

The week ahead 1 - 8 December 2024



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 30 November Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Andrew, Patron St. Scotland 1st Sunday of Advent	Tommy Douthart RIP
Sunday 1 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes John Byrne RIP
Monday 2 December	No Service		1st Week of Advent	
Tuesday 3 December	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of Advent St. Francis Xavier	Matt Mitchell RIP
Weds 4 December	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Advent	
Thursday 5 December	St Columba's	9.30am	1st Week of Advent	Deceased Kai-Kai family
Friday 6 December	St Peter's	9.30am	1st Week of Advent	
Saturday 7 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Ambrose 2nd Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 8 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Advent	Katie MacEachen 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 82

First reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Psalm: 25 (24) : 4-5b, 8-9, 10, 14, R1b

Second reading: Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Advent retreats

Riches Stored in Secret Places: online reflection series for Advent 2024: An audio reflection to listen to weekly and reflective material to read. Cost: £25, includes printed booklet. Information and booking: <https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/riches-stored-in-secret-places/> or email info@heartinpilgrimage.org.uk. Time spent in darkness encourages us to journey inwards, think about living with mystery. And, just at the darkest point of the year, we celebrate the arrival of the small, unquenchable Light of the World.

The Gifts of Winter: A Quiet Day for Advent. Saturday 30 November, 10.30am-4pm, St Columba's by the Castle Cost £35 (£25 concession, or pay what you can) includes lunch, coffee & cake. Information and booking: <https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/the-gifts-of-winter/> or email info@heartinpilgrimage.org.uk. If we enter fully into the season, it has much to show us about rest, faithfulness, mystery and God who is with us in the dark as much as in the light.

Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow Advent online Calendar. Daily reflections with art and music from the beginning of Advent. <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk>; www.onlineprayer.net and on their free app

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

It's World AIDS Day today. By putting people first and upholding their human rights the threat of AIDS can be eliminated. Many people living with, at risk of or affected by HIV in Edinburgh/Lothians often experience a double burden of the disease itself and the stigma and discrimination around it. Positive Help Charity has been providing care and practical support people living with / affected by HIV and Hepatitis C across Edinburgh and Lothian for almost 40 years. If you'd like to volunteer with Positive Help, donate or find out more please contact Ray de Souza on 07305986113.

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

First Sunday of Advent — Year C

1 - 8 December 2024

Early Christians believed that the Second Coming was near, and would be preceded by cosmic signs. Using apocalyptic imagery borrowed from the Old Testament, Luke describes the Second Coming of Christ. The disciples are urged to await the Lord's coming with confidence, vigilance and prayer.

The Parousia really means that there is a goal to the divine plan working itself out in history, a plan is accomplished in and through his incarnate Son, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13). **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 Christ



Christmas Masses

Saturday 21 December 12 noon 3rd week of Advent St. Peter's
5.30pm Vigil Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22 December 09.30am Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent, St. Peter's
6.30pm Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent, St. Columba's

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December 7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
12am Midnight Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December 09.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's
No evening Mass

Thursday 26 December 09.30am Feast of St. Stephen, St. Columba's

Friday 27 December 09.30am St. Peter's

Saturday 28 December 12 noon Mass, St. Peter's
5.30pm Vigil Mass, The Holy Family, St. Peter's

Sunday 29 December 09.30am Mass, The Holy Family, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass, The Holy Family, St. Peter's
6.30pm Mass, The Holy Family, St. Columba's

Tuesday 31 December 09.30 St. Columba's

Weds 1 January 2025 09.30am Mass, the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Columba's
11.30am Mass, the Solemnity Mary Mother of God, St. Peter's
No evening Mass



Please take newsletter home as a reminder of Christmas Mass times

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502

St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterchurchedinburgh.org.uk

St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk

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

St. Columba's Hall hire:

James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 1 December	First Sunday of Advent—Year C 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 2	7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's, Parish room
Tuesday 3	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7.30pm SSVP meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Saturday 7	1pm Baptism Orla and Ethan Lipscombe, St. Peter's
Sunday 8	Second Sunday of Advent—Year C At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses today we celebrate the Rite of Illumination* Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 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 4pm, St. Peter's Family Carol Party, Parish Room



Fr. Gordon Brown RIP Requiem Mass:

<https://www.williampurves.co.uk/webcast/MFD59393/>
(password silver475) . **Committal:**
<https://youtu.be/C9EZglheEkg?si=IxpGwCSyGK1h76uO>

Today is the first Sunday of Advent when we'll light the Advent wreath.

