

22—29 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 21 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	4th Week of Lent 5th Sunday of Lent	DM: John Dick RIP
Sunday 22 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes
Monday 23 March	St Peter's St Peter's	9.30am 11am	5th Week of Lent	Xian - Matthew Luo RIP Requiem Mass Archie Cairns RIP
Tuesday 24 March	St Columba's	9.30am	5th Week of Lent	
Wednesday 25 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	Annunciation of our Lord	Archie Cairns RIP
Thursday 26 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	5th Week of Lent	Archie Cairns RIP
Friday 27 March	St Peter's	9.30am	5th Week of Lent	Marion Young RIP
Saturday 28 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Week of Lent Palm Sunday	Ann Traynor RIP
Sunday 29 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Palm Sunday	People of the Parishes KO: Trudie Milne 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
Additional Confessions: Holy Monday, 30 March in St. Peter's 7-8pm and on Holy Wednesday, 1 April in St. Columba's 7-8pm.

Sunday 22 March readings: p170
First reading: Ezekiel: 37: 12-14
Psalm: 130 (129): 1-2, 3-4, 5-6b 6c-8 R. 7bc
Response: With the Lord there is mercy, in him there is plentiful redemption
Second reading: Romans 8: 8-11
Gospel: John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Stations of the Cross Monday, 23 March, with Fr James Anayegbu, 'The TikTok Priest'. Join Fr. James and people from Scotland for the Stations of the Cross 7.45pm on Lent. We pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Registration: <https://bit.ly/stations26> or QR code



Chrism Mass
 You are invited to join Archbishop Leo Cushley in St. Mary's Cathedral for the annual Chrism Mass, **7pm, Tuesday 31 March**. The Priests will renew their priestly commitment and the oils will be blessed for distribution to the parishes

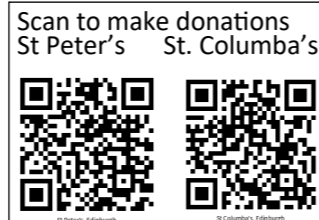
Holy Week in Newington Churches Together

- There will be ecumenical services at Newington Trinity in Mayfield Church during Holy Week starting at 7.45am followed by breakfast' Canon Kenneth Owens will take the service on Good Friday 3rd. April.
- There will be 'Walk of Witness' through Newington on **Good Friday** starting at Mayfield at 9am and stopping at St. Columba's, St. Peter's, Lutton Place and ending at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church.



The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrated annually on **Wednesday 25 March**, commemorates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and bear Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Occurring nine months before Christmas, it marks the Incarnation—the moment God became man.



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 Lent —Year A
 22—29 March 2026

John's main aim here is to elicit faith in Jesus. Jesus says, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe'. And the story ends with the words: 'Many of the Jews ... who have seen what he did, believed in him'.

Martha is presented as a model of faith. In defiance of the evidence, she declares, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the son of God, the one who has come into the world'.

Jesus came to offer us the life that cannot be touched by death, the kind of life that only God possesses, and that Jesus as God's Son makes possible for those who believe in him.

The keywords in the story are: 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will never die [eternally].'

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

This week we have been celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time—with thirty five families over our two parishes. We give thanks to God for the graces that these children have received and pray that they will continue to know God's mercy.

At the rehearsal on Tuesday the children had some interesting questions for me so I thought I would share the questions and my answers:

Why do we have to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in P3?
 By your age it is reckoned that you have reached the age of reason. What does that mean? It means that you can judge between right and wrong. You know when you are being nasty, or unkind or selfless.

What happens if I cannot remember all my sins?
 Saying our sins out loud is to help us to become better people. God already knows all our sins so it is not that we need to help him. It is to help us grow.

Why do we have to tell the sins to the priest and not just to the whole congregation?
 The priest is there to help you know God's mercy and love through his training and ministry. It is the same way that a doctor, or a nurse or a teacher help you to grow as a person.

Are we getting the bread on Wednesday night?
 No that is for P4! You have another year to get ready.

Please note also that there will be Confessions on Holy Monday, 30 March in St. Peter's 7-8pm and on Holy Wednesday, 1 April in St. Columba's 7-8pm.

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: 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 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 23	11am, Requiem Mass, Archie Cairns RIP, St. Peter's 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: Sister Mirjam Hugens FSO, Archdiocesan Director for Religious Vocations will speak about her work
Friday 27	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's 6.30pm for 7pm, Men's Group. Church hall. Fr. Henry McLaughlin on Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday 29	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish 2-4pm, Children's Easter Craft Day, St. Columba's Church hall



The sale of home baking; homemade marmalade and other preserves at St. Peter's last weekend raised **£644**. Thank you for your generosity, all proceeds to St. Peter's SCIAF project.

Last week's special collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities including SCIAF raised **£651.35** at St. Columba's and **£694.41** at St. Peter's. Thank you for these generous contributions.

'Real Easter Eggs' for sale at £5 each, after 9.30 Mass at St. Columba's or email: paul_atkin@outlook.com. Great for children and grandchildren, the only Easter Egg with an Easter story book in the box; made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

The Outreach Justice and Peace Group will be selling raffle tickets for a hamper full of delicious items **this Sunday** and **next Sunday** at St. Peter's. The proceeds will go to SCIAF's Lenten Project in Ethiopia.

