# St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh
## **Solemnity of All Saints —Year A**
## 1 - 8 November 2026

SCAN ME

The sermon on the mount contains the essence of Christ's teaching.

The beatitudes are the essence of that essence. They list the qualities Jesus wishes to see in his followers, qualities that are exemplified in the lives of the saints. The beatitudes are the badges of a disciple of Jesus. The things they stand for are very beautiful - things such as peace, goodness, love, gentleness, compassion, mercy, integrity.

A person who lives according to the beatitudes is already living in the Kingdom of heaven. Eternal life is merely the full blossoming of a plant that is green with life.

Does one need to have all eight of them? A single saint might not have them all. Only Jesus has them all. We don't have to have them all. Any one of them lived, lived to the full will suffice.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**

***Peace***
***Goodness***
***Joy***
***Love***
***Gentleness***
***Compassion***
***Mercy***
***Integrity...***

## Canon Kenneth writes ...

Pope Leo had hoped to go personally to Assis but instead sent a video message

'**I would have very much liked to have been with you'.**
The Pope began by recalling that the participants had gathered in the town of St. Francis forty years after the World Day of Prayer for Peace, held on 27 October 1986, which was initiated by Saint John Paul II.

Following that first historic meeting, Pope Leo said that his predecessor called for us to "continue to live the spirit of Assisi."

The Pope greeted the organizers, the Patriarchs, religious leaders, and Franciscans who have actively taken part in the various days of prayer and dialogue.

"I would very much like to have been with you at the tomb of Saint Francis on this important anniversary, to see your faces and bear witness together to the fact that living as brothers and sisters is already possible!"

**Need to cultivate 'Spirit of Assisi'**
Precisely in these times marked by a "culture of power," Pope Leo noted, "there is a need to cultivate the spirit of Assisi, which entails a rejection of the religious justification of war, a spirit of mediation and dialogue, and contemplative reflection combined with creative action in the service of a future of peace."

In this context, the Holy Father insisted that peace may once again become "the common ideal of all peoples, the guiding star for all our choices, the standard that exposes injustice, and the shared horizon for all."

"We must rebuild peace everywhere, not prepare for more wars," he stressed, reiterating that God's name can never be manipulated to try to justify war.

The journey that began in Assisi as a shared quest for peace, he explained, is, first and foremost, "the path of prayer."

**Source: Vatican News**


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## This Week in our Parishes …




| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday 1 November | **Solemnity of All Saints — Year A**<br>At 09.30 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 |
| Monday 2 | 09.30 Monday Mass at St. Peter's has resumed<br>7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room |
| Tuesday 3 | No Mass or teas/coffees at St. Columba's today<br>**11am, Funeral John Havard RIP, St. Columba's** |
| Friday 6 | Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's |
| Sunday 8 | **32nd Sunday of the Year — Year A**<br>Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today<br>We celebrate the `Rite of the presentation of the Gospel` at 09.30 and 11.30 Masses for those preparing for Confirmation<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 |

Results of last Sunday's **Mass attendance census**: St. Columba's 261 and St. Peter's 269.

**All Souls' Day Mass, Monday 2 November, 10am, Cemetery Chapel, 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.

**No 09.30am Mass or coffees at St. Columba's on Tuesday 3 November** due to a funeral.

Dear st. Columba's Hall users. **Considerate vehicle parking in Upper Gray Street.** When using our facilities please be aware, if by coming by car to any class or event, to ensure that your vehicle is parked with respect for your own safety and that of the families who live in Upper Gray Street. We've been asked to remind all Hall users to always park their vehicles legally and considerately without obstructing residents' access or preventing ambulances, fire engines or other emergency vehicles from having full access to the Street. We have again, been informed that some parked vehicles obstructing the road, making it difficult for residents to access the street and to enter or leave their designated parking areas. We recognise that parking in this area is difficult and that all users are not the only people who park here. Even so, a little consideration will help ease these problems. Many thanks in anticipation of your understanding and cooperation. James Meehan, Hall administrator.

**Newman Association Edinburgh Autumn Programme: Thursday 5 November 7.30-9.30pm**, Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ gives an 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). Programme includes Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Howells' hymn to St. Cecilia. Tickets £25/£8 students, from TicketSource or on the door.

