St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh

Twenty-nineth Sunday of the Year —Year A

18 - 25 October 2026

SCAN ME



Here we have the first of four clashes between Jesus and the various representatives of Judaism. The Pharisees, with the Herodians, confront Jesus about the tribute to Caesar. The question put to him was a test question to see whether he would declare himself on the side of those who opposed paying taxes to the Romans, (e.g. the Pharisees), or on the side of those who collaborated with the Romans, (e.g. the Herodians).

If he said yes, he would lose the esteem of the people and would be regarded as a traitor to the Jewish cause and the Jewish religion (to a Jew, God was the only King; their nation was a theocracy.)

If he said no, he could be denounced as fomenting rebellion against Rome. Jesus said that the money for the tax bore the emperor's portrait and name, and was therefore his; so should be paid to him. But then he goes beyond the terms of the question, and demands that the Jews should also render to God the fruits, the just works, due to him. They should worry less about what is due to Caesar and more about giving God his due.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

Mission Sunday is celebrated in all Catholic parishes in the world today. It is a reminder that we are a missionary church, that means that we want to go into the world and make a difference.

This year in Scotland we are celebrating 100 years of this missionary activity. We are also pledging to help the missionary effort in Ukraine and Albania. Please be as generous as you can be.

Our own missionary Fr. Daniel returned from his annual leave at home on Friday. He had Saturday to get organised and is now away on the Diocesan retreat. This year Archbishop Leo Cushley and twenty five priests are going to Ars in France to walk in the footsteps of St John Vianney. The retreat is given by Bishop Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury. Fr. Daniel will be back in full ministry mode on Saturday 24th October.

Please remember our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, in your prayers as he recovers from surgery this week.

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Deacon: Rev John E Smith: DeaconJohn.Smith@staned.org.uk
Parish Secretaries:
St Peter's: Sharon Kedney Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk (10-1 Thursdays)
St Columba's: Sr Karin: sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk
St. Columba's Hall hire:
James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes …

Sunday 18 October	**29th Sunday of the Year — Year A** World Mission Sunday - special collection at Sunday Masses Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes
Monday 19	No Monday Mass at St. Peter's 7pm, Justice and Peace monthly meeting, Parish room. All welcome 7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 20	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 21	Mass at St. Peter's is 09.30 (until the Spring)
Friday 23	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Sunday 25	**30th Sunday of the Year — Year A** Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Rite of the signing of the Cross: at 09.30 & 11.30 Masses; we welcome children preparing for First Reconciliation, and their families. A cross is presented to each of the children 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes 1-3pm, Understanding the Eucharist, St. Peter's Church



Today we celebrate World Mission Sunday, joining Catholics in every parish throughout the world in supporting the Church's mission. Pope Leo XIV's theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission," reminds us that our faith unites us with our brothers and sisters everywhere. Through your prayers and generous offering to Missio Scotland, you bring hope to mission communities by supporting pastoral care, evangelisation, education and essential healthcare.

Fr. Daniel is away until 25 October. There will be no 09.30 Monday Mass at St. Peter's whilst he is away.

Wednesday Mass at St. Peter's is now at **09.30am.**

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of **John Havard RIP**. The Requiem Mass is **Tuesday, 3 November, 11am at St. Columba's**. All Parishioners are invited to the reception after the Mass in St. Columba's hall. John was a long standing Parishioner and much respected by all and we pray for Anne and her family at this time.

Sacramental preparation classes have started. Last chance to participate. For information and registration contact Sister Karin: sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk. Sunday mornings 10.30-11.30am, every 2-3 weeks, St. Columba's Church and Halls. 1st Confession/Reconciliation (P3-P4), 1st Holy Communion (P4-P5), Confirmation (P7-S2).

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Weekly meetings Mondays 7.30pm, St. Peter's Parish room. Helping adults prepare to become members of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil 202. Contact Canon Kenneth, Fr. Daniel or Derek Buglass derek.buglass13@gmail.com

Justice and Peace monthly meeting. Monday 19 October, 7pm in the Parish room. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome - especially prospective new members!

Newman Association Edinburgh Autumn Programme: Thursday 22 October 7.30-9.30pm, Gibert Markus explores our understanding of God following publication of his book `God as Nothing'. Mayfield Salisbury Church, 18 Mayfield Rd, EH9 1TQ. Suggested donation £5 to help cover meeting cost.

Responding to a request for catechesis and deepening our faith, we have a series on **'Understanding the Eucharist'**. **Our next session is next Sunday 25 October, 1-3pm** (then Sundays 22 November 6 December 1-3pm). Join one or all sessions. Course videos can be viewed at: https://stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk/understanding-the-eucharist/.

October's Catholic Teens Group takes place Wednesday 28 October. For P7- S4; meeting monthly **7-8.30pm**, the last Wednesday of the month, St. Columba's Halls, Upper Gray Street. Come and make new friends, play fun games, get involved in excursions and service opportunities, while learning more about our faith. Ask your parent/guardian to register your interest by emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Edinburgh Day for Life. SPUC Edinburgh West is holding its first Day for Life, **Saturday 31 October, 9.30am–3.30pm, Gillis Centre**, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh. Include talks from Dr Calum MacKellar, Margaret Akers and Chris McEleny, with a welcome from Archbishop Cushley. Admission free, advance registration is required through Eventbrite: https://bit.ly/dayforlife

St. Columba's new Facebook page: https://facebook.com/StColumbasCatholicEdinburgh Please follow to keep up with parish news and events. On the page you can see photographs of the Archbishop's pastoral visit to St. Columba's from the liturgy and in the hall afterwards.

