

The week ahead 16—23 February 2025




SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 15 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Week of the Year 6th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 16 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes Douglas Hunter
Monday 17 February	No Service		6th Week of the Year	
Tuesday 18 February	No Service	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	
Weds 19 February	No Service	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	
Thursday 20 February	No Service	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	
Friday 21 February	No Service	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	
Saturday 22 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	The Chair of St. Peter 7th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 23 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	7th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes

Confessions
St Peter's: Saturday 11am (during Adoration) and 4.30pm
St Columba's: Sunday before 6.30pm Mass
Adoration:
 St Peter's: Saturday 11am
 *No Confessions/Adoration 15 Feb or 16 Feb

Sunday's readings: page 139
First reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-8
Psalm: 1: 1-2, 3, 4, 6. R Psalm 40 (39)
Psalm response: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Scan to make donations


St Peter's **St. Columba's**

Would you like to know how to hear God's voice more clearly? Next course: **Tuesdays 7pm – 8.30/9pm, 25 Feb - 1 April 2025.**
 God's invitation to relationship is a six week online prayer course introducing you to ways of praying. Supporting you into a deeper prayer life through facilitators' input (trained spiritual directors with the Epiphany Group), guided prayer experience and sharing.
 This course is offered free by the Epiphany Group of Spiritual Directors. For information visit www.epiphanygroup.org.uk. To register email waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk. Flyers at the back of the church.
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 11 to 18 July, led by Archbishop Cushley.

The theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. All welcome. To read more about the theme you can download a document from the Lourdes Sanctuary. <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25>. Travel: Tangney Tours will provide the Travel Package and once it's ready and we'll signpost you to the details from this website.
The Scottish Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi—5 to 12 September 2025
 With four nights in Rome and three in Assisi. To register your interest, contact Jim McKelvie j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk or on 07957 847290.

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
Sixth Sunday of the Year —Year C
 16—23 February 2025

For this and the following two Sundays we will be reading from Luke's 'Sermon on the Plain' which parallels Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount'.
 Today's Gospel contains Luke's version of the beatitudes. The beatitudes echo the programme Jesus announced in the synagogue of Nazareth. Whereas Matthew has nine beatitudes, Luke has only four, with however four corresponding 'woes'.
 'Blessed are the poor... the hungry... the afflicted.'
 These beatitudes do not refer to three separate categories but to three aspects of the same distressful situation. One may ask: what merit is there in being poor, hungry, and afflicted? There is none. The 'blessedness' of the poor lies in the fact that God is their champion.
 The fourth beatitude was addressed to suffering and persecuted Christians. It was a way of encouraging them in the midst of the difficulties in which they were caught.
 When Jesus says 'blessed are you who are poor', he is not saying that poverty is a good thing in itself. Poverty is an evil. And when we see abject poverty it is very disturbing. He's pointing out the danger of riches. The rich placed their hope in riches. They build their Kingdom in this world. The Kingdom of God becomes remote and hazy. The poor on the other hand are blessed because they placed their hope in God. Only God can satisfy the longings of our hearts.
 When he says 'blessed are you who are hungry now', he is not saying that physical hunger is a good thing. Hunger is a great evil, and its effects are shocking. When he met hungry people he fed them. And he told us that we should do the same.
 He is saying that a human being doesn't live on bread alone.
 There is a kind of hunger that is good - a hunger for the food that God gives. Those who hunger for this food are truly blessed - their hunger will be satisfied. Only God can fill our emptiness. Only God can satisfy the hunger of our hearts.
Flor McCarthy SDB



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 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 16 February	Sixth Sunday of the Year—Year C Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Monday 17—Friday 21	No services
Monday 17	7pm St. Columba's Justice and Peace Group: Monthly meeting, GP room 7.30pm RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 18	As no Mass today there will be no teas and coffees at St. Columba's
Sunday 23	Seventh Sunday of the Year—Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion, First Confession and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



* For Pastoral emergencies whilst Canon Kenneth is away please contact the Jesuits, Sacred Heart Lauriston on 07935 855 175.

Congratulations to Marcus James Peter Downes, Baptised on Saturday 15 February at St. Peter's.

Congratulations to Conal Shirazi winner of the St. Columba's 100 Club.

New Season's Marmalade. A sale of Organic Seville Orange Marmalade (and also some tangy Lemon and Lime Marmalade) at St. Peter's, before/after the **Vigil Mass on Saturday 15 February and Sunday Mass on 16 February**. All proceeds to the Parish SCIAF Project.

