

The week ahead 15 - 22 December 2024



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 14 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John of the Cross 3rd Sunday of Advent	Captain Anthony Lightfoot RIP
Sunday 15 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes
Monday 16 December	No Service		3rd Week Advent	
Tuesday 17 December	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week Advent	Jack and Ivy Clarke RIP & Intentions of Tully family
Weds 18 December	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week Advent	
Thursday 19 December	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week Advent	Paddy Connolly and Gladys Wood RIP
Friday 20 December	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week Advent	
Saturday 21 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Peter Canisius 4th Sunday of Advent	
Sunday 22 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes Kitty Royan RIP & Elsie Wilkins RIP

**Confessions**

**St Peter's:** Saturday 11am (during Adoration) & 4.30pm

**St Columba's:** Sunday before 6.30pm Mass

**\*\*Also 6-7pm Weds 18 Dec, St. Peter's**

**Adoration:**

St Peter's: Saturday 11am

**Sunday's readings on page 87**

**First reading:** Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

**Psalm:** Isaiah 12: 2-3 4b-d 5-6 response v6

**Second reading:** Philippians 4: 4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 3: 10-18



**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. Refreshments provided.

**Advent on the St. Peter's website**

During advent there are 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/>

**Advent Rosary for life**

Every Monday in Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register now: <https://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

**Third Sunday of Advent —Year C**

15—22 December 2024

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, 'gaudete' means rejoice. There is a clear note of joy in today's liturgy. The basis of our joy is the nearness of the Lord.

As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist the Lord is very near us. Indeed, he is in our midst. Lord Jesus, you turn our sorrow into joy. You turn our fear into trust. You turn despair into hope.

The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and is a day to celebrate joy and anticipation for Christmas:

- **Name:** The name comes from the Latin word gaudete, which means "rejoice".
- **Date:** Gaudete Sunday can fall on any date between December 11 and 17.
- **Focus:** The focus of Advent shifts from "The Lord is coming" to "The Lord is near" on Gaudete Sunday.
- **Tone:** The tone of Advent lightens, with a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.
- **Readings:** Readings focus on rejoicing in the Lord, and the mission of St. John the Baptist.
- **Introit:** The Introit "Gaudete in Domino semper" gives the day its name.
- **Symbolism:** The third candle on the Advent wreath is lit on Gaudete Sunday, representing joy.
- **Tradition:** Traditions surrounding Gaudete Sunday date back to the fourth or fifth century

New copies of the Archdiocesan Directory are available at the back of the church. Special price £1.

St. Peter's sanctuary renovation: work continues to proceed. Two tonnes of stone are here and another 4 tonnes are still to arrive. We hope to have the first level completed by Christmas. In January we will see a big change as we will be able to start re-wiring, sound and carpeting.

**Christmas Masses**

- 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



**Parish Priest:** Canon Kenneth Owens

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St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; [www.stpeterrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stpeterrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; [www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk)

**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@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk)

**St. Columba's Hall hire:**

James Meehan: [Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com](mailto:Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com)

## This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 15 December	Third Sunday of Advent - Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish 2-4pm St. Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, Main hall
Monday 16	7pm St. Columba's Justice and Peace Group Monthly meeting, GP room 7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's, Parish room
Tuesday 17	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 18	6-7pm Confessions, St. Peter's 7-8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, Middle hall (first floor)
Thursday 19	7.30-8.30pm, Advent Retreat hour, St Peter's Parish room. All Welcome. Refreshments served
Friday 20	8am—8pm, St. Patrick's, Cowgate. Adoration and Confession
Sunday 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish



**Christmas sales of home produce at St. Peter's.** Homemade chutneys and preserves are excellent stocking fillers. Buy these, fresh scones and other home baking, before and after Sunday Mass **today**. All proceeds to SCIAF.

**Congratulations to St. Peter's 200 club winners** for November : Heidi Dunwoody (£25) and Ann Mulhern (£15)

**Congratulations John McHale** St. Columba's 100 club December winner. It's time to renew or join the 100 club at £20 per year, all money goes to our sister parish Mbara in Zimbabwe. Please pay Agnes Watson or any member of the Justice and Peace group and remember to give your name.

**SCIAF 'Real gifts' catalogues** at the back of St Columba's Church. By buying these gifts you'll be supporting people struggling to exist in the poorest parts of the world.

**Merry Christmas from all at SCIAF:** The time of Advent often brings with it a time of reflection. We would like to extend our gratitude of our supporters in Parishes across Scotland for their unwavering support of SCIAF throughout the year. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, our King, we pray that your Christmas surrounded by love, light, joy, and peace and wish you all the best for 2025.

