

26 April—3 May 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 25 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St Mark 4th Sunday of Easter	Intentions of Fr. Sean Bradley
Sunday 26 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes Archie Cairns RIP
Monday 27 April	St Peter's	9.30am	4th week in Eastertide	
Tuesday 28 April	St Columba's	9.30am	4th week in Eastertide	Elizabeth Rainford RIP
Wednesday 29 April	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Catherine of Siena	Archie Cairns RIP
Thursday 30 April	St Columba's	9.30am	4th week in Eastertide	
Friday 1 May	St Peter's	9.30am	4th week in Eastertide	Frances Julia McDonald RIP
Saturday 2 May Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St Athanasius 5th Sunday of Easter	Archie Cairns RIP
Sunday 3 May	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Archie Cairns 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 25 April readings: p262**  
**First reading:** Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
**Psalm:** 23(22): 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 R1  
**Response: The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want**  
**Second reading:** 1 Peter 2: 20b-25  
**Gospel:** John 10:14

**Reflection**

Life is a gift from God, a gift to be lived and enjoyed.  
 It is possible to enjoy life to the full  
 While being devout and religious at the same time.  
 Those who live fully will not feel cheated at death.  
 Lord, give us the kind of faith  
 That will enable us to live out joyfully  
 The mystery of our fragile human condition,  
 Which sees us suspended between earth and heaven,  
 And between time and eternity.

**Camp Out for Hope.** Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Scotland invite you to the Camp Out for Hope. **Saturday, 30 May - Sunday, 31 May, Carfin Grotto, 8pm - 8am.** A powerful event to show solidarity with our suffering and displaced Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Join us for an all-night prayer vigil, opportunities to learn more about ACN and our work, time to socialise and build new friendships, and more. Space is limited, so sign up now. Go to [Trybooking.com](http://Trybooking.com) to sign up for free, or scan the QR code. Participants are encouraged to fundraise, with £50 as a target. Sign-ups will receive a fundraising pack to support their efforts. You must be aged 16+ to participate. Contact ACN Scotland at [scotland@acnuk.org](mailto:scotland@acnuk.org) or 01698 337 470 for more information.

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter to Sharon Kedney at [office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk](mailto:office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk) by Wednesday evening please. St Peter's website contact Juliet MacKellaig at [julietmackellaig@gmail.com](mailto: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 Easter —Year A**  
 26 April—3 May 2026

Jesus presents himself as the shepherd of God's flock. The sheepfold was a walled enclosure in a field. At night the sheep of various shepherds were gathered there. There was a gate and a guard. In the morning the shepherds came in by the gate and led their own sheep to pasture.

Unlike some of the shepherds who come only to steal the sheep, Jesus has come that the sheep may have abundant life. He leads his sheep out and goes before them as their guide. He calls each by name: there is a close, personal relationship between each Christian and Jesus.

Jesus also describes himself as the gate of the sheepfold. Through him Christians have access to God and the life of God. The image of a caring shepherd is a challenge to all who hold pastoral office.  
**Flor McCarthy SDB**

**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

What is on our parishes calendar from now until the summer?

There is the **Sacrament of Confirmation** with Archbishop Leo Cushley for St. Columba's and St. Peter's, in St. Peter's, on Wednesday **6th May at 7pm.**

**Friday 8th May** is the first anniversary of the **election of Pope Leo XIV.**

There will be Mass at St. Peter's at 9.30am and 11am, and in St. Columba's at 7pm for **Ascension Thursday 14th May.**

There will be **First Communion** in St. Columba's on **Trinity Sunday 31st May at 9.30am.**

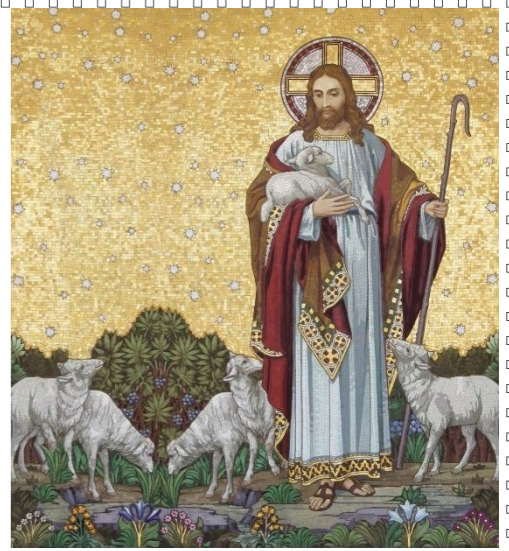
**Fr. Damian Kikta SAC** will celebrate Mass in St. Peter's on Saturday 30th May and Sunday 31st May and in St. Columba's on Tuesday 2nd June. Fr. Damian, a newly ordained Pallottine priest, was here in the summer of 2024 to learn English.

**First Communion for St. Peter's** is on **Saturday 6th June at 10am.**

**Social** for the feast of **St. Columba** is on **Saturday 13th June 2-4pm.**

**General Parish Meeting** for St. Peter's is after 11.30am Mass on **Sunday 14th June.**

**Dedication of the new altar in St. Peter's** on **Saturday 20th June at 5.30pm Mass.**



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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 26 April	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter (and Good Shepherd Sunday) —Year A</b> Presentation of the Creed in preparation for Confirmation, today at both 09.30 and 11.30 Masses 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 the morning Masses in both Parishes
Monday 27	7.30pm RCIA meeting in St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 28	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 29	7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's hall
Friday 1 May	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Sunday 3	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter —Year A</b> Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes



**Today, at both morning masses, we welcome children and parents** who receive a copy of the Creed in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which this year will be celebrated in St. Peter's on Wednesday 6 May.

