

12—19 April 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 11 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Saturday in the Easter Octave Second Sunday of Easter— Divine Mercy Sunday	Archie Cairns RIP (Month's mind)
Sunday 12 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Second Sunday of Easter— Divine Mercy Sunday	People of the Parishes Jim Gray RIP
Monday 13 April	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd week in Eastertide	Archie Cairns RIP
Tuesday 14 April	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd week in Eastertide	DM: Maisie and Jimmy Doherty RIP KO: Joseph and Isobel D'Inverno
Wednesday 15 April	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd week in Eastertide	DM: Bill Parker RIP KO: Archie Cairns RIP
Thursday 16 April	St Columba's	9.30am	2nd week in Eastertide	Alasdair Buchanan RIP
Friday 17 April	St Peter's	9.30am	2nd week in Eastertide	KO: Archie Cairns RIP DM: Intentions of Ros Macaskill
Saturday 18 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	2nd week in Eastertide 3rd Sunday of Easter	Jim Gray RIP The Walker family
Sunday 19 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Easter	Alasdair Buchanan RIP 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 12 April readings: p255
First reading: Acts 2: 42-47
Psalm: 118(117): 2-4 13-15b 22-24 R1
Response: Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.
Second reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20: 19-31

Care Conversation Series:
 Talking about care can be an emotive topic and **it helps to be well prepared for the care conversation.** A partnership between Southside Faith Care, Home Instead and Morningside United Church are hosting a series of relaxed and informative care conversations **at Morningside United Church, 15 Chamberlain Rd, EH10 4DH.**

- Navigating the Care Maze: Thurs 23 April 2.30-4pm
- Power of Attorney: Thurs 21 May 2.30-4pm
- Bereavement Support with William Purves Funeral Directors: Thurs 18 June 2.30-4pm

Volunteer to Support Adults with Special Needs in Edinburgh. Five new faithful adult volunteers are needed to commit to our George Square Thursday evening SPRED (Special Religious Development) group. The spiritual programme for adults with special needs fosters communion with Jesus Christ within the Catholic community of faith. Contact Sister Mary Benedicta Maier, RSM, at srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk if interested in learning about becoming a SPRED volunteer catechist for this Edinburgh group.

Whatever your interest in care **join us** for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Listen, share your experiences and ask questions. Just come along on the day or **contact us** for further details at **Home Instead 0131 300 0599** or **Southside Faith Care 07478 543510**

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 Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) —Year A 12—19 April 2026

Here we have John's version of Pentecost, birthday of the church. The risen Jesus appears to his apostles, shows them his wounds (which serve to identify him as the same one who died), and bestows peace on them.

Then he inaugurates the mission of the church. This mission is the exact same mission he received from the Father (a mission accomplished by his death and resurrection): the reconciliation of people with the Father, through the forgiveness of sins. To carry out their mission he gives them the gift of the Spirit and the power to forgive sin.

All three synoptic gospels mention doubt when Jesus appears to his followers after the resurrection. But John dramatises that doubt in an individual. Paradoxically, however, from the lips of this 'doubting Thomas' comes the highest profession of faith in all the Gospels: 'My Lord and my God'.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Father Daniel writes ...

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, was established by St. John Paul II in 2000 during the canonisation of St. Faustina Kowalska.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the Church reminds us that the Risen Christ comes not to condemn, but to forgive and restore. Through the witness of St. Faustina Kowalska. In the 1930s, Jesus revealed to St. Faustina a message the world desperately needed: that God's mercy is greater than any sin and we are given a simple but powerful prayer: **"Jesus, I trust in You."**

Divine Mercy means:

- No sin is too great to be forgiven
- No life is beyond God's love
- No heart is too far gone to return

As Pope Francis reminds us, "God never tires of forgiving; we are the ones who tire of asking."

This week, take a step toward that mercy:

- Spend time in prayer
- Approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Show mercy to someone in need

Let us be both receivers and witnesses of God's mercy.

From 2.50pm today there will be Divine Mercy Sunday Confessions & Benediction at St. Peter's. Join us if you can.



Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens
frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502

Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji
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St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterccchurchedinburgh.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 12	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) —Year A At 09.30 Mass Baptism, Austin Lorenzo Chansa Guthrie, St. Columba's Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes From 2.50pm: Divine Mercy Sunday Confessions & Benediction, St. Peter's
Monday 13	7.30pm RCIA meeting in St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 14	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 15	1pm, Baptism, Skye Alexandra McDonald and Lachlan William McDonald, St. Peter's
Thursday 16	10.30am, Baptism, Eva Jeanette Jack-Rodor and Nina Elizabeth Jack-Rodor, St. Columba's
Friday 17	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Saturday 18	1pm, Baptism, Matthew Robert Crawford, St. Peter's
Sunday 19	Third Sunday of Easter —Year A Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes



Congratulations to Sricheta Karmaker; Chin Chun Lui; Cansu Senturk; Erdi Senturk; Stephen Turner; Isla Tierney; Scott Dunlop; Angus Field and Edward Robinson, who were received into full communion at St. Peter's at the Easter Vigil. Please pray that the Risen Christ will always light their way.

Congratulations to Mila Nazli Senturk, Baptised on Monday 6 April at St. Peter's.

Sunday 12 April is Divine Mercy Sunday - there will be Confessions and Benediction from 2.50pm at St. Peter's.

Canon Kenneth is away, returning from his break on **Tuesday 14 April**.

