The week ahead 17-24 Mar 2024

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 16 Mar Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Sunday of Lent	Clare Caddell RIP Thanksgiving for recovery of Anne Davies
Sunday 17 Mar	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Lent	Maisie and Jimmy Doherty RIP D/M of Foy family People of the Parishes
Monday 18 Mar	No Service			
Tuesday 19 Mar	St Columba's	12 noon	5th week of Lent St. Joseph	Funeral for Patricia McDonnell, RIP
Wednesday 20 Mar	St Peter's	9.30am	5th week of Lent	D/M of Rich family
Thursday 21 Mar	St Columba's	9.30am	5th week of Lent	
Friday 22 Mar	St Peter's	9.30am	5th week of Lent	Keith Liu RIP
Saturday 23 Mar Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th week of Lent 6th Sunday of Lent	Ella Lugton RIP and Georgina Ward RIP Gianna Picciotto RIP
Sunday 24 Mar	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of Lent	D/M of Doherty family People of the Parishes

Confessions

St Peter's: Saturday 11am (during Adoration) & 4.30pm **St Columba's:** Sunday before 6.30pm Mass

Adoration:

St Peter's: Saturday 11am

Sunday's readings on page 173

First reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm: 50: 3-4; 12-15 response v12 Second reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9

Gospel: John 12: 20-30

Lenten retreats (see Parish website https://stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk/lent-2024/)

Christian Meditation during Lent: Fridays 63 York Place, Wednesdays 7pm on zoom. Details https://www.meetup.com/Christian-Meditation-Group/events/ Contact: 0771 777 2614

Pro life Stations of the Cross Mondays in Lent. Praying for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register https://bit.ly/lentstations

Want to know how to hear God's voice more clearly? 6 week free prayer course starts Weds 10 April 7.30pm-9pm online. For more information and to apply see leaflet at the back of church, email: invitation @epiphanygroup.org.uk; visit www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/introduction-to-ways-of-praying/. Participant feedback: `I'm forever changed due to the course and excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer.'

Palm Sunday Meditation on the Passion narrative of St. John's gospel. 6pm Palm Sunday (24 March) on Zoom. Register at https://bit.ly/passionevent2024. Join Fr. Patrick to meditate on the Passion of Christ as written in the Gospel of St John. A good way to start Holy Week in a spirit of reflection and discover insights into Christ's Passion.

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 447 4210 or 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

St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh Fifth Sunday Lent Year B 17 March 2024

In John's Gospel Jesus does not pray to be delivered from the hour of trial and death (as he does in the other Gospels), for the hour is the whole purpose of his life.

He uses the example of a grain of wheat dying in order to yield a harvest, thereby suggesting that his death will bear much fruit: when he is lifted up on the cross he will draw *all people* to himself.

The lesson of the seed holds true for all his followers. They must not cling to their lives but be ready to give them up in the service of God. If they do, then they too will be glorified by the Father. Jesus is not telling us that we must 'hate' ourselves or our lives. Following God does not preclude a healthy love of self.

John has no account of the agony in the garden in his gospel. The nearest he gets to it is when he reports Jesus as saying 'My soul is troubled'. This sounds very similar to 'My soul is sorrowful even unto death' (Mk 14-34). And in the words 'Should I ask the Father to save me from this hour?' we catch an unmistakable echo of the prayer of Gethsemane (Mk 14-36). In spite of his disquiet, Jesus' attitude is one of humble obedience to the Father.

What are we to make from this voice from heaven? It is to be noted that the voice of God came to Jesus at all the great moments in his life—at his Baptism and Transfiguration, now when he is facing the ordeal of the cross. Indicating the closeness of the relationship with the Father and how the Father approves of what he is doing.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

This Sunday's gospel has a special significance for me because I chose it as the gospel at my ordination. Now thirty five years on it is good for me to reflect what it has meant:

- A rich harvest... the diversity that I have experienced in the eight parishes that I have served has been truly amazing.
- If a man serves me he must follow me... each new situation calls for a response and the challenge to see life in a new way.
- I will draw all to myself... ultimately it is to God that we all are drawn.