Coming up fast: **St. Columba's famous Curry Night. Friday 13 November, 7pm,** Main Hall. Tickets available now: Adults £22.50, Children £10. Family £60. Ticket sales: before/after 9.30am Sunday Masses; at Sunday coffee; before 6.30pm Masses on Sundays up to 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. **Raffle prizes very welcome**. Speak to any J&P member before/after mass or at coffee.

**Are you a young woman thinking about a vocation to the religious life?** Come to **`Explore', a retreat day** that includes a chance to reflect and explore God's will for you. **10am-7pm Saturday 14 November,** 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN. Includes Mass, reflections, prayer, a holy hour, and a chance to socialise over pizza. To register, email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO: mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

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

**SCIAF Christmas cards** on sale in St. Peter's Parish room from **Sunday 15 November.**

Save the date: **21 November; Faith Behind Bars: Presentation by Canon Brian Gowans**, Vicar Episcopal for Caritas Justice and Peace in our Archdiocese, St. Columba's Middle Hall. He 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, biscuits from 10am. Talk 10.30-11.15, Q&A after. Hope to see you there.

**Saturday 28 November, 12.30pm: Outreach J&P group Alternativity Advent Lunch**, St. Peter's. Join us for a lovely way to begin Advent. Tickets £10 (all to SCIAF) on sale after 5.30pm Saturday and 11.30am Sunday Masses. If vegetarian please tell the ticket seller.

**Parish news continued overleaf>>>**

## Walking in the Steps of St John Vianney - Fr Daniel Magaji

Growing up as a boy in Nigeria, one of my greatest dreams was to attend St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Jos after primary school. Unfortunately, my parents could not afford the fees, and I had to let go of that dream. Little did I know that, years later, God would grant me the privilege of visiting Ars in France, the very place where St. John Mary Vianney lived and exercised his priestly ministry. **During my recent retreat (18-23 October 2026), I found myself walking through the places I had once only imagined**, and reflecting with gratitude on the unexpected ways God leads us.

**St. John Vianney was born in 1786 near Lyon and ordained a priest in 1815**. Despite struggling with his studies because of revolutionary forces, and especially Latin was a challenge to him; he persevered in his vocation. In 1818, he was appointed to be the parish priest of Ars, a small French village that would become known throughout the world because of his holiness and dedication to the priestly ministry.

**His life was one of extraordinary prayer and service.** From daily routine of celebrating Mass and spending hours before the Blessed Sacrament to preaching, teaching catechism, visiting families, caring for the poor and hearing Confessions, he gave himself almost entirely to God and His people. His zeal for the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation drew countless people to Ars, seeking spiritual guidance, forgiveness and a renewed relationship with God through the sacrament of Reconciliation and participation on the eucharist more frequently.

I was particularly moved by the story traditionally associated with his arrival in Ars, when a young shepherd boy **`showed him the way to the village'**. St. John Vianney is remembered for telling the boy, in effect, that while he had shown him the way to Ars, the priest would **`show him the way to heaven'**. **This simple encounter captures the heart of priesthood: helping people find their way to Christ**.

Another striking aspect of his life is that, despite his academic struggles, **he became renowned for his spiritual wisdom.** His story does not diminish the importance of intellectual formation; rather, it reminds us that knowledge must be accompanied by prayer, humility, holiness and pastoral charity. A fruitful priest is not simply one who knows much, but one who allows Christ to work through him for the good of souls.

My visit to Ars was therefore more than a historical excursion because I walked round the Presbytery where the saint himself lived and saw for myself many articles associated to him because the Parish house was preserved just the way the saint lived in it. **It was an invitation to renew my commitment to priestly ministry in the presence of Archbishop Leo at the Basilica of Ars.** St. John Vianney reminds me that the heart of the priestly vocation is to bring people closer to Jesus through the Eucharist, Confession, prayer and loving service.

The saint was assisted by his housekeeper, Catherine Lassagne. Her faithful service and dedication became an important part of the life of La Providence a home founded by him to care for, educate and provide shelter for poor and vulnerable girls. **This expresses his deep love for the needy**. Catherine Lassagne's name has remained especially memorable to me for a personal reason too. Canon Kenneth providentially welcomed me back to the parish with lasagna to eat. The meal was a simple but a generous gesture of hospitality.

My childhood dream of attending St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Jos did not come to pass, but God gave me **another opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the saint whose name had inspired me as a boy**. I returned from Ars with a grateful heart, reminded that God's plans often exceed our expectations.