Reflect with SCIAF This Lent, your prayers and donations are making a BIG DIFFERENCE to families in Ethiopia and in vulnerable communities worldwide. As we prepare for Easter, SCIAF has created prayers and reflections to support your Lenten journey. Visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox to download your prayer resources today.

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of **Archie Cairns RIP**. A Requiem Mass will take place **Monday, 23 March, 11am** at St. Peter's. We give thanks for Archie's contribution to parish life and ask that his soul may rest eternally. We express our sympathy to Pat and her family.

During Lent there will be additional Masses. On **Wednesdays** (until 1 April) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Columba's. On **Thursdays** (until 26 March) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Peter's. Both Wednesday and Thursday additional Masses will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Wednesday 25 March, 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.

'Eat and share': Thursday 26 March, 7pm, St. Peter's Parish room. We welcome Sister Mirjam Hugens FSO, Archdiocesan Director for Religious Vocations who'll speak about her work. Please bring food for yourself/to share.

Join us at St. Peter's for tea and coffee on Friday mornings after Mass. We'd love to meet parishioners and visitors.

The next meeting of the **Men's Group** is this **Friday 27 March** in the Church Hall. Tea and coffee from 6.30pm; talk starts at 7pm. The guest speaker is Father Henry McLaughlin who will speak about Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Children's Easter Craft Day, **2-4pm Sunday 29 March**, St. Columba's Main Hall. Easter crafts and fun for all ages. **Family tickets £10**. Available to purchase during teas & coffees after 9.30am Mass on 22 March or reserve tickets by emailing catriona_atkin@outlook.com

Volunteers needed for the **Washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, 2 April** at St. Peter's. Please sign up using the sheet at the back of Church.

Cleaning at St. Columba's on Holy Saturday 4 April starting at **12noon**. Please come with family and friends to prepare your Church for Easter.

Date for the diary: Saturday 25 April, 1pm, St. Columba's Main Hall - Family lunch with kids' corner. Adults £15, Children £7 - all profits to Food Vouchers for local Catholic schools. **Tickets available at the back of church after 9.30 and before 6.30 Sunday Masses.** Eat well and help out.

Parish news continued overleaf...

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

Book 7 and 8 of the Confessions of St. Augustine

Augustine continues his philosophical battles in order to be able to move towards Christian baptism. He is beginning to find comfort in his understanding that creatures only "exist" by a gracious act of creation in which God freely chooses to have other beings that pass from non-existence to existence as a reflection of his own Being. Evil is a kind of slide away from God towards non-being.

Augustine is adamant in this chapter that the fullness that is to be known about God only comes from outside of us via the incarnation. For Augustine a philosophical account of God was apart and parcel of his conversion to Christianity.

Augustine discusses here what soured him on two religions, Manichaeism and astrology. He judges them as inadequate and partial. He looks to the writings of the Platonic philosophers and finds that they do not satisfy. The benevolent creator whose joy is to create, and who gives his creatures the capacity to contemplate him and so to catch the reverberations his own joy in creation.

A scholar comes to visit Augustine and told him of famous ascetic St. Anthony who left wealth and ambitions and family to live in the desert in Egypt.

Simplicianus and Victorinus engage in dialogue that results in the Rhetorist Victorinus being regenerated by baptism and, to the astonishment of Rome and the joy of the Church. Augustine's two wills continue to wrestle, but the

one inclined to chastity beginning to win, at least at this time he can say, in a justly famous line "grant me chastity and continence, but not yet".

Finally we have the famous scene in the garden, another place to evoke a specially biblical echo of another Garden of immense importance (Gen 3). Conversion is a sort of undoing of the fall, or rather a participation God's undoing of the fall that is the church. This book ends with another conversion where all shadows of doubt are dispelled. Augustine has been baptised into the Christian faith. The joy of his conversion and his friends is shared with Monica his mother.

Points for reflection:

1. Reflecting on evil in our world today, how do you make sense of it?
2. What are the joys of the Christian life for you?
3. How does Augustine's conversion story encourage you in the Christian life?



Prayer/reflection

We are born to die so that we may live more fully. Every time we pass from one stage of life to another, something in us dies and something new is born. We taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure. We are dying before our time when we live in bitterness, in hatred, and in isolation. Each day we are creating our own death by the way we live. For those with faith, death is not an extinguishing light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.



Parish news continued...

The Refugee group is planning a workshop on 'Journalism for Refugee Week' 15—21 June 2026. We are looking for Journalists' to attend at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston place, Edinburgh. If you can help please put your name and contact on the list at the back of both Churches.

Fresh Start: Spring cleaning?

- If you are Spring cleaning please consider **donating to Fresh Start** and help those moving from homelessness to make a new home for themselves.
- If items are in good working order and clean condition, your pre-loved belongings could be the thing that helps someone in Edinburgh find the fresh start they need.
- Fresh Start are in desperate need of all **accepted household goods** for Starter Packs, especially small electrical items (**lamps, kettles, toasters and irons**). A full list of accepted items is 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.

- All 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.
- **Fresh Start are also recruiting new Trustees**, applications to be in by 20 March. See details on link [here](#). (access links through newsletter on website).

Southside Faith Care: New Craft Group, Crafty Afternoons

- 1.30-3.30pm **Tuesdays 31 March, 14 & 28 April, 12 & 26 May.**
- In the Lounge at Newington Trinity, Priestfield. A 'fun for all' group to try out new crafts or bring one of your own projects to share.
- Tea, coffee, biscuits, and chat all included. Pop in and see what's on offer.