

The week ahead 17 - 24 November 2024



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 16 November Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	32nd Ordinary Time 33rd Sunday Ordinary Time	
Sunday 17 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	33rd Sunday Ordinary Time	In thanksgiving People of the Parishes
Monday 18 November	No Service		33rd Ordinary Time	
Tuesday 19 November	St Columba's	9.30am	33rd Ordinary Time	Special intention
Weds 20 November	St Peter's	9.30am	33rd Ordinary Time	
Thursday 21 November	No service		33rd Ordinary Time Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Friday 22 November	No service St Peter's	12 noon	33rd Ordinary Time St. Cecilia	Funeral Fr. Gordon Brown RIP
Saturday 23 November Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	33rd Ordinary Time Solemnity of Christ the King	Jacqueline Heron Douthart
Sunday 24 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Solemnity of Christ the King	Carlo Marrocco RIP 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 157

First reading: Daniel 12: 1-13

Psalm: 15: 5, 8-11 response v1

Second reading: Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-32

Talks on the new lectionary, which will be introduced Advent 2024 can be found on

- St. Peter's website <https://stpetersrccchurchedinburgh.org.uk/liturgy/new-lectionary/>
- the Archdiocese is also hosting a series of free 45 min talks on Zoom to take a closer look at the new Lectionary. Join Fr Jamie McMorris at 7pm Wednesday 4, 11 and 18 December. Register at bit.ly/lectionaryadvent

Diploma in Catechetics. Take the Diploma in Catechetics and make the Holy Year 2025 a time of newness and deepening in your life of faith. The course is run by the Archdiocese and starts in January. It consists of a weekly lecture on Zoom, guided reading from the Catechism and regular 1-to-1 support. To mark the Holy Year the course is being offered at £125 (normally £200). Find out more and register at bit.ly/diploma2025

On 29 November, the UK Parliament votes on an assisted suicide Bill. Defending Human Dignity. Pope Francis tells us that human dignity exists "beyond all circumstances." He asks us all to defend human dignity in every cultural context and every moment of human existence, regardless of physical, psychological, social, or even moral deficiencies. "Safeguards" concerning assisted suicide don't work, as shown in Canada and Holland. If you are worried that this may happen in Scotland, please contact your MP and MSPs: <https://writetothem.com>.

Advent Rosary. The annual Archdiocesan Rosary starts **2 December** on Mondays, 7.45pm through Advent. Join us to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register bit.ly/adventrosary

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 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
Thirty third Sunday in Ordinary Time —Year B
17—24 November 2024

Here we have part of Mark's Eschatological discourse (13: 1- 37). His account is coloured by what has already happened, for example, the persecution of the disciples.

Using Old Testament imagery, Jesus speaks of the Son of Man coming in glory. The purpose of his coming will not be to execute judgement but to gather his elect.

Mark believed that the Parousia* was imminent - a belief common among the early Christians. However, the precise time of the end is known only to God. Therefore, the disciples must not allow themselves to be misled by claims or speculations that the end is near, but must maintain a constant watchfulness.

Whilst we cannot share Mark's view that the end is near, we do share his faith in the final achievement of God's saving purpose in Christ. And, for each of us, the 'parousia' will be our meeting with the Son of Man when we pass out of this life into eternal life.

Flor McCarthy SDB

*Parousia is a Greek word that means "presence" or "arrival" and is a Christian theological term that refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.



Canon Kenneth writes ...

As Advent, December and Christmas approach it may be a good time to recharge our batteries. I took a book off my library shelf recently 'Sabbath. Finding rest, renewal and delight in our busy lives' by Wayne Muller (Bantam books). While acknowledging that most people cannot take extended leave he does suggest ways of having a sabbatical hour, afternoon or day.

All life requires a rhythm of rest. Sabbath creates a marker for ourselves so, if we are lost, we can find our way back to centre. It is a spiritual percept in most of the world's spiritual traditions. It is a period to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing or true for us.