St. Columba's Justice and Peace Group: Monthly meeting in the GP room **Monday 17 February, 7pm**. This is an open meeting and all Parishioners are welcome.

Canon Kenneth is away from Friday 14 February returning Saturday 22 Feb for Confessions, Adoration and 12noon Mass. Arrangements for services during this period are as follows:

- One of the Jesuit Father's from Sacred Heart will celebrate the Vigil Mass on Saturday 15 February and the three Masses on Sunday 16 February.
- There will be no Confession on Sunday 16 February.
- There'll be no services Monday 17 - Friday 21 February inclusive.
- For Pastoral emergencies whilst Canon Kenneth is away please contact the Jesuits, Sacred Heart, Lauriston on 07935 855 175.

Hope Eternal: a concert of beautiful choral music by the Schola Cantorum of St Mary's Cathedral, takes place at Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael Church, Musselburgh, on **Monday 17 February** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 / £8 concession, available via Eventbrite or on the door.

Saturday 22 February, 1 - 4pm: Cleaning of St. Columba's Church. It will be fun with a tea break for socialising.

Children's liturgy is on **every Sunday throughout the school term time**. All primary school age children are welcome. Pre school children are also welcome if they feel happy to come on their own with the other children. We gather for around 10 minutes, we enjoy listening to the Gospel, singing and doing some colouring in. **We look forward to welcoming you as we restart after our break on 23 February** —The Children's Liturgy team St. Peter's.

Wednesday 26 February, 7pm—second meeting this year of our Catholic Teens Group (for P7- S4). Meeting monthly (7-8.30pm last Wednesday of the month) at St. Columba's Hall to have fun and learn more about our faith. A good number of young parishioners joined last year. If you're interested in coming ask your parent/guardian to register interest emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Aid to the Church in Need Scottish Catholic Conference 'Courage to Be Catholic' **Saturday 29 March 2025**, 09.30-4pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Mass 5pm at St. Aloysius. Register on trybooking.com. Contact Scotland@acnuk.org 01698 337 470.

The Beginning experience are holding a weekend for those suffering bereavement through divorce, separation or widowhood **4- 6 April 2025** at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. Contact Louise (07926 571 004 or louisep398@gmail.com) for details. Applications must be returned by **21 March**.

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP), at St. Peter's, would like to thank all Parishioners for their prayers and financial support over the past year. If any Parishioners know of anyone who would like a food parcel, a top up with their gas/electric meters or who would benefit from any support from the SSVP, please speak with a member or contact us through our details on the Parish website. Thank you.

Pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela

I have had two opportunities, one with a Parish Youth Group in 2008. The other in 2010 with an international group of students from seven different countries.

The Youth Group were essentially a fast group of teenage boys and a slow group of others bringing up the rear. After having completed the set number of kilometres for the day the Youth Group enjoyed a variety of activities including swimming, canoeing and playing football.

We had Mass each evening and an opportunity to share thoughts on the day followed by a great Spanish meal!

The university group were much more able to take in the beautiful Galician countryside, to meet pilgrims from all over the world and to stay in the hostels that are along the way.

The Camino is a very personal journey and each of these young people had their own story to tell. Arriving at the Cathedral in Compostela were pilgrims that had been on the road for months. Others came by bike, others still by horse back. Much merriment and celebration were had in the square in front of the Cathedral.

The highlight for me was being at the Pilgrims Mass in the Cathedral. It is celebrated every day and, with the Youth Group, we were there for the National Feast Day of Spain, the feast of St James, in the presence of the King and Queen of Spain.

On the second occasion it was a much more low key affair but I did get to voice the Eucharist Prayer in English and see the magnificent thurible that takes eight people to swing.

Next to me on the sanctuary was a Polish priest taking a video of the thurible so I joined him in recording such a great feat. You can imagine what my students said to me when I came off the altar. They had been told not to

take videos of it, so I was suitably reprimanded.

Is the Camino on your bucket list?

You can start at the Tour St. Jacques in Paris. You can start in St Jean Pied de Port in the Pyrenees. Or, like us you can start at Sarra which is 122 kilometres and enables you to receive a Pilgrim's certificate known as a Compostela.

Canon Kenneth



Prayer/Reflection

Those who trust in God are like a tree planted by the waterside.
Such a tree has no worries in time of drought;
its foliage stays green,
and it never ceases to bear fruit.

Lord, give us the kind of trust in you
that will sustain us in times of difficulty,
that will make our lives fruitful,
and that will keep our hope unfading.