**Newington Churches Together Carols in Nicolson Square, today Sunday 15 December, 1pm.** Please leave the knitted Angels and mince pies at back of St. Columba's Church. These will be distributed to children at the service.

**St Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, today 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.

**St Columba's Justice and Peace Group Monthly meeting Monday 16 December, 7pm, GP room.** This is an open meeting and all Parishioners are welcome.

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

**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. Refreshments available.

**Friday 20 December 8am - 8pm, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Cowgate.** Prepare your hearts for our Saviours coming with **Adoration and Confessions** which will be available throughout the day.

**Feast of the Holy Innocents, 28 December** 12noon Mass, Gillis Centre. Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate this Feast. Refreshments and social afterwards. Registration helpful for catering: <https://bit.ly/archprolifeevents>

**Used stamps, of which we may have more at this time of year** - there's a box at the back of St Columba's and St. Peter's for St Patrick's Missionary Society Scotland. Please leave half an inch of envelope around each stamp.

**Book donations needed for May 2025 Holy Corner book sale,** raising funds for Christian Aid. Donations to Morningside Parish Church **from Wednesday 22 January** (for details see poster at back of Church).

**SPUC Youth Conference: 21-23 Feb 2025** – free places. An excellent event for young pro-lifers. The Archdiocese has free places available covering all fees and a bus (organised by SPUC) from Edinburgh to the event in England. Limited places available so apply early here: <https://forms.office.com/e/RkQ9KjzaDe>

**Help after abortion.** Abortion Recovery Care & Helpline (ARCH) helps anyone struggling after an abortion with counselling and supportive help. All services are provided confidentially, compassionately, without judgement and free of charge. Call the UK Helpline: 0345 603 8501, 7pm-10pm daily and 9am-5pm Mon-Fri or email [info@archtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@archtrust.org.uk)

In common with many places we now have **QR codes available for donations** to both Churches:

**St. Peter's:**



**St. Columba's**



## Christian contributions to peace in the Holy Land

His Eminence Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

During his recent visit to Scotland, hosted by the Scottish Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Patriarch Pizzaballa gave an informative address to a packed audience at the Gillis Centre on the situation in the Holy Land, the prospects for peace, and how Christians can contribute to peace and healing.

The Patriarch outlined the contrasting perspectives of Israelis and Palestinians regarding the current conflict, and described the desperate humanitarian situation in Gaza, the stark economic and societal impact on the West Bank, and the fear felt by the Israelis.

**He explained** that although this armed conflict will come to an end, political and social conflict will continue and a true peace requires justice, healing and forgiveness.

**He showed** how Christians are contributing to that hope for true peace even now – with mosques and churches in Gaza co-operating at grass-roots level, with the tiny Christian Palestinian population of 1% enabling meetings between Jews and Muslims, and with the Catholic Church entrusted to deliver vital aid supplies in north Gaza.

**And he asked us to do 3 things:**

1. to support the Christian community and fraternity between the communities by bravely coming on pilgrimage again as soon as the armed conflict ends
2. to pray for peace
3. and to be channels of peace, promoting justice, forgiveness and healing.

**Ruth Sinclair-Jones**, St. Columba's Justice and Peace Group

## The 'O' Antiphons

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold:

Each one highlights a title for the Messiah:

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom),
- O Adonai (O Lord),
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- O Clavis David (O Key of David)
- O Oriens (O Rising Sun)
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and
- O Emmanuel

An antiphon is a short verse that is used like a refrain, either repeated at points through another text or to begin and end it. Antiphons are often used in Christian worship, for example, during the singing of psalms.

It is also traditional for the Gospel Cantic at Morning, Evening and Night Prayer to have an antiphon said or sung at the beginning and the end. The Gospel cantic at Evening Prayer (also known as Vespers or Evensong) is the Magnificat, the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1.46-55).

The 'O Antiphons' are the antiphons that are said or sung before and after the Magnificat on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve (17-23 December). They all begin 'O...' hence their name. They are known by their Latin titles, for example, 'O Sapientia...', is 'O Wisdom...'

The antiphons use texts from the Bible, both Old and New Testament, that Christians understand to refer to Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. People who do not know the antiphons from Evening Prayer may well know them from the Advent hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

**Canon Kenneth Owens**

## Reflection

Joy is a blend of laughter and tears.  
It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages,  
knowing that big packages are few and far between.  
It's making the most of the present,  
enjoying what's at hand right now.  
Joy is love bubbling over into life.  
Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of peace, resides in our hearts.

