# St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh

## Thirtieth Sunday of the Year —Year A

25 October - 1 November 2026

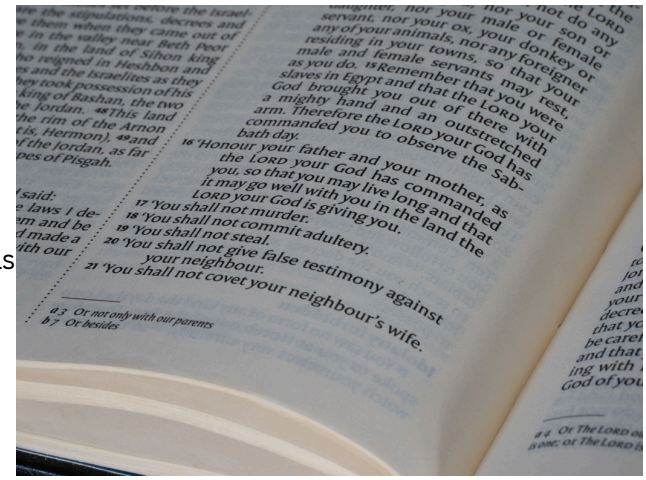
SCAN ME

Here we have a third of four clashes between Jesus and the various representatives of Judaism. A Pharisaic lawyer questions Jesus as to which commandment is the greatest.

By rabbinical count, the law consisted of some 613 commandments.

The question as to which command was the greatest was one frequently discussed among the Rabbis. Jesus was asked to name one, but responded by naming two.

Both are found in the Old Testament. What Jesus did was to put the two together, thus emphasising their essential relatedness. No Rabbi had previously done this. The emphasis on love became for Christians the identifying characteristic of their religion.




**Flor McCarthy SDB**

## Canon Kenneth writes ...

They say that every day is a school day.

This week over a two day period I had quite a sophisticated attempt to defraud the parish bank account.

It began with a phone call saying there was unusual activity in my card. I confirmed it was unusual and they said that they would stop the transactions and send a new card. A fairly typical response.

However, later on in the evening they phoned me on WhatsApp claiming to be the Financial Conduct Authority. The following day the same person phoned to ask if there was any activity on the card - which there was not. Then I received a call from Cybersecurity telling me that my identity had been hacked.

I sensed this call was overly long and was meant to baffle me with very technical jargon. His crucial mistake was to ask when I was last in the RBS in Bruntsfield which we all know has been closed for two years and is not even our branch.

I put the phone down. Phoned the fraud line at RBS and was told it was a scam.

Beware!!!


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## This Week in our Parishes …

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 25 October | **30th Sunday of the Year — Year A**<br>A census of Mass attendance will take place at all Sunday Masses today<br>Children's Liturgy only at St. Columba's morning Masses today<br>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<br>**10.30** St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation<br>Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes<br>**1-3pm**, Understanding the Eucharist, St. Peter's Church |
| Monday 26 | 09.30am Monday Mass at St. Peter's resumes<br>7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room |
| Tuesday 27 | Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's |
| Wednesday 28 | 7-8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's hall |
| Thursday 29 | 10am, Requiem Mass Vittoria Melniczuk RIP, St. Columba's<br>7pm, St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council, Parish room |
| Friday 30 | Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's |
| Sunday 1 November | **All Saints Solemnity — Year A**<br>At 09.30am Mass, Baptism, Murray Jack Fitzpatrick, St. Columba's<br>Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today<br>Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes |




A **census of Mass attendance** will take place at all Sunday Masses today.

Thank you for your generous response to World Mission Sunday. The collection raised **£977.50** at St. Peters and **£455.11** at St. Columba's. Thank you.

'**Understanding the Eucharist'.** Our next session is TODAY **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 is 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 emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of **Vittoria Melniczuk RIP.** The Requiem Mass will take place on **Thursday, 29 October, 10am at St. Columba's.** We express our sympathy to the family and pray for the repose of her soul.

There will be **no 09.30 Mass at St. Columba's on Thursday 29 October** due to the funeral.

