

15—22 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 14 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	3rd Week of Lent 4th Sunday of Lent	Mgr. McNally RIP and Betty McNally RIP KO: Susan Collier RIP Anniv.
Sunday 15 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Lent	DM: Intentions of Natalia Eherenberg-Coll People of the Parishes
Monday 16 March	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Intentions of Douglas Hunter
Tuesday 17 March	St Columba's	9.30am	St. Patrick	
Wednesday 18 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	4th Week of Lent	DM: Special intention
Thursday 19 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	St. Joseph	Phil & Terry White RIP Special intention Archie Cairns RIP & his wife Pat
Friday 20 March	St Peter's	9.30am	4th Week of Lent	Anne Claverole RIP
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

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 15 March readings: p164
First reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm: 23 (22): 1-3a 3b-4. 5. 6. R1
Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Second reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14
Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Stations of the Cross: Monday, 16 March, with Sr Miriam Ruth Ryan RSM. Join Sr Miriam Ruth 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



Southside Faith Care: a new Craft Group, Crafty Afternoons

- 1.30-3.30pm **Tuesday 17 March and then 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.



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 Lent —Year A
 15—22 March 2026

- On the surface this is a story about a blind man receiving sight.
- But on a deeper level it is a story about a man coming to faith in Jesus.
- The man's journey from blindness to sight symbolises the journey from unbelief to faith, which is a journey from darkness to light, as St. Paul tells his converts at Ephesus: 'Once you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord'.
- In particular, the story illustrates growth in faith. There is a beautiful progression in the man's understanding of who Jesus is.
- At the first stage he calls him 'a man'.
- Then he calls him 'a prophet'.
- The climax of the story comes when he calls him 'the Lord'.
- Notice how his faith grows stronger and deeper the more he is called upon to defend it.
- In the story Jesus is proclaimed to be 'the light of the world'. Not only does he give sight to physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually blind.
- **Flor McCarthy SDB**



Canon Kenneth writes ...

On Monday 9 March, in my capacity as Vicar Episcopal for International Clergy, I led a delegation to Bute House, the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney. We were 14 priests representing Nigeria, India, Argentina and of course Scotland. There was tea and coffee and an opportunity to meet the First Minister informally. The photographer was there to record the event for the archives. Then he led us into the Cabinet Room where he gave a talk covering the areas of responsibility that the Scottish Government has within their portfolio.

There was a question and answer session ranging from questions about the constitution and how the four parts of the United Kingdom are governed, the assisted dying bill that is under discussion at the moment, the right of immigrants, the removal of VAT relief from churches and the assurances of our prayers for the First Minister's work. He concluded the session by thanking the priests who had come to Scotland as missionaries for their good work.

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 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent —Year A Special collection today for Papal and Episcopal Charities including SCIAF 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 Sale of home baking and preserves before/after 11.30am Mass at St. Peter's for SCIAF
Monday 16	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room 7pm, Justice and Peace monthly meeting, St. Columba's Parish room
Tuesday 17	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 18	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Columba's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7pm, Sacrament of first Reconciliation/Confession, St. Peter's
Thursday 19	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Peter's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7pm, St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Presbytery 7.30-8.30pm, Lent evening retreat hour, St. Peter's Parish room
Friday 20	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's 7pm, Sacrament of first Reconciliation/Confession, St. Columba's
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



Sunday 15 March: On this **SCIAF Sunday**, we pray for families around the world who long for safety, stability, and clean water. We give thanks for the courage of mothers in Ethiopia who walk miles each day to care for their children, often at great risk. Please give what you can in **today's collection for** Papal and Episcopal Charities including SCIAF. You can donate at sciaf.org.uk/donate or by calling 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

This year, Laetare Sunday (and Mother's Day) fall on 15 March. There will be a **sale of home baking; home made marmalade and other preserves at St. Peter's** 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.

Justice and Peace monthly meeting 7pm, **Monday 16 March**, St. Columba's Parish room. An open meeting, everyone welcome - especially prospective new members.

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.

Let us pray for the children, and their families, who **celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time in St. Peter this coming **Wednesday** and at St. Columba's on **Friday**. Thank you to parents, teachers and catechists who have helped to prepare the children.

Lent evening retreat hour: 'A meeting place of love and loss'. **Thursday 19 March, 7.30-8.30pm**. St. Peter's Parish Room. Refreshments provided.