A retiral collection at Fr Brown's funeral raised £600 to be shared equally between SCIAF and Fresh Start. Thank you.

Last week's collection for the Beit Afram Home of the Elderly raised £469.05 (St. Peter's) and £306.41 (St. Columba's). Thank you for your generosity.

From the first Sunday of Advent we introduce the new translation of the lectionary. Published by the Catholic Trust Society (www.ctsbooks.org), the 'People's Edition' is £19.95. Other publishing houses e.g. Redemptorist Publications (www.rpbooks.co.uk) offer other versions.

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

Next Sunday we celebrate the *Rite of Illumination at the 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. In preparation for 1st Confession / Reconciliation the children promise, and their parents renew their promise, **to keep the flame of the Faith - received at baptism - alive in their hearts.**

St. Peter's Family Carol Party, Sunday 8 December, 4pm, Parish Room. Join your music group for Carols and Christmas songs to lift the spirits.

Christmas sale of home produce at St. Peter's. Homemade chutneys and preserves are excellent stocking fillers. Buy these, fresh scones and home baking, before and after the

Advent Retreat Hour, Silent Night Holy Night

Thursday 19 December 7.30 - 8.30pm, St Peter's Parish room. Take time out to get ready spiritually for the coming of our Lord. Led by the Epiphany Group.

Vigil and Sunday Masses on Saturday 7, Sunday 8 and Sunday 15 December. All proceeds to Parish SCIAF Project.

Final rehearsal of St. Columba's Nativity Play is on Friday 13 December, 3.30 - 5.00 pm at St Columba's Main Hall.

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

Date for your diary: Saturday 14 December after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass in St. Peter's Parish room there will be pre-Christmas wine and nibbles.

Next St. Columba's Justice and Peace talk: Saturday 14 December, "A way forward for the Middle East". Haneen Zoabi, Palestinian politician from Nazareth who served as a member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) 2009-2019, will share her thoughts on what needs to happen for there to be a just and lasting peace in the region.

Date for your diary: St Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, **Sunday 15 December 2 - 4pm** in St Columba's Main Hall. There will be mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy. Come and join our Parish pre-Christmas celebration

Change of date: Teens Group Wednesday 18 December 7-8.30pm (for P7-S4). The Teens group is usually held on the last Wednesday of the month - but this month it will take place on 18 December. Join us for games, chat and snacks. New members (from any school/Parish) warmly welcomed. Email teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Correction. Amount raised for Mary's Meals from St. Columba's Curry nights was doubled by other donors, not by the government as previously stated.

Advent on the St. Peter's website. Many options to guide you prayerfully through Advent with weekly and daily meditations. Visit St Peter's website homepage <https://stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk/prayer-skills/advent-meditations/>

Father Gordon Brown RIP

People who knew Fr Gordon Brown are unanimous in describing him as a gentle, kind and quiet man. As a Catholic priest he was a man of faith. Eight weeks before his death on 4 November 2024 he had a meeting with a hospital consultant who diagnosed a malignancy in the bone marrow and who told him he most likely had weeks or maybe months to live. Reflecting on this shortly afterwards with friends, Fr Gordon said: "I'm 86 years old and I'm a man of Faith." Over those last eight weeks, his faith, fortitude and resilience was apparent to those who visited him at his flat at St Peter's in Morningside, Edinburgh. That included Canon Pat Boylan and fellow clergy in the days leading up to his death. "He told us 'I'm sorry I can't join you for the meal tonight, but maybe next time'. He actually apologised to us, despite being so ill. That's typical Gordon - so courteous."

