

The week ahead 28 April—5 May April 2024



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 27 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Intentions of Fr. Sean Bradley Morag MacLellan RIP Mingarry Moidart
Sunday 28 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Easter	Josie Finnegan Special intention People of the Parishes
Monday 29 April	No Service		5th Week of Easter St Catherine of Siena	
Tuesday 30 April	St Columba's	9.30am	5th Week of Easter	
Weds 1 May	St. Columba's St Peter's	<b>11am</b> 6pm	5th Week of Easter St Joseph the Worker	Funeral Luigi (Ian) MacPherson RIP
Thursday 2 May	St Columba's	9.30am	5th Week of Easter	
Friday 3 May	St Peter's	9.30am	5th Week of Easter Sts Philip & James	D/M of the Rich Family
Saturday 4 May Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Week of Easter 6th Sunday of Easter	Donna Andrew RIP D/M of the Foy family
Sunday 5 May	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of Easter	Danti Lannie 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**

**(p.264 St. Columba's, p.268 St. Peter's)**

**First reading:** Acts 9: 26-31

**Psalm:** 21: 26-28; 30-32 response v 26

**Second reading:** 1 John 3: 18-24

**Gospel:** John 15: 1-8

**Mary's Meals**

- Mary's Meals, who provide school meals to over 2.4 million children every day, invite you to join their Pray in May campaign. During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty.
- We pray particularly for families facing extreme food insecurity and hunger in Ethiopia. We are hosting a special online session where our founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow will share more about this under-reported crisis on Tuesday the 16th of May at 7pm, find out more at [Charity events | Mary's Meals UK \(marysmeals.org.uk\)](#)
- Please visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) to access our Pray in May resources and find out more about our Crisis in Ethiopia appeal.

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 447 4210 or [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

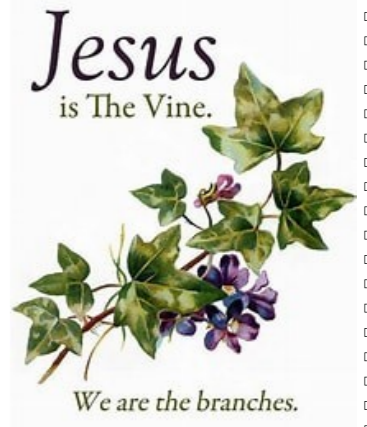
**Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B**

28 April 2024

The allegory of the vine and the branches stresses the unity that exists between Christ and his disciples. Christ is the vine and the disciples are the branches. Vine and branches need one another – the vine cannot bear fruit without the branches and branches cannot have life if separated from the vine. The Father is the vinedresser; the branches need to be pruned (by trials) in order to become fruitful (Paul is a good example). By their fruitfulness they will bring glory to the Father, and prove themselves disciples of Christ.

Jesus wrote no books. He left no buildings or monuments behind. He did something greater—he built a community. That was his 'monument'. 'I am the vine, you are the branches'. This was the image he used to describe the community he had founded. It is a simple but profound illustration of unity, closeness and interdependence. The branches need the vine. That is obvious. Cut off from the vine the branches wither and die. Just as the branches need the vine so we need Christ. But the vine also needs the branches. It is the branches that produce the fruit. This means that Christ also needs us. He depends on us to produce fruit in the world. Jesus didn't ask us to be successful—only fruitful. In the bible the word 'success' never appears. Instead 'fruitful' and 'bearing fruit' - fruitfulness often comes from weakness and vulnerability and frequently goes unrecognized and unrewarded.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

Pope Francis has nominated 2025 to be a Holy Year with the theme of Pilgrims of hope. The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming together from the four corners of the earth on pilgrimage. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.



In 2024 we have been asked to concentrate on looking at prayer as a way to prepare for the Jubilee Year. Over the next two Sundays I shall offer some reflection on prayer through the Sunday sermon.

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**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)

## This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 28	Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Tuesday 30	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7.30pm SSVP meeting St. Peter's Parish Room 8pm St. Columba's Fabric Committee, Parish room
Wednesday 1	11am Requiem Mass for Luigi (Ian) MacPherson, St. Columba's
Saturday 4	1pm Baptism of Marcos Maxwell Evans Perez, St. Peter's
Sunday 5	No Children's Liturgy at St. Peter's or at St. Columba's today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish



### Requiem Mass for Luigi (Ian) MacPherson RIP

This will take place at St. Columba's on Wednesday 1 May at 11am. Many will remember Luigi as the handyman at St. Columba's and we all very much appreciate all the good work that he did. Everyone is invited to the Requiem Mass at 11am as Luigi has no family here.

**SCI AF send thanks** to all those in St. Columba's Parish who supported their Lenten Wee box campaign. You will be helping women and girls in Rwanda who still suffer from violence 30 years after the genocide began there.