- What would the Sabbath time look like for you? Usually a mixture of reading, retreat, walking and time with friends
- Spend some time blessing others "May you be happy, may you be at peace"
- The Sabbath walk is easily the most popular and believed exercise for many. It is a walk without purpose, or need for insight or revelation. Simply let your soul catch up with you.

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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 17	Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses we celebrate the Rite of Our Father* 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 each Parish
Monday 18	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's, Parish room 7pm St Columba's Justice and Peace Group monthly meeting, GP room (open meeting all welcome)
Tuesday 19	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Thursday 21	No 09.30 Mass at St. Columba's today 4.30pm Rite of Reception of the Body of Fr. Gordon Brown RIP, St. Peter's
Friday 22	No 09.30 Mass at St. Peter's today 12 noon Requiem Mass for Fr. Gordon Brown RIP, St. Peter's, followed by cremation at Mortonhall
Saturday 23	Baptism 1pm Alexander Swann, St. Peter's Baptism 2pm Sophie Dunne, St. Columba's
Sunday 24	Solemnity of Christ the King Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish



Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Fr. Gordon Brown RIP. Fr. Brown was known by many in the Parish and lived in the Parish flat. After some months of failing health he sadly died recently. Reception is at St. Peter's 4.30pm Thursday 21 November with Requiem Mass at 12 noon Friday 22nd celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley. A cremation at Mortonhall will follow.

Thursday 21 November: no 09.30 Mass at St. Columba's.
Friday 22 November: no 09.30 Mass at St. Peter's.

Congratulations to Robyn Oskouii, Baptised last Sunday at St. Columba's.

Today we celebrate the *Rite of Our Father at 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. Children preparing for First Holy Communion will receive the prayer of the Our Father during their journey of growing in faith and their relationship with God.

Monday 18 November, 7pm St Columba's Justice and Peace Group monthly meeting, GP room. This is an open meeting and all Parishioners are welcome.

Next week's newsletter (24 November), could all content providers please provide content by close of day, tomorrow, **Monday 18 November**.

The Real Advent Calendar on sale again at St. Columba's next Sunday 24 November. The UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar with 25 festive Fairtrade chocolates and a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and supports charitable causes. Available at Tea and Coffees after 09.30 Mass at St. Columba's next week: £5 or email paul_atkin@outlook.com

Teens Group (for P7-S4) Weds 27 November 7 – 8.30pm. A great October meeting for our teens group. Thinking about how Mary's "yes" to God can inspire us to be courageous in our lives; we prayed a decade of the rosary; and had our usual games, chat and snacks. New members from any school or Parish will be warmly welcomed. More info: Email: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Diary date for readers - new lectionary. We use the new lectionary for the first time on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

- 7pm Tuesday **26 November**, St. Columba's
 - 7pm Wednesday **27 November**, St. Peter's
- Readers welcome to join the meeting that suits them best.

Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, will be visiting Edinburgh 1-3 December. Archbishop Leo Cushley has asked us to take up a **special collection on 23/24 November for the Beit Afram Home of the Elderly.** The elderly are often overlooked and alone, and are surely among the *Anawim* of the region, especially in the present circumstances. Please be as generous as you can.

Fresh start Christmas appeal: November collection of hamper items. An Edinburgh-based charity helping people, who've been homeless, to get established in new homes. **During November** the charity will collect Festive Fare items for **food hampers for needy families** (mince pies, biscuits, sweets, any non perishable foods e.g. tinned meat/fish, pasta). Donations can be left in the box at rear of Church.

Sunday 15 December St. Columba's Nativity Play. **Rehearsals start Sunday 1 December.** If you'd like your child(ren) to join, please fill out sign-up sheet with Sister Mirjam or contact her and Sister Karin at edin@thework-fso.org.