Early Years. Fr Gordon was born in Edinburgh on 27th August 1938. His early life was spent in Bonnyrigg with brother Douglas, and parents Janet, a teacher, and dad Thomas, an engineer. He attended the local primary school going on to high school in Lasswade and later graduated from the University of Edinburgh. Bonnyrigg always had a special place in Fr Gordon's heart, it was very much home. Douglas pre-deceased Fr Gordon by six years. Family was always important to him and he maintained regular contact with Douglas's widow Jo, his nieces and their families based in Nottingham. There were many trips north and south of the border and the family were particularly attentive to Fr Gordon in his final months. A convert to Catholicism, he was baptised on 15 June 1960. Prior to joining the priesthood, he worked as a primary teacher at St David's in Dalkeith. Former pupil Kathleen King said: "I was in his primary 7 class circa 1961. He was a lovely, quiet and gentle person."

Seminary. In 1963 he applied and was accepted to the seminary at St Andrew's College, at Drygrange in the Scottish Borders. A priest and fellow seminarian remembers Fr Gordon being a model student and being late only once in six years for Morning Prayer. But when being jokingly challenged about it by the Rector, Fr Gordon, in the same spirit, turned the tables questioning why the others started without him! He was passionate about music and when he later became the rector at Drygrange he would drive fellow seminarians to Scottish National Orchestra Concerts at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. On one occasion he even helped a young seminarian get the autograph of the famous composer André Previn who was conducting a performance.

Priesthood. Fr Gordon was ordained to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh on 1 March 1969. An intelligent man, he went on to further studies at St Patrick's College in Maynooth, Ireland. He later returned to St Andrew's College as a member of staff, teaching philosophy. He served in that role for seven years before succeeding Monsignor John Barry as college rector in 1977. As a young priest he enjoyed summer visits to the Diocese of Youngston, Ohio, where he undertook parish work. In 1984 he was appointed to his first parish, St Patrick's in

Edinburgh (1984-85). He then served at St Luke & St Anne's, Newbattle (1985-88); St Mary's, Bathgate (1988-89); St Joseph's, Burntisland (1989-93); and both St Ninian's, Bowhill, and St Patrick's, Lochgelly (1994-96). He returned to the Diocese of Youngston in 1993-94 for a sabbatical and returned to serve in St Martin's, Tranent (1996). On one occasion while serving at Newbattle his car was broken into and he told a priest friend that he suspected children were responsible. When asked why he thought that he replied humorously: "Look at the size of the footprints on the seat - and they've eaten all the sweeties."

Retirement. Fr Gordon retired from parish ministry in 1996 but continued to serve as a supply priest, travelling to celebrate Mass, often at short notice, at parishes across the Archdiocese and providing holiday cover for grateful clergy. Since 1997, Fr Gordon was a friend of L'Arche, a charity with Catholic roots that supports people with learning disabilities. Canon Boylan said: "I spoke to a woman from L'Arche. She said he had a great way with people who had disabilities and said it was amazing how well he got on with them." He stayed at St Peter's in Morningside for over 20 years and was a much-loved and welcome presence with parishioners and the various parish priests. Into his eighties he continued to celebrate Mass up until two years before his death. When he couldn't celebrate Mass he would sit with the congregation and afterwards enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. Canon Ryszard Holuka, who taught part-time at St Andrew's College with Fr Brown, described him as a "a clever, canny man...a gentleman who was academic, even-tempered, and always courteous." Fr Gordon was a good friend to many who appreciated his easy-going and calm manner, his listening skills, thoughtfulness, humility and loyalty.

He had a wide circle of friends who were drawn to his unassuming and non-judgemental attitude and his willingness to support them in difficulty. Fr Gordon had suffered a fall while out shopping in April 2024 and his health had steadily declined. He bore it very well and there was no self-pity. He appreciated the goodwill and generosity from Canon Kenneth Owens and parishioners at St Peter's.

He spent the last week of his life at the Western General Hospital and received the Eucharist with the rite of Viaticum from Archbishop Cushley on Sunday 3rd November before dying peacefully the following day.

His family said: "We would like to say how much we love him and how proud we are of him. "He was a person of deep faith and intellectual Christian commitment who was respected across a range of religious, and other communities; he had an inspirational level of moral integrity and a spirit of stoic acceptance.

"We miss you so much Gordon and will always treasure the many happy memories we have of you."

May he rest in peace.