### Kevock Choir annual Concert Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm, Nicolson Square Venue, Edinburgh

The choir sang in aid of St Peter's funds last October and holds its 2024 concert in May. The programme includes the choral suite from Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace". Further information and tickets (£16; concessions £14) contact Peter Nicholson; panicholson@blueyonder.co.uk

Annual Mass for married and engaged couples  
**Wednesday 29 May, 7.15pm** at the Cathedral

### Reminder: St. Columba's Feast day Social event Saturday 8 June 2pm, St. Columba's Hall and garden

The format will be much the same as last year and we invite people to volunteer to be part of the entertainment. Please contact Peter McDermott, Chair, St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council.

**Date for diary: Friday 28 June 7pm, St. Peter's Parish Social event.** More details to follow.

### St Columba's website—can you help?

St. Columba's is still looking for someone to keep the website up to date on this Wordpress site. It is

important that it is updated regularly in order to be accurate and relevant for the parish. Please contact Canon Kenneth if you are interested. Training will be provided if necessary.

### St Peter's Fresh Start Lenten Appeal

Grateful thanks to all parishioners who so generously donated food to the Fresh Start appeal.

Once again the charity is looking for basic household items for the 'Starter Packs' which are so necessary for those being rehoused - e.g. mugs, bowls, utensils, kettles, toasters, towels, bedding. These can be left in the Fresh Start box at the back of St Peter's.

### Marriage counselling—the Diocese offers counselling

with a Catholic Marriage counsellor for anyone in need of couples therapy. Please email in confidence for more information or to arrange a counselling session to marriage.counsellor@staned.org.uk or call 07511 928 621. Please note that counselling fees apply.

### Assisted Suicide – Called to Care, Not to Kill

Please contact your MSPs today to stop assisted suicide becoming legal in Scotland. Use the QR code to access an online resource created by the Catholic Parliamentary Office, including guidance on contacting your MSPs. You can also visit <https://rcpolitics.org/assistedsuicide> or email us at office@rcpolitics.org for more information.



## The Scottish Prison Service. A summary of a talk given by Deacon Kenny to St. Columba's on 16 March 2024

In the 14 April newsletter we shared that St. Columba's recently hosted Deacon Kenny McGeachi, a Prison Chaplain, to talk about the Prisoners Week Trust. An independent charity which exists to support prisoners, their families, those released from prison and their families. Below is more information about the talk given by Deacon Kenny.

The prisons in Scotland accommodate 800 prisoners, 250 of whom are women. Deacon Kenny shared that Chaplaincy is about offering a window of hope for a better world - and that the work begins the moment people enter prisons. We heard that the attitude of society towards prisoners is punitive, focused on punishment rather than addressing root causes. That prisoners are often the most vulnerable and for those committing only petty offences Sheriffs have few options, other than prisons - which are the only safe places. The adverse effects of prison on families, especially children, is a big problem, currently there are 20,000 children with parents in prison. Scotland is doing well with HMP Stirling being a model for women offenders allowing family visits so as not to break family relationships.

### The aims of the prison service are threefold:

Unlocking potentials and transforming people's lives; forming relationships and instilling good values of Respect, Integrity, Humility, Belief, Openness, Compassion and Innovation

### The works of the Chaplaincy include the following:

#### 1. Religious Care

- people can practice the religion/belief of their choice with Mass, the sacraments and regular church and other services of worship offered by qualified representatives of a particular faith.
- peoples' rights not to practice a religion/belief are respected and a person is not dissuaded from the practice of their religion/belief of their choice

#### 2. Pastoral Care (60-70% of Chaplaincy work)

- responding to those who are in distress by request or through referrals from Officers, Mental Health, Addictions, NHS, Social Workers and spending time actively listening in a non-judgemental, compassionate way and accepting a person as they are at that point in time

- following up on concerns raised by families
- supporting residents and family members following a death in custody and supporting staff in times of distress or loss and especially following Death in Custody

#### 3. Spiritual Care (15% of Chaplaincy work)

- listening to where people are in their life journey, helping them to reframe their narrative through purposeful conversations and introducing role models through chaplain's behaviours and attitudes
- promoting restorative justice by raising awareness of the impact of harm caused to victims, families and themselves
- sign-posting people to resources and providing religious care for those who choose this path of spirituality
- supporting re-integration into communities and families

### There are challenges and for the Chaplain which include:

- suicide prevention / self-harm, poor mental health and vulnerable people
- first night in prison / induction – when people feel hopeless or lost
- bereavement care and palliative care – people encountering dying and death
- people who need protection or separation – people feeling frightened or angry
- specific traumatized groups—women, young people, older people, people in recovery
- understanding the problem underneath the traumas and behaviours, the why they do this, offering alternative approach to society that condemns and wants to punish.

St. Columba's is now signed up to the Prisoners Charter (for more details please see information at the back of St. Columba's Church). And is doing so, will support Prisoners Week 17-23 November 2024, which will raise awareness and support for prisoners. The Justice & Peace group of St. Columba had committed to the annual contribution of £75.

**Thank you to Agatha Kai-Kai for this update**