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

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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@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 17 Teas and coffee after the morning Masses in each Parish

Presentation of our Father (1st Communion) at morning Masses

10.30am St. Columba's: Sr Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for 1st Confession,

Communion and Confirmation

Monday 18 4.30pm Rite of the Reception of Body of Patricia McDonnell, St. Columba's

7.30pm RCIA meeting in St Peter's Parish Room

Tuesday 19 No 09.30 Mass St. Columba's and no tea's and coffees today

11am Rehearsal for 1st Confession, St. Peter's

12 noon Requiem Mass for Patricia McDonnell, St. Columba's

2.30pm Stations of Cross, St. Peter's

7pm St. Columba's Justice and Peace meeting (GP room)

Wednesday 20 7pm Sacrament of First Confessions, St. Peter's

Thursday 21 7.30-8.30pm Lent Retreat, St. Peter's (Parish Room)

Friday 22 3.30pm Stations of Cross St. Columba's

7pm Sacrament of First Confession, St Columba's

Sunday 24 Palm Sunday—blessing of Palms at 11.30 in the Courtyard, St. Peter's

Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses

Teas and coffee after the morning Masses in each Parish

Reflect with SCIAF. This Lent, your prayers and donations are making a BIG difference to people in Rwanda and around the world. As you prepare for Easter, SCIAF have created several prayers and reflections to use as part of your Lenten worship. Please visit sciaf.org. uk/resources to download your prayer resources today.

Last week's SCIAF second collection at St. Peter's raised £811.62 and at St. Columba's £560.20. Thank you. £448 was also raised for SCIAF at last week's home baking sale at St. Peter's. Thanks to all contributors and to those who bought produce.

Fresh Start donations please. Non perishables (eg tins of meat, fish, porridge, pasta, tea and coffee).

St Columba's Justice & Peace group—Tues 19 March 7pm meet in the GP room. New people welcome.

Lent Retreat Hour: Do you know what I have done? **Thurs 21 March 7.30-8.30pm** St Peter's Parish Room Looking for quiet space to prepare for Holy Week and hear God's voice more clearly? Join Juliet MacKellaig and Jessica Privtera from the Epiphany Group of Spiritual Directors www.epiphanygroup.org.uk

The Beginning Experience weekend 5-7 April, book by 22 March. St. Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth. For those suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood. Contact Louise (07926 571 004, louisep398@gmail.com).

Speaking Truth to Power: Dorothy Day, Christian Activist. 22 Mar 6 -7.30pm. A Conversation with Martha Hennessy, Christ Church Scottish Episcopal Church 6a Morningside Road. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speaking-truth-to-power-dorothy-day-christian-activist-tickets-853491826027

Cleaning at St. Columba's on Saturday 23 March 1-4pm

Path of Miracles: Edinburgh Singers, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Sat 23 Mar 5pm
Joby Talbot's glorious 17-part *a capella* masterpiece. Depicting one of the most enduring religious pilgrimages, the Camino de Santiago. An unmissable musical journey. Tickets on the door, or from https://www.thequeenshall.net/ whats-on/path-miracles"

Holy Thursday 28 March - Washing of the Feet. Men and women invited to sign sheet at back of church.

Congratulations to Rita Melon winner the `100 club' at St. Columba's

Save the date: Saturday 8 June — St Columba's Feast Day Social will take place in the afternoon.

The Canticle of Creation (by Saint Francis of Assisi)

Be praised, my Lord, for our **Sister Death**, whom we must all face. I praise and bless you, Lord, and I give thanks to you, and I will serve you in all humility.

Be praised Good Lord for Sister Death who welcomes us in loving embrace:

...death of a loved one, our lives are profoundly changed. We miss their company, their love, their concern, their laughter, their passion and presence

...death of Christ. Lent invites us to think and pray about the sacrificial love of Christ. His self-emptying offers us new hope and brings us a new vision of the fullness of life.

...our own death. It is an unknown hour and most have little preparation for it. Yes Christian hope invites us to look forward to being welcomed into the bosom of the Lord and to rest eternally in the mansions of heaven

Be praised my Lord for all your creation serving you joyfully.



We experience death every day seeing plants and flowers grow, change and decay.

- What helps you from the scriptures to understand death better?
- How does the Christian Rites of Christian burial help to accompany you when someone dies?
- Over the last month or two what deaths have you experienced?

O Splendour of the Father's light
That makes our daylight lucid, bright;
O Light of light and sun of day,
Now shine on us your brightest ray
True Sun, break out on earth and shine
in radiance with your light divine;
By dazzling of your Spirit's might

Oh, give our jaded sense light.
The Father sends his Son, our Lord,
to be his bright and shining Word;
Come, Lord, ride out your gleaming course
And be our dawn, our light's true source.

St Ambrose, Fourth century

