

22 February—1 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 21 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Saturday after Ash Weds 1st Sunday of Lent	Intentions Fr. Nicholas Hodgson
Sunday 22 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes
Monday 23 February	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Dennis Dimney RIP
Tuesday 24 February	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	Intentions of Stephen
Wednesday 25 February	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	1st Week of Lent	DM: Phyllis Kerr RIP KO: Iain Lowe RIP
Thursday 26 February	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	1st Week of Lent	DM: Kathleen Dalyell RIP
Friday 27 February	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Lent	
Saturday 28 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	1st Week of Lent 2nd Sunday of Lent	Dr. Adrian Brady RIP
Sunday 1 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes DM: Peter Munro RIP

**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 22 February readings: p151**  
**First reading:** Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7  
**Psalm:** 51 (50): 3-4, 5-6b. 12-13. 14. 17 Rcf 3a  
**Response: Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned**  
**Second reading:** Romans 5: 12, 17-19  
**Gospel:** Matthew 4: 1-11

**Stations of the Cross: Monday, 23 February, with Archbishop Leo Cushley.** Join Archbishop Cushley and people from across Scotland for the Stations of the Cross 7:45pm on Lent. We will pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Registration: <https://bit.ly/stations26> or QR code



prayer, and dialogue with the Trinity - you'll have time to speak, to reflect, and to listen for the gentle answers of God. <https://prayasyougo.org/series/holy-longing-lent-2026-110> Or found on the app.

ISC Glasgow daily reflections with Scripture art and music <https://www.onlineprayer.net/l26-m/>

Christian Art app  
 Combining Scripture and Art daily from the former director of Sotherby's Europe who is now a priest.



**Lent resources**  
 Take time out to pray intentionally this Lent.. the following resources can support you.  
*Pray as you go and Holy Longing*

This Lent there will be an opportunity to encounter God in and through our own holy longings, the yearnings that stir most deeply within us. Each week you can spend time in Scripture,

**Prayer/reflection**

Lent is the Church's 'holy spring'. It is a time of self-denial. But it is also a time of joy, because we are preparing for Easter. Lord, help us to let go of old habits of sin, and clothe us in newness of life, so that when Easter comes, we will feel young again in our discipleship.



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  
**First Sunday of Lent —Year A**  
 22 February—1 March 2026

The story of the temptations of Jesus is a highly contrived story. First of all, it looks to the past. Matthew sees Jesus as reliving the history of his people. He goes into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. This recalls the 40 years the people spent in the desert, a period in which they were tempted but also enjoyed a special closeness to God. Jesus shares in the temptations of his people. But whereas they were found wanting, he remains faithful to God.  
**Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

Lent again! The readings of the Sundays of Lent are our best guide through the Lenten season. This year we read from the gospel of Matthew. In the parishes we have two additional weekday Masses: Wednesdays in St. Columba's and Thursday in St. Peter's. After each of these Masses there will be Stations of the Cross. Our spiritual book this year will be 'The Confessions of St. Augustine'.

Page 3 of the newsletter will offer reflections on two books of the Confessions each week. There will be an opportunity for a zoom meeting to discuss the content of the books on Thursday at 7pm on 5 March, 12 March and 26 March.

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74667021756?pwd=71d9J0xKliLcUUJl9vHyMhpF2QluDy.1>  
 Meeting ID: 746 6702 1756 Passcode: 7ks7Kd

**Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris**

The thing that struck me most about the restored Notre Dame Cathedral was how clean it was inside. The walls particularly reminded me of a new building. Every chandeliers light that lite the main nave was working and gave a great sense of the presence of God.

They have a fairly good system for circulation in the church and plenty of helpers on hand to deal with the many tourists who were present. Notre Dame has always felt like more of a museum to me than a church. But there are spaces for prayer, for candle lighting, going to confession and time to marvel at the beauty of the stained glass windows that seem to shine more resplendently with work of restoration. Many videos exist online showing the painstaking work that has gone into that particular labour.

However the work is not yet complete. There was a mighty high yellow crane operating when I was there and various areas of scaffolding outside continuing the work. There was a little village of porta-cabins built up towards the sky which I suppose houses the many professionals who continue the work behind the scenes. My only regret was that on this occasion I didn't hear the beautiful organ which I had watched a video on and hear how, after workmen finished in the body of the cathedral at 10pm, a silence gave the organ tuners the opportunity to attend to the 8,000 pipes that make up France's largest organ.

