

The week ahead 13—20 April 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 12 April Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Week of Lent Palm Sunday of Passion of the Lord	Intentions of Fr. Sean Bradley
Sunday 13 April	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Palm Sunday of Passion of the Lord	Noel Valerio Special intention
Monday 14 April	No Service		Weekday in Holy Week	
Tuesday 15 April	St Columba's	9.30am	Weekday in Holy Week	Peter Munro RIP
Weds 16 April	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday in Holy Week	Rita Melon RIP
Thursday 17 April	St Columba's St Peter's	7pm 7pm	Thursday of the Lord's Supper	
Friday 18 April	St Columba's St Peter's	3pm 3pm	Friday of the Passion of the Lord	
Saturday 19 April Vigil	St Columba's St Peter's	8pm 8pm	Holy Saturday at Tomb of Christ Easter Vigil in the Holy Night	
Sunday 20 April	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	Ros Macaskill

Confessions (usual times)
St Peter's: Saturday 11am (during Adoration) and 4.30pm
St Columba's: Sunday before 6.30pm Mass
 *Extra Confession at St. Peter's Weds 16 April 6-7pm
 *No Confession at St. Peter's Saturday 19 April 11am or 4.30pm and no evening Confession at St. Columba's Sunday 20 April

Sunday's readings: page 190
First reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm: 22 (21):8-9 17-18a 19-20 23-24 R2a
Psalm response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Second reading: Philippians 2: 6-11
Gospel: Luke 22: 14-23: 56

Scan to make donations
 St Peter's St. Columba's

The Chrism Mass: When the holy oils are blessed and the Sacred Chrism is consecrated. It is celebrated on Tuesday of Holy Week (**15 April, 7pm**) at St. Mary's Cathedral with Archbishop Cushley. Clergy will renew their priestly vows.
Archbishop Cushley encourages you to go to Confession in Lent as part of the spiritual preparation for Easter. Click here for Confession times at churches in the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh . [Confession times in the Archdiocese - Archdiocese of Edinburgh](#)
Pro-Life Rosary - Saturday 26 April. This prayerful event marks the anniversary of the implementation of the Abortion Act in April, 1968. It takes place at Sacred Heart Church, 26 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ.

God's invitation to relationship a FREE six week prayer course online to introduce people to ways of praying from the [Epiphany Group](#).

- Supporting you into a deeper prayer life through: facilitators' input (all trained spiritual directors with the [Epiphany Group](#)); guided prayer experience and sharing.
- Participants have said:
'I am forever changed due to the course and very excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer.'
- To register email invitation@epiphanygroup.org.uk
- Dates for next course: **Wednesdays 7- 8.30/9pm: 7, 14, 21, 28 May & 4, 11, June**
- Flyers at the back of the church.

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 at 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
Palm Sunday —Year C
 13—20 April 2025



We grow tired if we are told the same story over and over again. We tend to switch off. We may be listening, but we aren't hearing. The same thing can happen with the Passion Story. We have listened to it so many times that we no longer hear it. It has lost its power to shock, surprise, challenge and inspire us. Yet is any story so moving as that of the Passion of Jesus? Those who remain unmoved by it are not really hearing it.

- Listen to Oscar Wilde's description of it in his book: De Profundis.**
- The Last Supper with his close friends, one of whom had already sold him for 30 pieces of silver - the price paid to redeem a slave.
 - The anguish in the quiet, moonlit Olive Garden.
 - The false friend coming close to betray him with a kiss.
 - The friend who still believed in him, and on whom, as on a rock, he had hoped to build his church, denying him as the cock cried to the dawn.
 - His loneliness, his submission, his acceptance of everything.
 - The high priest rending his garment in anger.
 - Pilot, the Magistrate of Civil Justice, calling for water in the vain hope of cleansing himself of that stain of innocent blood that makes him the scarlet figure of history.
 - The coronation ceremony carried out, not with a crown of gold, but with a crown of thorns.
 - The crucifixion of the Innocent One before the eyes of his mother and of the disciple whom he loved.
 - The soldiers gambling and throwing dice for his clothes.
 - The terrible death by which he gave the world its most enduring symbol of self-sacrifice and love—the cross.
 - And his final burial in the tomb of a rich man, his body swathed in Egyptian linen with costly spices and perfumes, as though he was a king, son.
- This is the drama which the Church represents by means of dialogue, costume and gesture.**
Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

Tuesday of this week was my first formation day helping international clergy who have come to work in the diocese. There are around twenty from all over the world working here at the moment. The number continues to change because of changes in their visa status as well as new arrivals and departures. Yesterday the biggest group were from Nigeria but also from India, Sri Lanka, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

They had asked for an overview of the Catholic Church in Scotland. I offered them twenty pictures covering 1500 years of the Church here. Starting with the arrival of St Ninian at Whithorn in 397 and finishing with the Papal Visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982. A lively discussion took place afterwards.

The second speaker was Fr. Basil Clarke. He spent his time helping them to understand the various different branches of the reformed church in our country. Also he had practical and personal stories of working in the local community. They enjoyed it very much and left with much to reflect on. Hopefully the next event will be a social where we can share food together.

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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 13 April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord —Year C Blessing of Palms at 11.30 in the Courtyard, St. Peter's Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish
Tuesday 15	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 16	6-7pm Confessions St. Peter's
Holy Thursday 17	The Triduum 07.45-8am Prayer breakfast service, Newington Trinity, followed by breakfast. All welcome 7pm Mass St Columba's - with the washing of the feet (Fr Andrew Brookes OP) Watching at the Altar of Repose until 9pm 7pm Mass St Peter's - with the washing of the feet Watching at the Altar of Repose until 9pm
Good Friday 18	3pm Liturgy of the Passion St Columba's (Fr Andrew Brookes OP) 3pm Liturgy of the Passion St Peter's
Holy Saturday 19	8pm Easter Vigil St Columba's (Fr Andrew Brookes OP) 8pm Easter Vigil St Peter's Note: no 12 noon Mass, Adoration or Confessions on Holy Saturday
Easter Sunday 20	9.30am Mass St Columba's 11.30am Mass St Peter's Note: no evening Confession or 6.30pm Mass in St Columba's Easter Sunday teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish

There will be **no RCIA on Monday 14 April.**

Triduum in St. Columba's.