Advent Alternativity lunch Saturday 14 December directly after 12 noon Mass, St. Peter's. Hosted by the Outreach Justice and Peace Group, raising funds for SCIAF. Tickets £10 and on sale after Sunday Mass. A chance to step away from the Christmas rush, reflect on the true meaning of the season, while enjoying a meal soup and cheese. Details from Norma Daniels Emm - normaemm@yahoo.co.uk

Thanks to all who helped the St. Columba's Curry Nights go so well. We raised a considerable sum for Mary Meals, boosted by generous donations and raffle ticket buying. **Four people have prizes waiting for them:** Pat Hart 840; Ann Dan 859; Mary 749 and Peter 759. These can be collected after Mass at St. Columba's today Sunday 17 November.

Reflections on dying and death

This a much edited version of an article that appeared in last week's America Magazine by Valerie Schultz, who is a freelance writer, a columnist for The Bakersfield Californian.

People we admire die. I was casually acquainted with the author of the first book I read: Richard Gaillardetz. We shared a publisher and once spoke about how we each had four kids and had written a book about marriage. I was sad to learn of his diagnosis of stage four pancreatic cancer. His last book, **'While I Breathe, I Hope'**, is subtitled "A Mystagogy of Dying." Written as a series of reflections while Dr. Gaillardetz was dying, it was published posthumously.

I expected this book to be deeply theological and carefully researched, as all his writing was. It is, but it is also a moving exploration of doubt and faith, poetry and poignancy, gratitude and letting go. The brutally physical and the tenderly spiritual walk hand-in-hand with him through his final months.

"I am walking toward death daily in the company of saints, past and present, heroic and ordinary," Dr. Gaillardetz wrote. "It has been enough." This last work is a fitting coda to a life well-lived and a death well-accepted. I savoured this book in small sacred bites, finding it touching and thought-provoking. It is honest and philosophical in the face of sadness and loss, although I suspect Dr. Gaillardetz underestimated his legacy. "Put bluntly, after suitable mourning, the world will go on after I die," he wrote. It will—we know in our hearts that it will for all of us—but a world without his presence is poorer indeed, especially for his loved ones, but also for his readers.

I next read **'In My Time of Dying'**, by Sebastian Junger. Mr. Junger is a celebrated journalist who has reported from war zones. This book, however, is a personal and visceral account of a health crisis that should have killed him.

I have always appreciated Mr. Junger's writing, but this book interested me because, although Mr. Junger calls himself an atheist, he describes his encounter with his long-deceased father while he himself lay near death. The

book's subtitle covers his reason for writing it: "How I Came Face-to-Face with the Idea of an Afterlife" Mr. Junger's story is not one of conversion but of the consciousness of mystery, of not knowing. He answers no questions but poses them with grace and the gradual acceptance that there are no scientific, concretely satisfying answers.

And aren't these the questions we faithful share, about the existence of the soul, of our beloved dead, of heaven, of God, of something sacred? Mr. Junger's body heals, but his mind still wonders.

The third book in my stack of death was **'Faith, Hope and Carnage'**, by Nick Cave and Seán O'Hagan, which is actually a book-length interview of the musician Mr. Cave, whose music I love, by the journalist Mr. O'Hagan.

Mr. Cave begins by saying that he loathes interviews, and then bares his heart and soul to Mr. O'Hagan's questions for nearly 300 pages.

Mr. Cave doesn't talk about death as much as he addresses grief, the pool that the still-living are immersed in after a death: Mr. Cave's teenage son, Arthur, died from a fall from a cliff, so he comes from the experience that every parent dreads. He equates grief to an experience of God, that when you grieve, "you are taken to the very limits of suffering.... Everything seems so fragile and precious and heightened, and the world and the people in it seem so endangered, and yet so beautiful...."

As these writers use their gifts to articulate their stories, they illuminate the truths we hold in common that sometimes hide in the corners of our souls. They lift the hem of the veil just a little. They give us hope and sorrow and everything in between.

This reader is grateful.

Reflection

The words of Jesus remain with us to this very day.
They fall on our ears like a blessing,
healing troubled minds,
bringing light to those in darkness,
and hope to those in despair.
Lord, give us a love for your words.
Grant that we may make them part of our lives
so that they will illuminate our journey to your Kingdom.