Parish news continued overleaf >>>

World Mission Sunday - 18 October 2026

Extract from the letter of National Director of Missio Scotland – The Pontifical Mission Societies

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrates World Mission Sunday, and this year our celebration is especially significant. We mark the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, established by Pope Pius XI in 1926. For one hundred years, Catholics have set aside this day to pray and give generously for the Church in mission countries.

That unity is at the heart of the theme Pope Leo XIV has chosen for this centenary year: "One in Christ – United in Mission" which reminds us that mission begins with Christ Himself. United with Him, we become united with one another and then we share in His mission of bringing faith, hope and love to the world.

Today every Catholic parish in Scotland takes up the annual collection to support parish communities which lack the resources to carry out their pastoral and charitable work. Important though today's collection is, I ask something equally important: please pray. Pray for missionaries, for priests and religious, for catechists and lay leaders, and for families living through poverty, persecution or war.

As part of this year's campaign, Missio Scotland is highlighting the work of the Church in two countries in particular need of our support: **Albania and Ukraine.**

In Albania, we are supporting two projects. The first is a day centre run by Franciscan Sisters, who offer care and education to children and young people affected by poverty, difficult family situations and the lack of access to education. One of the sisters, Sr Lulë, told us: "..Missio Scotland supporting the installation of a new heating system is a gift from God." The second project, led by Fr Augustin, a Vincentian Father and National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Albania, provides support to homeless men who have nowhere else to turn. In Ukraine, we are supporting the purchase of an electricity generator for a Catholic centre in the city of Kharkiv, close to the front line of the war.

You can read more about these projects in our magazine. On behalf of Pope Leo, I thank you sincerely for your faithful support over many years. On this 100th World Mission Sunday, I ask you to please continue to remember the Church in mission countries in your daily prayers and, if you are able, to give generously to today's collection. Together, through our prayers and generosity, we proclaim that we truly are "One in Christ – United in Mission." Thank you, and may God bless our families, our parishes and the Church across the globe.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr Vincent Lockhart National Director of Missio Scotland – The Pontifical Mission Societies

missio Scotland
The Pontifical Mission Societies

Prayer/ reflection

We can't separate our faith from our actions,
Or our belief from our occupations.
We can't spread our hours before us, saying,
This is for God and this is for myself;
This is for my soul and this is for my body.
Our daily life is our temple.
Lord, help us to live in such a way
That we may be good servants of the state
But your servants first.



Parish news continued...

We'll be hosting an **All Saints Celebration on Saturday, 31 October, 1pm, St. Columba's Parish Hall**. A potluck gathering with food, sweets and drinks. All ages welcome. The afternoon will include children's activities, music and dancing. Everyone is encouraged to dress as their favourite Saint, or bring a picture of a Saint.

St. Columba's famous Curry Night. Friday 13 November, Main Hall. Adults £22.50, Children £10, Family £60. Tickets available after 9.30am Masses, at Sunday coffee and before 6.30pm Masses leading up to the event. Or contact StC-JP@hotmail.com Prizes for our raffle very welcome. Speak to any J&P member before/after mass or at coffee.

SCIAF Remembrance Mass, Saturday 14 November, 12.30pm, Sacred Heart Jesuit Church. In the month of the Holy Souls we celebrate Mass in Edinburgh in memory of loved ones lost. Names can be added to the Book of Remembrance online or in Church prior to Mass.

SCIAF Carol Service, Sunday 29 November 4pm, Sacred Heart Church.

Gardener vacancy, St. Columba's. We're looking for help with the hall garden (grass cutting, keeping the borders and paths in order). Not onerous and with someone already in place to share the tasks. Interested? Please speak to Canon Kenneth, Nick Ruck-Keene, Jim Meehan or Peter McDermott. Ideally we'll build a small group to share the duties.

18 - 25 October 2026

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 17 October Vigil	St. Peter's St. Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Ignatius of Antioch 29th Sunday of the year	
Sunday 18 October	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	29th Sunday of the year	Harry Reid RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 19 October	St. Peter's	9.30am	**No service**	
Tuesday 20 October	St Columba's	9.30am	29th week of the Year	Lena Gallo RIP
Weds 21 October	St Peter's	**09.30am**	29th week of the Year	Michael Lombard RIP
Thursday 22 October	St Columba's	9.30am	29th week of the Year	Holy Souls
Friday 23 October	St Peter's	9.30am	29th week of the Year	Mary Cameron RIP
Saturday 24 October Vigil	St. Peter's St. Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	29th week of the Year 30th Sunday of the year	DM: John Wastle RIP
Sunday 25 October	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	30th Sunday of the year	KO: Farouk el Khazen 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

29th Sunday 18 October readings: p143

First reading: Isaiah 45: 1 4-6
Psalm: 96(95): 1 3 4-5 7-8 9-10a c R 7b
Response: Ascribe to the Lord glory and power
Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21

White Mass for Catholic healthcare professionals: 11am, Sunday 18 October at St Patrick's, Cowgate, Edinburgh. A chance for Catholic doctors, nurses and healthcare workers to pray, give thanks for their vocation and meet fellow Catholic professionals. Refreshments afterwards. Sign up at: https://bit.ly/whitemassedinburgh

The Epiphany Group is offering a course for anyone looking to develop and deepen their experience of prayer and reflective living, rooted in the Ignatian tradition. The course is mainly online, with three additional in-person days in Edinburgh. Sessions are Tuesdays 7pm–9pm, beginning 3 November until 16 March 2027.

Pope Leo on his visit to France asked the whole Church **to pray the rosary during the month of October.**



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 julietmmackellaig@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