Easter Sunday's newsletter will cover two weeks: 20 April - 4 May. Can all content providers please provide content for this newsletter by Wednesday 16 April close of day. Thank you.

Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April 2.50pm, St Peter's Church. Adoration, confessions and prayer. All welcome

Last weekend's sale at St. Peter's of home-made marmalade and home-baked Simnel Cakes raised **£271.50** for the Parish SCIAF Project. Thanks to all who purchased or donated and to Annie and Bruce for all your hard work.

St. Columba's - Notice Board and Leaflets . You'll see that we've de-cluttered the notice board and leaflet shelves at the back of our church and fitted a leaflet holder in the vestibule. We'll now regularly refresh the leaflets and notices so please do have a look on your way past to see if there's something of interest to you.

WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE With your support, a peaceful world is possible. In this final week of Lent, please continue to pray for the work of SCIAF – and use your WEE BOX to make BIG CHANGE

Congratulations to Mary Kowal on winning the St. Columba's 100 club.

Stations of the Cross. The final of the series of the Stations are this **Monday 14 April, 7.45pm** with Bishop Frank Dougan from the Diocese of Galloway. Start Easter Week with Catholics from across Scotland praying for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register: <https://bit.ly/Stations25>

SCIAF. New members urgently needed for the St. Peter's '200 Club' as we no longer have 200. Annual cost is only £12 with a monthly draw for prizes of £25 & £15 and an annual one for £50. Reminders for existing members are being distributed now. Contact Anne-Marie Douglas 445 4337 email amdhillaire@aol.com

Holy Thursday 17 April —Washing of the Feet. Men and women invited to sign up using the sheet at the back of both Churches.

Books! Books! Books! All the out-of-date Mass books at the back of St Peter's are going for recycling. If anyone would like a complete set of them please speak to John Wastle at the back of church. We're also disposing of the books on the shelves in St Peter's Parish Room – novels etc. Please have a browse and take any you would like.

Canon Kenneth will be leading the Prayer Breakfast Service at Newington Trinity on Thursday **17 April, 7.45am - 8am** followed by breakfast. All welcome.

Appealing for trainers and clothing (including socks, underwear) for young men aged 18—36years. Please leave at back of Church at St. Peter and St. Columba's.

Thank you to Fr. Andrew Brookes OP, from St. Albert's Chaplaincy, who has kindly agreed to celebrate the Easter

HOLY WEEK

Passion

In Holy Week we read the passion narrative twice. Once on Palm Sunday from the synoptic gospels (this year Luke) and on Good Friday from John.

Over time there have been many different representations of the passion narrative in song, music and drama. In her liturgy the Church invites us to be participants in the unfolding drama - not bystanders.

One good way of praying and reflecting on the passion is to use the Ignatian method of imaginative prayer. To become explicitly a character in the gospel story and through that character to gain new insight into the event thus giving a deeper engagement with the message of the passion.

Death

It seems perfectly natural that the shock of the crucifixion and death of Jesus meant that his followers disappeared. We know that when we have the experience of a sudden death our own lives are turned upside down.

Yet in order for the early Christian community to grow it needed to go through the physical separation from Jesus so that there could be the birth of a new reality of the celebrating the memorial meal and a new way of living.

It took time for that reality to be established in the early years of the community in Jerusalem.

Resurrection

In all the resurrection narratives it is morning, light and the absence of Jesus' body that dominate the drama.

And so in the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil Jesus is called "Christ our Morning Star." The deeper implications of the resurrection is only fully understood by the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to the disciples.

In the early Christian community it is only when they start to try to live out the message of the resurrection that a better appreciation of what Jesus taught and did are able to be assimilated.

Perhaps that is our biggest challenge as modern day Christians that we need to live out Christianity and reflect more deeply on it so that we are able to appreciate the great gift we have been given.



Joan Chittister, *The monastery of the heart.* An invitation to a meaningful life, SPCK, London 2011

Canon Kenneth offers a short insight into the six topics that helps us understand the rule of St. Benedict. These are to encourage you to read the reflections and Canon Kenneth offers three questions for meditation.

Week 6: Our spiritual growth

- Humility- a document on spiritual development - its cornerstone principle requires the acceptance of our earthiness the embrace of our humanity.
- We keep the reverence of God always before our eyes and never forget it.
- To be wholly spiritual we must be wholly human.
- We spend ourselves making the world as beautiful as God, the Artist, the Word meant it to be.

- Good zeal. Practiced with fervent love

Benedictine values

- Community
- Prayer
- Stewardship
- Equality
- Stability
- Conversion
- Peace

All make for communities of love

For meditation

- Have I grown spiritually this Lent?
- What appeals to me about Benedictine spirituality?
- Name three insights you have gained through the journey of Lent this year.

For personal reflection and communal action

Sixth week of Lent

The Holy Week offers an unique opportunity to consider my own consumption habits. Do I purchase goods that sustain labour exploitation? How can I commit myself to promote human dignity?

If the human family wishes to stamp out Human Trafficking (HT), society itself will have to change. In order to bring HT to an end, all people will need to simplify their needs, control their habits, rein in their appetites. "Simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become a part of everyday life, lest all suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few," and this "implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures.

Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking 17