**Light in the Darkness - a Church of Scotland Day of Prayer: 11am, Saturday 31 October**, in the Church. Join us, along with others across Scotland, for an hour to pray for the Church and the communities across Scotland, including our own Church, community and church neighbours in Morningside. A series of 'stations' will be set up at the front of the sanctuary to inspire our prayer and focus on areas of prayer need across our community and more widely. Attend for the full hour, or drop in for a shorter time. A warm welcome is extended to all at St Peter's.

**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. 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

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. Afternoon includes children's activities, music and dancing. Everyone encouraged to dress as their favourite Saint, or bring a picture of a Saint.

**Donations for Foodbank:** first Sunday of month, **1 November,** please leave donations in basket at back of St. Columba's; cash can be given in sacristy.

**Newman Association Edinburgh Autumn Programme: Thursday 5 November 7.30-9.30pm**, Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ offers and update on the progress of Synodality and how this may influence the role of women in the Church. Mayfield Salisbury Church, 18 Mayfield Rd, EH9 1TQ. Suggested donation £5 to help cover meeting cost.

**The Edinburgh Royal Choral Union's concert Saturday 7 November, 7.30pm**, Greyfriars Kirk features two hymns by Benjamin Britten (one of St. Columba and one to St. Peter), NS Britten's St. Nicolas cantata. Programme includes Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Howells' hymn to St. Cecilia. Tickets £25/£8 students, available from TicketSource or at the door.

**Parish news continued overleaf>>>**

**Stella Maris: supporting seafarers and fishers in Scotland and worldwide, Peter Mullen, Justice and Peace talk, 17 October 2026 Summary by Ruth Sinclair-Jones**

Peter Mulllen, Community Engagement Officer for Stella Maris in Scotland and Northern Ireland gave insights into the daily work of Stella Maris supporting seafarers, fishers and their families.

Peter opened our eyes to the needs of seafarers, recruited from around the world to work on ships that call at Scottish and Irish ports, often struggling to support the needs of their families left at home, and with poor working conditions on board ship, sometimes even experiencing the abuses and miseries of human trafficking. Peter reminded us that as an island, we are heavily dependent on imports arriving by sea, but we are largely unaware of the conditions of those working to bring those goods to us.

Stella Maris makes contact with seafarers at 124 ports around the UK coast – including Grangemouth and Leith. Chaplains and volunteers visit ports and ships, offering kindness and faith support, as well as practical support for seafarers and for their families in crises in their home country. For seafarers spending months at sea in harsh conditions, simple gifts of Easter eggs, Christmas sweets and toiletries - and especially woollen hats - are deeply appreciated. Where possible, Catholic seafarers, e.g. from the Philippines, can be taken to a local Mass, or if they are unable to leave the port then Stella Maris chaplains may offer the sacraments on board ship, deeply appreciated by men unable to attend Mass for months on end at sea. Rosaries, prayer books and other faith resources are popular gifts.

Stella Maris supports seafarers in practical ways to access their legal rights in the UK, whether their right to healthcare following a heart attack or the right to fair treatment as employees not slaves. And Stella Maris also addresses family crises at home, for example elderly parents made homeless following a hurricane, or families facing poverty after a bereavement.

Stella Maris was founded in Glasgow in 1920, to 'take the parish to the ship' and carry out the church's mission for justice in line with Catholic Social Teaching. It now has a global presence and reach. In Scotland, Stella Maris works through parish contacts to raise funds and prayer support, especially on Sea Sunday (2nd Sunday in July) – and new volunteers to visit ships in port are welcome.

STELLA MARIS

**Reflection**

To separate the two great commandments
goes clean contrary to the gospel.
Yet unfortunately this often happens.
Those who have faith often have no love,
those who love often have no faith.
Thus the gospel has been torn in two.
Jesus spoke of two great commandments.
The first - that we should love God
The second - that we should love our neighbour
If we want the total gospel we must have both.
He himself showed us how to do this.



**Tickets now on sale! St Columba's famous Curry Night. Friday 13 November, 7pm,** Main Hall. Adults £22.50, Children £10. Family £60. Ticket sellers available after 9.30 Sunday masses, at Sunday coffee and before 6.30 masses up to the event. Or, contact StC-JP@hotmail.com and pay by bank transfer to Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh - St Columba's Parish SORT CODE **83-06-08** ACCOUNT **10402355 REF CURRY NIGHT**. 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 Book of Remembrance online or in Church before Mass.