St. Peter's Outreach Justice and Peace Group Easter Raffle. Apologies from Norma as she was unable to sell tickets on Palm Sunday. **Tickets are on sale after 5.30 Mass Saturday and 11.30 Mass Sunday.**

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

Date for the diary: 'Eat and share', St. Peter's Parish room, **Thursday 28 May, 7pm**, our topic will be 'Our Lady', and we welcome as our speaker: Fr. Ray Warren OMI (Oblate of Mary Immaculate), Parish Priest of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Congratulations to Joseph D'Inverno, winner of the St. Columba's 100 club in March and to **David Sinclair**, winner in April.

SCIAF 200 Club St. Peter's. Renewal reminders on the way to members. **New members** urgently needed (annual fee is £12 with a monthly draw for prizes of £25

& £15 and a Christmas draw for £50). With fewer than 200 members please consider supporting. Forms at back of Church or see Anne-Marie Douglas.

SCIAF: We have opened a **new bank account** for St. Peter's, with RBS, as Bank of Scotland now impose charges: **SORT CODE 16-00-07, A/C NO. 16350959**

SSVP: update and new members needed.

St. Peter's Conference would like to thank Parishioners for their financial and prayerful support over the last year.

- This has allowed us to give out approximately 200 food parcels to families and those who call at the church every Sunday morning.
- Last year we sent a family of five to the Society's caravan at Port Seton. Along with a food parcel, taxi transport and spending money. The weather was great and they had a lovely time.
- Ongoing support is given to Conferences who have high demands for SSVP support.
- Throughout the year we hand out Tesco and Aldi vouchers to the local school to help families, which is much appreciated by the headteacher.
- We continue to support our Twin Conferences in India and South Africa.
- We also continue monthly visits to two care homes with Deacon John for a Communion Service and visit those confined to bed.
- **We are looking for new members** so if you feel you would like to join us please speak to one of our members.

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.

The white Easter and my first experience of a Scottish Easter, Fr. Daniel Magaji

I was expecting snow at Christmas, but not Easter!

This year's Easter has been deeply personal for me.

Celebrating the Paschal Triduum in Scotland for the first time was already something special, but what made it truly significant was that it was also my first time journeying through it solo as a young priest.

In the past, I had always experienced these sacred days alongside others; learning, assisting, and being guided. But this time, I stood at the altar carrying the full weight and grace of the mystery myself. From the solemn silence of Holy Thursday, through the stark intensity of Good Friday, to the radiant joy of the Easter Vigil, each moment felt more real, more demanding, and yet more profoundly fulfilling.

There was something humbling about proclaiming ancient words in a land that is not my own, yet discovering that the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection transcends every culture and place. The Church here may feel different in expression, but the heart of Easter remains the same - alive, powerful, and deeply unifying.

I am especially filled with gratitude for the generosity of this community, which made these celebrations both prayerful and beautiful. My sincere thanks go to those who dedicated their time and energy to the RCIA journey, patiently accompanying and forming those preparing to receive the sacraments. I am equally inspired by the willing commitment and faith of those who stepped forward to receive these sacraments at Easter. Your witness has been a source of joy and renewal for us all.

I wish to offer a special word of thanks to Canon

Kenneth, who was so kind and entrusted me with the responsibility of celebrating the Rite of Christian Initiation. His confidence in me was both humbling and encouraging, and it gave me the opportunity to step more fully into my ministry during this sacred time.

It has also been deeply moving to experience the warmth and appreciation flowing from the community, especially in response to the beauty and reverence of the liturgy. Such encouragement is not taken for granted; it is a reminder of how the faithful, together, help to make visible the glory of God in our worship.

I was particularly struck during the Vigil: standing in the quiet darkness, lighting the Paschal candle, and gradually watching the church fill with light. In that moment, I felt both the responsibility and the privilege of my priesthood in a new way. I was not just participating; I was leading others into the mystery of Christ's victory over death.

Doing the Triduum on my own did not feel like being alone. Rather, it was a reminder that Christ Himself is the one who leads, strengthens, and completes the work. It has deepened my confidence, not in myself, but in the grace of God at work through me.

This first Easter in Scotland will remain unforgettable - not because everything was perfect, but because it marked a quiet but profound step in my journey as a priest: from being guided, to guiding; from observing, to fully offering. I now have wonderful and inspiring Easter stories to tell when I go back home to Nigeria for my brother's wedding later this month.

Christ is risen indeed-and in a new way this year, that truth has also risen more deeply within me.

The Synodal prayer at our recent St. Columba's Justice and Peace meeting is below. It was written by Pope Leo XIII well over a hundred years ago, but is strikingly to the point for us today.

David and Ruth Sinclair-Jones

"O Lord, you see how everywhere the winds have burst forth, and the sea is convulsed with the great violence of the rising waves.

Command, we beseech you - who alone are able - both the winds and the sea. Restore to mankind the true peace of your name, that peace which the world cannot give, and the calm of social harmony.

Under your favor and inspiration may men return to due order, and having overthrown the rule of greed, bring back again as ought to be, the love of God, justice, charity toward neighbor, temperance in all desires.

May your kingdom come. May all recognize that they are subject to you, and must serve you who are truth and salvation; that without you they labor in vain. In your law is reason and fatherly kindness.

You are ever at hand with your strength and your copious power to help man to keep it. Life upon earth is a warfare, but you watch the contest and aim man to conquer. The weak you sustain; the victor you crown."

Reflection

We are asked to believe without seeing.
Sometimes this can be very difficult.
There can be dark moments in our lives when God seems far away,
And we seem to be on our own.
Lord Jesus, in those dark moments,
May your gentle words echo in our hearts:
'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.
And through the power of those words, we will cease doubting and believe.

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'