May St. John Mary Vianney **inspire all priests to serve faithfully and lovingly,** and may his example encourage us all to trust in God's providence.

**St. John Mary Vianney, pray for us!**

**Reflection**

It is comforting to know that the road we are travelling
is marked by the feet of many holy people.
The Saints have blaized a trail for us.
Nevertheless, we have to walk the path, we have to make the journey.
The Saints cant do it for us. Lord, give us the courage to dare to make the journey.
May the example of the Saints put wind in our sails,
and may their prayers bear us along the road to your kingdom.



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

**Knitters needed to knit 'Christmas angels'** (given to children at Newington Churches Together carol service, Nicolson square, **Sunday 13 December 1pm**). Pattern leaflets at back of both Churches.

Safe the date/sign up: **St. Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, Sunday 13 December 2.30-4pm**, Main Hall. If your (grand)child wants to participate, sign up with Sister Rian at rian.vb@thework-fso.org or fill out the green sheet the Sisters are handing out. Rehearsals: Sunday 29 November & 6 December at 10.30am; Friday 11 December 3.30-5pm in the Halls.

**Appeal for donations: winter clothing and footwear** for men refugees. Please leave at back of the Churches.

Follow **St. Columba's new Facebook page** for updates. https://facebook.com/StColumbasCatholicEdinburgh

**St. Aloysius' College, Glasgow**, Scotland's Jesuit school, invites families to an **Open Morning Saturday 14 November**, with school tours from 10.30am. Hear about the College's Catholic and Jesuit tradition, academic excellence and wide range of opportunities available to pupils. The College welcomes applications for its Ignatian Academic Excellence Scholarship for pupils entering S1 in August 2027. Up to 50% remission of annual tuition fees, from S1 through to S6, for pupils demonstrating outstanding academic potential, intellectual curiosity, integrity and a commitment to contributing positively to their school community. **Applications close Thursday 31 December 2026.** Contact St Aloysius' College for further information.

**Parish news continued overleaf>>>**

# 1 - 8 November 2026

| Date | Church | Time | Feast | Mass intention |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | |
| 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<br>People of the Parishes |
| Monday 2 November | St. Peter's | 9.30am | All the Faithful Departed | Owen Bonnar RIP |
| Tuesday 3 November | St Columba's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11am | **No service**<br>**Funeral John Havard RIP** | |
| Weds 4 November | St Peter's | **9.30am** | St Charles Borromeo | KO: Rod Nelson Shaw RIP<br>DM: Mary Smith RIP |
| Thursday 5 November | St Columba's | 9.30am | 31st week of the Year | Mentor Stephen Oriere RIP |
| Friday 6 November | St Peter's | 9.30am | 31st week of the Year | John Wastle RIP & comfort of loved ones |
| Saturday 7 November<br>Vigil | St. Peter's<br>St. Peter's | 12 noon<br>5.30pm | 31st week of the Year<br>32nd Sunday of the Year | DM: Giuseppe & Gianna Picciotto RIP |
| Sunday 8 November | St Columba's<br>St Peter's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11.30am<br>6.30pm | 32nd Sunday of the Year | KO: Intentions Eggins Family<br>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

**All Saints Solemnity 1 November readings: p184**
**First reading:** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
**Psalm: 24(23):** 1-2 3-4b 5-6 R cf 6
**Response:** Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord
**Second reading:** 1 John 3: 1-3
**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 1-12a

**Fresh Start festive appeals**

Help **Fresh Start** support families with **festive food hampers.** Donations of non-perishableseasonal items accepted until Friday, 4 December (advent calendars, biscuits, tea, coffee, crackers, selection boxes, no items containing alcohol).

Items can be left at box at the back of the Churches. Full list of accepted festive food items here or on Fresh Start's website.

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

`I recently attended the Fresh Start AGM and was totally amazed by what they achieve. As well as giving starter packs offering essentials to help people successfully settle in new homes, they teach essential skills like cooking, English, DIY, and gardening.

The difference made to the lives of their service users is clear. Our meal on arrival had been prepared by a former service user who now owns their own catering business as a result of being supported by the charity. Fresh Start is an organisation that clearly does a lot of good work, and the money raised by the church is very well spent and really helps people rebuilt their lives.'

**Agnes Watson**

**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