**Sacré Coeur, Montmartre**

On a rainy Parisian morning I set off by metro looking forward to visiting the beautiful church dedicated to the Sacred Heart begun in 1875. I have always found that it was a more spiritual experience than visiting most other churches in Paris. It was very peaceful and calming praying before the Blessed Sacrament for the parish communities here in Edinburgh and for the wider world.

There was a group of about fifty children being given a tour of the basilica by one of the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Montmartre, a quiet word at the back, a procession up on the sanctuary, a prayer and hymn before the Blessed Sacrament and then off stage right. Hopefully into the convent for a cafe and croissant!

I concluded my visit by going to the church of St. Pierre of Montmartre which was the original abbey church belonging to the Benedictine community. It is unadorned in comparison to the basilica but has a monastic beauty of simplicity and prayer. What made me smile when visiting was that there were three good French women doing the church cleaning which reminds the tourist that the more routine tasks of life have to go on even although the place has the history and the beauty of many years of worship.

**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.stpetercchurchedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stpetercchurchedinburgh.org.uk)  
 St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; [www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk](http://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 22 February	First Sunday of Lent —Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 23	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 24	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 25	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Columba's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's hall
Thursday 26	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Peter's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7pm, 'Eat and Share', St. Peter's Parish room. Talk by Andrew Thackrey on the Nicæan Creed
Friday 27	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Sunday 1 March	Second Sunday of Lent —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



**WEE BOX Prayer.** This Lent, let us unite in **prayer**, asking God to bring hope, healing, and the life-giving gift of water to communities in greatest need:  
*God of Life-Giving water, we give You our praise.  
We lift to you all those that seek water but do not find.  
Quench their thirst and provide all that they need. May we, the SCIAF family, continue to be a voice for those unheard; a pillar of hope for our sisters and brothers. We ask that You help us to play our part in building a world where justice flows like a mighty river.  
Amen*

If you don't yet have your WEE BOX, please pick one up today, visit [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox), or call 0141 354 5555.

**Wednesday 25 February, 7pm** is the next monthly meeting of our **Catholic Teens Group (for P7- S4)**. Meeting monthly 7—8.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month at St. Columba's Hall to have fun and learn more about our faith. Ask your parent/guardian to register interest, emailing: [teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk](mailto:teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk).

Our next 'Eat and Share' is **Thursday 26 February at 7pm** in the St. Peter's Parish room. Andrew Thackrey will speak on the Nicæan Creed. Please bring food for yourself and to share.

**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.

This year, Laetare Sunday (and Mother's Day) fall on 15 March. Our next **sale of home baking; home made marmalade and other preserves at St. Peter's** will be before/after Vigil and Sunday Masses on **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March**. Proceeds to St. Peter's SCIAF project. Buy as gifts for Mother's Day or Easter, or just treat yourself.

**Edinburgh Street Pastors recruiting now.** Training starts **this Friday 27 February 2026**. Interested in being 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 - and want to

be that person? Edinburgh Street Pastors is recruiting volunteers now to be part of the growing work, sharing God's love on the streets of Edinburgh. E-mail us for more information at [edinburgh@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@streetpastors.org.uk) or call 07523 267906.

**World Day of Prayer** for the *Newington Churches Together* will be on **Friday 6 March at 2.30pm** in the Salvation Army 1 East Adam Street EH8 9TF. The service this Year was prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria. Please come in green and white, the National colours of Nigeria, if you can.

Date for the diary: **Men's Group.** The next meeting is **Friday 27 March**. Guest speaker is Father Henry McLaughlin.

**The Beginning Experience.** The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death can result in unbearable feelings of grief and loneliness. The Beginning Experience offers a weekend away at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, **27 - 29 March**. For details contact Louise on 07786 687 631 or [beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com). **Applications to be returned by 13 March.**

Fresh Start distributed **20,000+ Starter Packs with your help in 2025**, for those moving on from homelessness, reaching **over 2,500 households**. They are in desperate need of all **accepted household goods** for Starter Packs, especially small electrical items (**lamps, kettles, toasters and irons**). If you're doing any spring cleaning over the next few weeks, please keep Fresh Start in mind for donations - a full list of accepted items on their website but includes: dishes and cutlery; cleaning items; pots and pans; bed linen and towels; small household electric items; long lasting food products. 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.