**Save the date: Saturday 28 November, 12.30pm: Outreach Alternativity Lunch**. Tickets £10.00 on sale from next Sunday.

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

**Fresh Start Festive Appeals:**

Fresh Start launch their **Cookers For Christmas Appeal 2026**, inviting donations to the White Goods service, supporting those moving on from homelessness to access essential white goods like cookers, fridge/freezers and washing machines, so they can thrive in their new homes. You can donate here: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookers-for-christmas-2026 , or by or by cash, cheque or bank transfer (don't forget Gift Aid), and ensure families can cook hot meals over Christmas and throughout 2027.

Help Fresh Start support hundreds of people with **festive food hampers.** They're accepting donations of non-perishable seasonal items **until Friday, 4 December** (advent calendars, biscuits, tea, coffee and hot chocolate, crackers, selection boxes, no items containing alcohol). Donations can be left at the box at the back of the Churches. Full list of accepted festive food items here or https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/uploads/Festive_Food_Collection_Poster_2026.pdf.

# 25 October - 1 November 2026

| Date | Church | Time | Feast | Mass intention |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday 24 October<br>Vigil | St. Peter's<br>St. Peter's | 12 noon<br>5.30pm | 29th Week of the Year<br>30th Sunday of the year | Intentions of Fr. Simon Hughes<br>DM: John Wastle RIP |
| Sunday 25 October | St Columba's<br>St Peter's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11.30am<br>6.30pm | 30th Sunday of the year | KO: Farouk el Khazen RIP<br>People of the Parishes |
| Monday 26 October | St. Peter's | 9.30am | 30th week of the Year | In thanksgiving |
| Tuesday 27 October | St Columba's | 9.30am | 30th week of the Year | Patricia Nolan RIP (1st anniv.) |
| Weds 28 October | St Peter's | **9.30am** | St Simon and St Jude | Mentor Stephen Oriere RIP |
| Thursday 29 October | St Columba's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>**10am** | **No service**<br>**Funeral: Vittoria Melniczuk RIP** | |
| Friday 30 October | St Peter's | 9.30am | 30th week of the Year | Margaret MacPherson RIP |
| Saturday 31 October<br>Vigil | St. Peter's<br>St. Peter's | 12 noon<br>5.30pm | 30th week of the Year<br>All Saints | People of the Parishes |
| Sunday 1 November | St Columba's<br>St Peter's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11.30am<br>6.30pm | All Saints | Helen & George Winter & Family RIP<br>John Wastle RIP |

**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

**30th Sunday 25 October readings: p146**
**First reading:** Exodus 22:21-27
**Psalm: 18(17):** 2-3a 3b-4 47 51ab R2
**Response:** I love you, my Lord, my strength
**Second reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
**Gospel:** Matthew 22: 34-40

**All Souls' Day – Mass at Mount Vernon Cemetery. Archbishop Cushley will offer Holy Mass** for the repose of all the faithful departed who have died in the Archdiocese in the last year, especially those buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery in Edinburgh. Monday 2 November, 10am in the Cemetery Chapel at Mount Vernon Cemetery.

Save the date: **21 November; Faith Behind Bars: Presentation in St. Columba's Middle Hall by Canon Brian Gowans**, Vicar Episcopal for Caritas Justice and Peace in our Archdiocese. He has previously worked extensively with the prison service and served as President of International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care and Chaplain's advisor to the Scottish Prison Service. He was recently invited to the Vatican for his input in this field. Coffee/tea and biscuits from 10am, Presentation from 10.30 - 11.15, time for Q&A afterwards. We hope to see you there.

**The Epiphany Group course** for anyone looking to develop/deepen their experience of prayer and reflective living, rooted in the Ignatian tradition. Mainly online, 3 additional in-person days in Edinburgh. essions **Tuesdays 7–9pm 3 November - 16 March 2027.**

**Wellbeing workshop, Sunday 29 November 2-5pm St. Columba's Hall.** An afternoon to focus on your wellbeing in partnership with Yoga Social Edinburgh. Yoga, meditation and opportunities to restore. Opportunities to chat and have snacks. £40 or £20 concession https//www.artinheaalthcare.org.uk/shop/ See poster at back of Church for details.

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



**Scan for donations**
**St. Peters 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 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