

1 - 8 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 28 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	1st Week of Lent 2nd Sunday of Lent	KO: 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
Monday 2 March	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	Thanksgiving for favours received
Tuesday 3 March	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	
Wednesday 4 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	Special intention
Thursday 5 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	
Friday 6 March	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd Week of Lent	Katie MacEachen RIP
Saturday 7 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	2nd Week of Lent 3rd Sunday of Lent	DM: Gianna Picciotto RIP
Sunday 8 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd 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 1 March readings: p155
First reading: Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm: 33 (32): 4-5 18-19 20 22 R22
Response: *May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord*
Second reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8b-10
Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

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, 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.

Stations of the Cross. Monday 2 March with Fr. Andrew Harding, Diocese of Nottingham. Join Fr. Andrew 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



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
Second Sunday of Lent —Year A
 1 - 8 March 2026

The story of the transfiguration, like that of the temptations, is a contrived story. It is no longer possible to say what happened on the mountain.

But something did happen, because years later Peter still remembered it and wrote: 'We were eyewitnesses of his glory on the mountain'. (2 Pet 1:17-18)

The story is concerned with the identity of Jesus. The few details that are given are highly significant. We are told that it happened on a mountain - in the Bible a mountain is a place of divine manifestation. The name of the mountain is not given, and is not important.

On the mountain Jesus is flanked by two of the most important figures from the Old Testament - Moses and Elijah. Moses represents the law, Elijah the prophets.

Thus Jesus is seen as bringing the law and the prophets to fulfilment. In other words he is the Messiah.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

One of the fruits of being on retreat is the opportunity to do some prolonged reading. The great value of reading is that it allows your mind to travel to many different places and ages. The value of spiritual reading is the opportunity to connect afresh with the things of God.

Read: the factual information or place

Ponder: rest in the moment and savour

Prayer: take these thoughts to the Lord with gratitude in your heart

*When someone dares to pierce the darkness...
 a new source of light is opened up for those who still dwell in the night.*
 Landmarks, Margaret Silk, DLT, 1998

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 St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; 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 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
Monday 2	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 3	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7pm, SSVF meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Wednesday 4	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Columba's, followed by Stations of the Cross
Thursday 5	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Peter's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7pm, the first of three zoom meetings to discuss out Lent spiritual book (details below)
Friday 6	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Sunday 8 March	Third Sunday of Lent —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass at St. Columba's only today



Many thanks to all those who supported the **Lenten Lunch at St. Peter's** on Saturday 21 February - and to all those who provided and served the lunch. This was an enjoyable parish event that raised **£310** for the SCIAF Ethiopian Lenten appeal.

Restore life-saving aid. This Lent, **SCIAF** invites you to stand with the world's poorest communities as UK aid faces further devastating international aid cuts. Life-saving support is now under threat, including clean water provision, sanitation, healthcare, and recovery for families affected by conflict and climate change. As people of faith, we are called to act against injustice. Please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox to take action and urge the UK Government to protect life-saving aid.

During Lent there will be additional Masses.:

- **Wednesdays** (from 25 February until 1 April) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Columba's (in addition to the current 09.30 Mass in St. Peter's).
- On **Thursdays** (from 26 February until 26 March) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Peter's (in addition to the current 09.30 Mass in St. Columba's).
- Both of the Wednesday and Thursday additional Masses will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Thursday 5 March 7pm: the first of three Thursday zoom meetings to discuss the content of our spiritual Lent book **'The Confessions of St. Augustine'**. Also 7pm, Thursdays 12 and 26 March. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74667021756?pwd=71d9J0xKliLcUUI9vHyMhpF2QluDy.1>
Meeting ID: 746 6702 1756 Passcode: 7ks7Kd

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.

World Day of Prayer Friday 6 March

- Morningside Parish Church will host their service at **10.30am**. This year written by the Christian women of Nigeria. A warm welcome awaits you at your local service.

- *Newington Churches Together* hold their service 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.

There will be **no** teas and coffees on Sunday **March 8 after 11:30 Mass at St. Peter's** due to a lack of available volunteers.

Date for the diary: Our next Justice and Peace talk will be held on **Saturday 14 March 10am for 10.30**. **Professor Nancy Loucks**, OBE, CEO of **Families Outside** (who give support to prisoners' families) will tell us about the work of her organisation and suggest ways we can help.

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 treat yourself.

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

Date for the diary: Crafting for families **Saturday 28 March 2-4pm**, St. Columba's, Main Hall

The Beginning Experience. Applications to be returned by 13 March. 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.

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**

Introduction to the Confessions of St. Augustine

During Lent this year we are using *The Confessions of St. Augustine* to reflect on our spiritual life and grow closer to God.

A free online copy can be downloaded here:
<https://copilot.microsoft.com/shares/ynMZDTzwB4jtkpnrv2Sq>

St. Augustine is arguably, the second most important interpreter of the Christian faith after St. Paul. He, as a bishop now, and in mature age is sharing with us his story so that our story of our closeness to God may become more apparent.

So here "Confession" has a dual meaning: The title reflects both confessing sins (guilt) and praising God (acknowledgment of His glory). He shares the Confession of the sins of his youth. In order that he may encourage us to confess the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ. There are a series of conversions. His "restless heart" could only be satisfied by the quite material truth of the incarnation and the church. Augustine is working on us, trying to allure us into the truth of God, mediated by the church's worship.

"Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee". One of Augustine's best known quotes. His confessions slowly moving from attention to himself to attention to God. When we properly love and know God we catch a glimpse of the mystery of the divine life. In Book 1 he also reflects on his experience of education and how detrimental it was for him.

In Book 2 he reflects a trinity of sin: lust, ambition and *curiositas* (which he defines as: a disinterested love in created things without reference to their Creator) and he recalls an incident about stealing pears from a fruit tree. An intertwining web that catches the young Augustine

until God unravels it, and re-strings it so that Augustine's desire may be made into a harp on which to play music pleasing to God. He admits to a misdirected attention to trivial things for their own sake. He says that he had made of myself a land of empty lack, a desolate landscape. "It was foul and I loved it".

For your personal reflection:

1. What parts of Augustine's experience can you identify with?
2. What are the parallel experiences that happen today which are similar to the ones that Augustine recounts?
3. Where is God in all this world of sin?



Prayer/reflection

Jesus was transfigured on the mountain.
We too can have moments of transfiguration.
Sometimes a blessedness comes down around us,
A glory falls upon us from God, and life is sweet.
In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth,
The joys of the world to come.
Lord, give us the confidence in your unchanging love for us.
Help us to follow you with courage,
And lead us to the glory that never fades.



Parish news continued...

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.