## St. Columba's and St. Peter's Lenten Season 2026 Developing my spiritual life through insights from **The Confessions of St Augustine**

### Introduction to the Confessions of St Augustine

"Confession" Dual Meaning: The title reflects both confessing sins (guilt) and praising God (acknowledgment of His glory).

**The Restless Heart:** Humanity's innate longing for something eternal ("our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee") is a central idea, explaining the search for God.

**God's Nature and Paradox:** Augustine grapples with God's attributes (merciful/just, hidden/present, eternal/active), highlighting divine mystery through paradoxes (e.g., God changes works but not plans).

**Sin and Conversion:** Details his struggle with lust, ambition, and false beliefs (Manichaeism, astrology), emphasising deep regret and the transformative power of God's grace.

**Time and Memory:** Explores how an eternal God interacts with time, defining time as a "distension of the mind," a present memory of the past and anticipation of the future.

**Biblical & Philosophical Depth:** Rich with Scripture, it reflects Greek and Latin philosophical influences, forming a cornerstone of Western thought.



### Final Communiqué of the Co-ordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church of the Holy Land 17 – 21 January 2026

*"You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world" Matthew 5:13.14*

Our pilgrimage was to a Land where people are suffering trauma. We began with a visit to Bedouin communities living on the margins of society in the Occupied West Bank. They shared their experiences of a life on the periphery, being observed but often not encountered, their movement heavily restricted by rapidly expanding settlements encircling them on the surrounding hills. We heard stories about Israeli settler attacks and their continual violence and intimidation, theft of livestock and demolition of property, leaving many unable to sleep at night for fear of further violence. When we asked them who sees their struggles and their cry to live in peace with their neighbours, they replied: "Nobody sees us."

Our journey continued with Mass in the only completely Christian town in Palestine. They, too, told us of their suffering: endless attacks from extremist settlers, uprooting of their olive trees, the seizure of their land and intimidatory acts that make their daily life unbearable, driving many into mass emigration. In the twelve months since our last visit, the Land of Promise is being diminished and challenged. Gaza remains a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. The people of the West Bank we encountered are demoralised and fearful. The courageous Israeli voices which speak out for human and civil rights are increasingly threatened; advocating for marginalised voices is a costly solidarity. We fear that soon, they too will be silenced.

As Christians, it is our calling and duty to give a voice to the voiceless, and to bear witness to their dignity, so that the world may know their suffering and be moved to advocate for justice and compassion.

The settlements in the West Bank, illegal under international law, continue to expand by commandeering the land of others. The universality of human rights applies to all without exception. Instead, it is relentlessly replaced by a system where dignity and protection depend on one's civil status.

We affirm Israel's right to exist and for Israelis to live in peace and security; equally, we call for these same rights to be upheld for all those rooted in this land. We hope that efforts for peace will prevail over violence, and that there will be no more acts of terrorism and war. We also urge our governments to exert pressure on Israel to uphold the rules-based international order and to revive meaningful negotiations toward a two-state solution for the benefit and security of all.

We were deeply moved by the faith and steadfastness of local Christians and also by people of other faiths who work to sustain the hope of their communities. They remind us that it is our shared vocation to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" and to strive for peaceful coexistence and security across the Holy Land.

We also witnessed the courage of those Jewish and Palestinian voices who, despite immense challenges and their own trauma, continue to advocate for justice, dialogue and reconciliation. Hearing from parents who have lost a child to conflict and can still find a way to forgive, offers a powerful witness to the possibility of peace and reconciliation. Few experiences are more devastating. When such a mother or father pleads for an end to violence, the world must listen - and act.

The people of the Holy Land cry out for our help and prayers; they long for an end to their suffering. Stand with them. Recognise their plea for dignity. Help foster genuine dialogue between communities. Heed the call of Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to come on pilgrimage as a sign of our love, support and solidarity with them.

As we leave this Land, we do so with our hearts full of compassion for those who are suffering and inspired by those who, by their pursuit of justice, keep the hope of peace alive.

Our Lady Queen of Palestine and of all the Holy Land, pray for us.

**Archbishop Bill Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow, and 16 other Bishops**