoom to support people into a deeper prayer life through tutors' input guided prayer experience & sharing

Mondays 7- 8.30pm
 23 Feb
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March

To register:
waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk
www.epiphanygroup.org.uk

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
Fifth Sunday of the Year —Year A
 8—15 February 2026

Matthew had already introduced Jesus as the light of a darkened world. Now the function of enlightening and guiding a morally confused humanity is shared with his disciples.

Salt and light or powerful images. In the ancient world, salt was one of the most important necessities of life, especially for preserving and seasoning food. So too was light for obvious reasons.

Both images are making the same point: Christians are called to bear witness to Christ before unbelievers through their good deeds. When the disciples stop witnessing through their deeds, they become as useless as salt that has lost its taste or a lamp that doesn't give light. **Flor McCarthy SDB**



Father Daniel writes ...

Appreciation for a wonderful time at the 'eat and share' in St. Peter's.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Peter's for the warm support and encouragement shown by attending my recent talk - 'eat and share' on the connection between the Archdiocese of Edinburgh and the Diocese of Bauchi, Nigeria. Your presence and engagement reflected a genuine interest in our shared history of faith and mission. Thanks also to those who wished to attend but had situations that caused them not to be able to.

I am deeply grateful to the Archdiocese of Edinburgh for the seed of faith that was planted in Nigeria through missionary witness and commitment. That seed has grown, borne fruit, and continues to flourish. I also wish to thank the people of the Archdiocese for their ongoing prayers, solidarity, and support, which have strengthened the Church in Bauchi and sustained a living bond between our dioceses.

A special word of appreciation goes to everyone who so graciously accepted and enjoyed the Nigerian jollof rice I prepared. Sharing food allowed us to share more than a meal—it became a moment of sharing faith, culture, stories, and lived experiences. It was a beautiful expression of communion, reminding us that the Church is truly universal, bringing people together around the same table.

Thank you once again to the people of St. Columba's and St. Peter's for your hospitality, openness, and generosity of spirit shown to me since I arrived. May God continue to bless our shared journey of faith.

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Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji
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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: 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@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk

St. Columba's Hall hire:
 James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 8 February	Fifth Sunday of the Year —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 9	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 10	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Friday 13	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Saturday 14	1pm, Baptism, Harry Magennis, St. Peter's
Sunday 15	Sixth Sunday of the Year —Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



Canon Kenneth is away, returning Tuesday 17 February.

Congratulations to Erbatur Senturk, Baptised on Monday 2 February at St. Peter's.

Date for your diary: Archbishop Leo Cushley has pencilled in **Saturday 20 June at 5.30pm** for the Dedication of the new Altar in St. Peter's (not *Saturday 21 June* as stated in last week's newsletter).

Thank you for your generous support to the St. Peter's Parish Council 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). Last weekend at our charity stall we raised £310.14 to enable the St. Agnes foundation to provide schooling. £75 covers a year's school fees/needs for one child.

Congratulations to St. Peter's SCIAF 200 Club January winners: **Val de Souza** (£25) and **Shelagh McGhee** (£15). And to **John McHale** February winner of the St. Columba's 100 Club.

St. Peter's will offer tea and coffee on Friday mornings after Mass. Please join us this coming Friday - we would love to meet both visitors to the parish and parishioners.

Wednesday 11 February is feast day of **Our Lady of Lourdes** and **World prayer day for the sick**. The message of Pope Leo XIV can be seen here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html>

Valentine's Day, **Saturday 14 February** - couples are invited to the Archdiocese's afternoon retreat reflecting on the Gift of Marriage. **2 - 5pm St. Kentigern's Church**, 26-28 Parkgrove Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR. Led by renowned Scottish Catholic playwright Stephen Callaghan and wife Rachel. Details and registration at bit.ly/archretreat26

February Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes, **Sunday 15 February, 3pm**, St. Cuthbert's RC Church, 104 Slateford Road, EH14 1PY. Refreshments in hall afterwards.

Ash Wednesday: 18 February, is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes take place as follows: 09.30 St. Peter's and 7pm St. Columba's. There is no 11am St. Peter's School Mass - as it is the mid-term break.

Date for the diary: **St. Columba's, Saturday 21 February**, 10 for 10.30. **Rev. David Coleman, of Eco-Congregation** Scotland, will be giving us some tips on how better to care for our common home as a congregation. Very much in line with what Pope Francis asked of us in *Laudato si'*.

Remembering service. A prayer service for those who've suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support, to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise their loss and help with healing. Ecumenical and open to all. **Sunday 22 February 5pm, St. John the Baptist RC Church, Corstorphine**, 37 St. Ninian's Road, Edinburgh EH12 8AL.