Thanks to all at both parishes for your response to the **Mary's Meals appeal for obsolete and foreign currency**. So far we have raised **£285.23**. Please keep it coming.

St. Columba's has raised **£412.75** for the **local SSVP cluster** over the last five Sundays. This is very much appreciated by all those the organisation is able to help.

The St. Peter's Outreach Justice and Peace Group thank all those who supported the raffle at St. Peter's of a hamper of delicious food. The lucky winner was **Pushpa Thiruchelvm**. The raffle raised **£247.40** which will go to **SCIAF's Water is Life Project**.

There has been a further complaint from neighbours in Upper Gray Street regarding intrusive parking. We encourage Parishioners to **please be sensitive to our neighbours when parking** at the 09.30 Sunday Mass at St. Columba's.

If you are a young women thinking about a vocation to the Religious Life, join others for discussion and prayer at St. Columba's Church, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SM, **TODAY, Sunday 26 April from 4-7pm**. Email [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

**This coming Wednesday, 29 April, 7pm** is the 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](mailto:teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk).

**First Sunday, 3 May**—when we collect **donations** for the **'Food/Basic bank**. Please leave in basket at back of the Church in St. Columba's; cash donations can be given in the sacristy.

**We continue to pray for students facing exams** in the coming weeks to give them strength and perseverance during this stressful time, guiding their minds and encouraging their hearts to work with diligence and confidence. The patron saint of exams, students, and those taking tests in the Catholic tradition is St. Joseph of Cupertino. Many students pray this prayer before exams: *'O St. Joseph of Cupertino, who by your prayer obtained from God to be asked at your examination, only the questions you knew, obtain for me the like success in the examinations I am about to make. In return, I promise to make you known and caused to be invoked.'*

Families are welcomed to **The Gillis Centre for a family picnic**, children's catechesis, talks for adults, a Rosary Procession and Vigil Mass at The Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 9 May at 1pm**. **Reserve your spot: [Picnic & Vigil Mass for Families Tickets, Saturday, May 9 • 1 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)**

Refugee Week, 15 - 21 June. The Refugee, Asylum & Migrant Working group (RAMWG) have a workshop on **'Journalism'** on Thursday 18 June at 2-4pm in the Chapter House, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place EH12 6AW. **We are looking for journalists and students in journalism** to come and talk/work with us. If you can help please sign the list on the notice boards of both Churches.

**Date for your diary: Saturday 20 June at the Vigil Mass:** Dedication of the new Altar at St. Peter's by Archbishop Leo Cushley (Approx 1.5 hours). Followed by Prosecco and cake in St. Peter's courtyard and Parish room.

**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](mailto:srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk) if interested in learning about becoming a SPRED volunteer catechist for this Edinburgh group.

## Good Shepherd Sunday—praying for vocations

## Canon Kenneth Owens

I began training for the priesthood in September 1982. It was a year of special significance here in Scotland because of the Papal Visit by John Paul II. There was an optimism and hope alive in the church at that time. Nationally we had 120 seminarians for the eight dioceses and here in the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh we had 120 diocesan priests.

Today there are 7 seminarians for the whole of Scotland and we have 40 incardinated priests in our own Archdiocese. So things do change.

Good Shepherd Sunday is traditionally a day we pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious. So we ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest.

In preparation for the journey to seminary students now undertaker a propaedeutic year which takes place in Salamanca. There they learn something about prayer, spirituality and the liturgy of the church. They have the opportunity to live in community and during Holy Week they visit the seminary in Rome, at present in the Beda College, beside St Paul's outside the Walls. This year there are nationally 12 students.

Recently Sr. Mirjam told us, at *Eat and share*, of the encouraging numbers of women who are offering themselves for religious life. Religious life takes many forms and individuals are attracted to the contemplative and apostolic way of life.

At present St. Peter's also has a candidate preparing for the permanent diaconate. Deacons assist in the liturgical celebrations at Mass and also work in specialised ministries in prisons, hospitals and nursing homes.

**Jesus says, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. Jn 10:10.**

Canon Kenneth (on the right) with Pope John Paul II at Midnight Mass in St Peter's Basilica, December 1982



### Statement from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland 13 April 2026. Peace and Dialogue: the Gospel Response to Conflict

The Bishops of Scotland today renew their urgent appeal to political leaders across the world to pursue peace with courage, determination, and sincerity. In a time marked by deepening conflict and human suffering, particularly in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and South Sudan, the need for dialogue and diplomatic solutions has never been more pressing.

War brings devastation, loss, and division. It leaves lasting wounds in families, communities, and nations, and it disproportionately harms the innocent. The Bishops call on all those in positions of authority to reject the path of escalation and instead commit themselves to meaningful dialogue, patient negotiation, and the difficult but necessary work of peacebuilding.

**The Bishops express their gratitude to Pope Leo for his clear and consistent voice in calling for peace. His leadership continues to be a guiding light for the Church and the world at this critical time.**

Reflecting on the Holy Father's recent Vigil for Peace held last Saturday, the Bishops highlight his powerful words: "Let us silence the weapons, so that the voice of humanity may be heard. Let us choose encounter over confrontation, and the courage of peace over the illusion of power."

The Bishops of Scotland invite Catholics across our country to join the Holy Father in this appeal. In parishes, homes, and communities, we continue to pray fervently for an end to violence and for the triumph of justice and reconciliation.

The Bishops urge all people of goodwill to stand together in hope. Peace is not beyond reach - but it requires genuine humility, courage, and a shared commitment to the dignity of every human life.

As the Holy Father begins his apostolic journey to several countries in Africa as a missionary of peace, we assure him of our continued prayers and solidarity.