

1—8 February 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 31 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John Bosco 4th Sunday of the Year	Intentions of Fr. Nicholas Hodgson
Sunday 1 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of the Year	Intention for Lisette and Aiden Joy People of the Parishes
Monday 2 February	St Peter's	9.30am	Presentation of the Lord	William Al Sharif RIP
Tuesday 3 February	St Columba's	9.30am	4th Week of the Year	Peter Chisholm RIP
Wednesday 4 February	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of the Year	
Thursday 5 February	St Columba's	9.30am	St Agatha	
Friday 6 February	St Peter's	9.30am	St Paul Miki and Companions	
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

**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 1 February readings: p130**  
**First reading:** Zepaniah 2: 3; 3:12-13  
**Psalm:** 146 (145): 6c-7 8-9a 9b-10 R Matthew 5:3  
**Response: Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**  
**Second reading:** 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 1-12a

**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](http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk) to register email: [waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk](mailto:waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk)  
 Flyers at the back of the church.

for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.



**February 2: World Day for Consecrated Life.** For many years the Church has observed the annual World Day for Consecrated Life—a celebration begun by Pope St. John Paul II—on the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** (Candlemas), February 2. *On the ancient feast of Candlemas candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world. Those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to everyone.* Please pray

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 the Year — Year A 1—8 February 2026

Today we have the first of six extracts from Matthew's sermon on the mount. There are parallels between Moses and the Matthean Jesus. The old law was given to Moses on a mount and; the new law is given by Jesus also on a mountain.

The sermon begins with the beatitudes. In the beatitudes we see the values Christ preached, and the blessedness promised to those who live by them.

While Matthew has 8 beatitudes, Luke has only four, but with four corresponding woes. In Luke the beatitudes are stated more starkly. It seems that Matthew has spiritualized them, because his community includes people who are not physically poor or hungry.



**Flor McCarthy SDB**

### Canon Kenneth writes ...

I saw Archbishop Leo Cushley, at the Archbishop's Council on Tuesday, and he has pencilled in Saturday 21 June at 5.30pm for the Dedication of the new Altar in St Peter's. For those who have not been at a Dedication before I thought I would mention the elements of the ritual.

- **Invitation to prayer:** the introduction to the ritual.
- **Litany of Saints:** praying for the intercession of the saints and martyrs.
- **Depositing of the Relics:** relics of martyrs or saints are placed beneath the altar after the Litany of the Saints. The rite is meant to signify that all who have been baptised in the death of Christ, especially those who shed their blood for the Lord, share in Christ's passion. Our relics are from the previous altar and are St. Sebastian and St. Ignatius, verified by Bishop Monaghan in 1964.
- **Prayer of Dedication:** The universal tradition of the Church in both East and West, a special prayer of dedication is said. The prayer is a sign of the intuition to dedicate the altar to the Lord for all times and a petition for his blessing.
- **Anointing of the Altar:** the anointing with chrism makes the altar a symbol of Christ, who, before all others, is called 'The Anointed One'; for the Father anointed him with the Holy Spirit and constituted him the High Priest so that on the altar of his body he might offer the sacrifice of his life for the salvation of all.
- **Incensation of the Altar:** incense is burned on there altar to signify that Christ's sacrifice, there perpetuated in mystery, ascends to God as an odour of sweetness, and also to signify that the people's prayer rise up pleasing and acceptable, reaching the throne of God.
- **The covering of the Altar:** indicates that the Christian altar is the altar of the eucharistic sacrifice and the table of the Lord.
- **Lighting of the Altar:** teaches us that Christ is 'a light to enlighten the nations'; his brightness shines out in the Church and through it in the whole human family.