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

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': 7pm, Thursday 26 March, 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.

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

Children's Easter Craft Day, 2-4pm, Sunday 29 March St. Columba's Church hall. With a variety of crafts for all ages focusing on our Easter celebrations, followed by children's disco and games. **Tickets on sale from Sunday 15 March**. £10 per family. All welcome.

St. Peter's sanctuary update

- Week 1 (w/c 9 March). The stonemasons will work from their workshop in finishing the motif for the altar central pedestal and the Blessed Sacrament Pedestal.
- Week 2 (w/c 16 March). All remaining stone to be laid to the rear of the altar including cladding over the step sections.
- Week 3 (w/c 23 March). All areas of stone which have not been sealed will be sealed. Completion works to the lectern and motif completed.
- Week 4 (w/c 30 March). Installation of Sacramental Pedestal.

Thank you. St. Peter's recently received a **legacy for £41,308** to be used in the maintenance of the fabric of the church. Many thanks for that generosity. Perhaps this is an opportunity for those who can't to remember St. Columba's and St. Peter in their will. **Parish news continued p3...**

St. Columba's and St. Peter's Lenten Season 2026

Developing my spiritual life through insights from **The Confessions of St Augustine**

Book 5 and 6 of the Confessions of St Augustine

Augustine had reason to be dubious of Manichaeans when their best preacher could not answer his questions. The appearance of Faustus, the Manichaean preacher, is a real disappointment. The Manichaeans had failed to offer a reasonable religion with space for not knowing. And so Augustine began to experience unbinding of the snare that held him.

In this book we also see him relocate from Carthage to Rome. Augustine is spotting glimpses of God's guidance throughout his life in hope that others will see the same God and act accordingly.

One could press further and argue that the effort to find a coherent story, a plot driving towards a conclusion, itself is rooted in the Jewish and Christian notions of the meaningfulness of history and of the human ability to discern it and organise it into stories.

When Augustine moves from Rome to Milan he then meets the wise and prudent bishop Ambrose.

There are charming portraits of some of Augustine's soul mates. These include Alyuis, Nebriduis and Romanianus.

He is gradually coming to see that evil is not a "thing" but rather a sort of absence.

He greets the presence of his mother, Monica, who is now in Milan and she forms a friendship with the bishop

Ambrose. She learns new cultural customs that are different from African. Ambrose discourages the meals at tombs that he finds distasteful. She takes up new work of caring for the poor.

Although it is difficult for Augustine to gain personal access to Ambrose he goes to listen to his preaching on Sundays. And so he chooses to leave behind his beliefs in Manichaeism and slowly Augustine starts to take the gospel to heart with the explanation of the Christian faith shared by Ambrose.

This is a new stage of the journey for Augustine.

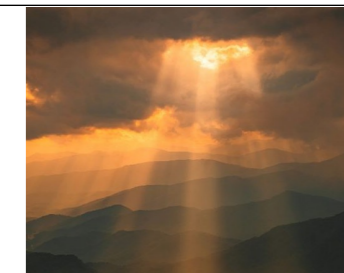
For your personal reflection:

1. What have been the changes in your own faith journey?
2. Have you shared in the faith journey of a family member, a friend or a parishioner? Do you see any similarities or differences in Augustine's journey?
3. Have does our own struggles of faith developed our relationship with the Lord?



Prayer/reflection

Jesus made a wonderful promise to those who follow him:
 'Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness
 But we'll always have the light of life'.
 Lord, you are the light of the world,
 A light that no darkness can overpower.
 May we follow you faithfully on earth,
 And come to the light that shines forever in heaven.



Parish news continued...

Drivers beware. At the moment Fr. Daniel can drive on his Nigerian driver's license until 2 September 2026. After 185 days of residence he can now apply for a UK provisional license. **Any tips from those who have recently qualified** would be much appreciated. He has to be both theory and practical.

Dates for the diary:

- Family lunch with kids' corner, **1pm, Saturday 25 April Main Hall**, . Adults £15, Children £7 - all profits go to Food Vouchers for local Catholic schools. Tickets available soon. Eat well and help out.
- 'Eat and share', St. Peter's Parish room, **7pm, Thursday 28 May**, our topic will be 'Our Lady', speaker to be confirmed.

Fresh Start: Spring cleaning?

- If you are Spring cleaning please consider **donating to Fresh Start** and help those moving on 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 your 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)