Date for the diary: **Lenten lunch, St. Peter's, Saturday 21 February after 12 noon Mass.** Tickets £10 - available after Mass from 1 February. Proceeds to SCIAF.

Date for the diary: Thanks to all who came to our 'Eat and Share' evening at St. Peter's. Fr. Daniel gave a great presentation about the links between his diocese in Bauchi and Edinburgh - very informative for all. Our next 'Eat and Share' is **Thursday 26 February at 7pm** in the Parish room. Topic and speaker to be confirmed.

Date for the diary: **Men's Group.** The recent Annual Mass & Meal at St. Columba's hall was a great success. Many thanks to all who supported the event. A very generous £250 was raised for food vouchers which will be sent to two of our local Catholic schools. The next meeting is **Friday 27 March.** Guest speaker Father Henry McLaughlin.

Southside Faith care are offering **free drop-in digital sessions:** giving help or advice on using mobile phone, laptop etc. as follows:

- Weekly sessions for 10 weeks from Tuesday 20 January: 1.30-3.30pm, Prestonfield Neighbourhood Centre, 63 Prestonfield Avenue, EH16 5EX
- Fortnightly sessions for 10 weeks from Thursday 22 January: 1.30-3.30pm, Morningside United Church, 15 Chamberlain Road, EH10 4DH

See poster at back of Church for more details.

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 P3...

A Time of Listening at St. Beuno's, Wales

Fr. Daniel Magaji

Recently, I had the blessing and an opportunity of spending time on retreat at St. Beuno's Jesuit Retreat Centre in North Wales. It is a place of a great experience of peace, which is set within wide, green grounds that seem to invite a person to prayer simply by their beauty.

The surrounding fields are alive with nature, with animals grazing quietly, and there are gentle paths for walking, reflection, and silence. From the window of my cottage, I could see the Snowdon mountain range, including Mount Snowdon itself, the second highest mountain in the UK. And this is a daily reminder of God's grandeur and

Instead, each day was centred on personal prayer with a passage of Scripture. I also met daily with a spiritual guide, who gently helped me reflect on how God might be speaking through my prayer. There were no group sessions, which allowed space to pray at my own pace and in my own way.

The quiet of the place made a real difference. Surrounded by nature, it became easier to slow down, to listen, and to notice God's presence — not only in prayer, but in the stillness, the walks, and the simple rhythm of each day.

I returned from the retreat with a renewed sense of gratitude and trust, reminded that God is present not only in special moments but also in the ordinary rhythms of daily life. I am thankful for this time of grace and continue to hold our parish community in prayer, that we may all find small moments of silence where God can meet us and renew our hearts.



faithfulness.

The retreat followed the Ignatian tradition and was what is called an individually guided retreat. This is different from a preached retreat, where everyone gathers for talks given by a retreat leader.



Reflection

Each of us has a capacity for goodness.
We have hands that can care, eyes that can see,
ears that can hear, tongues that can speak, feet that can walk,
And, above all, hearts that can love.
Lord, help us to believe in our own goodness,
And to let the light of that goodness shine.
On seeing this light others find their way,
and you will be glorified.



Parish news continued...

Fresh start: thank you and fresh appeal

- Fresh Start's **Cookers for Christmas Appeal** raised **over £14,350**, far surpassing our £10,000 goal. This helps those moving on from homelessness in Edinburgh to access **essential white goods** for their new homes.
- With a new year now in full swing, we **urgently** need donations of the following household items for our **Starter Packs**: towels; crockery / dinnerware; pots and pans; duvets and pillows, small Electrical Goods (especially lamps, kettles, toasters and irons). For a full list of accepted items, plus details on where and when donations can be dropped off, [please visit our website](#).
- Throughout the year donations of new and pre-used items can be put in the big box at back of St. Peter's Church and at the back of St. Columba's.
- At Fresh Start, we believe that everyone deserves the

chance to build a better future, but that sometimes, they need some help to do so. [Legacy gifting](#) enables us to continue supporting people moving on from homelessness long after today, and is a simple, meaningful way to ensure you leave the world a better place than you found it.

Edinburgh Street Pastors recruiting now.

Next training starts **27 February**.
Want to be part of an organisation which provides care and help to people in need on the streets of Edinburgh? Are you a Christian moved by the parable of the Good Samaritan: Edinburgh Street Pastors is recruiting volunteers now to be part of the growing work, sharing God's love on the streets of Edinburgh. More information at edinburgh@streetpastors.org.uk or call 07523 267906.