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 St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; [www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk)  
**Deacon:** Rev John E Smith: [johnesmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnesmith@blueyonder.co.uk)  
**Parish Secretaries:**  
 St Peter's: Sharon Kedney [Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk](mailto:Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk) (10-1 Thursdays)  
 St Columba's: Sr Karin: [sister@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:sister@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk)  
**St. Columba's Hall hire:**  
 James Meehan: [Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com](mailto:Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com)

## This Week in our Parishes ...



Sunday 1 February	Fourth Sunday of the Year —Year A At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses today we celebrate the Rite of Illumination* 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 and at St. Peter's there will be a fundraising stall raising school fees for children in India*
Monday 2	Baptism, Erbatur Senturk, St. Peter's 7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 3	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Friday 6	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Sunday 8	Fifth Sunday of the Year —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish

Canon Kenneth is away from Monday 2 February returning Tuesday 17 February.

Today we celebrate the **\*Rite of Illumination** at the 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. In preparation for 1st Confession/ Reconciliation the children promise, and their parents renew their promise, to keep the flame of the Faith - received at baptism - alive in their hearts.

**This weekend: Saturday 31 January and 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. Peter's will offer tea and coffee on Friday mornings** after Mass, starting **Friday 6 February.** Please do join us.

Date for the diary: St. Columba's, Saturday 21 February, 10 for 10.30. The 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'.

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.

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.

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

**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 new volunteers to our team. Please contact Aoife Palmer [aoife\\_drew@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aoife_drew@yahoo.co.uk) or 07816 876 746.

**Cleaner wanted in Morningside area.** Are you, or is anyone you know, able to provide help with household cleaning for 3 to 4 hours a week in the Morningside area? If so, please contact Tomasa Torres Lorenzo on 0131 447 1714 .

Parish news continued on p3...

## 'Laudato Si – ten years on': Kathy Onori Justice and Peace talk

17 January 2026

Kathy Onori, Laudato Si Movement representative on the Archdiocesan Caritas Justice and Peace Commission, gave an informative talk on the Church's response to Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, and challenged us to consider how Hope can lead us to Action as individuals and as a parish community.

'Laudato Si' - 'Praised be God' - are the opening words of St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun, where all creation joins in praising God.

Laudato Si is addressed to the whole world and is important for every Catholic, confirming our responsibility to protect the earth - created by God for the whole of nature as our common home - in the face of environmental damage and global warming, and to seek only sustainable development and lifestyles.

The Philippines suffers from typhoons of increasing frequency and severity as a result of climate change, and when Laudato Si was issued in 2015 it was appropriately Archbishop Tagle of Manila who founded the Global Catholic Climate Movement, now called the Laudato Si Movement, to support climate action and push for global COP agreements.

Ten years on, Pope Leo XIV continues to promote the message of Laudato Si. Catholic communities have become powerful voices for ecological justice, and we can all bring Laudato Si to life into our homes and our parish – **How?**

### Kathy gave us some ideas:

- Check parish and home eco-use: energy – waste/ recycling – travel – green spaces

- Walk or share car use
- Sign petitions for climate action e.g. COP 31
- Include Laudato Si/ Eco-justice issues in parish newsletters, web pages, bidding prayers
- Hold a Laudato Si event: e.g. Mass, ecumenical service, Via Creationis, parish social
- Join Christian Climate Action at Holyrood last Tuesday each month
- Hold a parish Green Audit with help from Eco Congregation Scotland [Church-Checkup-1.pdf](#)
- Start a parish Laudato Si group for prayer and action
- Become a Laudato Si animator [Animators - Laudato Si Animators](#)

Ruth Sinclair-Jones



### Reflection

The beatitudes are the badges of a true disciple of Christ. The things they stand for are beautiful - things such as peace, goodness, joy, love, gentleness, compassion, mercy, and integrity.

A person who lives according to the beatitudes is already living in the Kingdom of heaven.

Eternal life will merely be the full blossoming of a plant that is green with life.

Peace  
Goodness  
Joy  
Love  
Gentleness  
Compassion  
Mercy  
Integrity

### 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.](#) 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.