

The week ahead 23 - 30 November 2025



SCAN ME

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 22 November	St Peter's	12 noon	St. Cecilia	The intentions of Anne-Marie and Bill Douglas
Vigil	St Peter's	5.30pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe	Giuseppe & Gianna Picciotto RIP
Sunday 23 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe	People of the Parishes
Monday 24 November	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Andrew Dung Lac & Companions	Jim Gray RIP
Tuesday 25 November	St Columba's	9.30am	34th week of the Year	Anne Noonan RIP
Wednesday 26 November	St Peter's	9.30am	34th week of the Year	Dennis Dimney RIP
Thursday 27 November	St Columba's	9.30am	34th week of the Year	Holy Souls
Friday 28 November	St Peter's	9.30am	34th week of the Year	Duncan MacPherson RIP
Saturday 29 November	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	34th week of the Year 1st Sunday of Advent	Heather Bremner RIP
Sunday 30 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes Thomas Douthart (Tommy) RIP, 2nd Anniversary

Confessions:

St Peter's: Saturday 11-11.45am (during Adoration) and 4.30-5.15pm.

St Columba's: Sunday 6-6.15pm

Adoration: St Peter's: Saturday 11am

Sunday 23 November readings: page 167

First reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3

Psalm: 122 (121) 1-2, 4-5, Rcf.1

Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord

Second reading: Colossians 1: 12-20

Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43

Rediscovering Wonder: Online Reflection Series for Advent. Starts 28 November

- £25/£30 with printed booklet.
- With all life throws at us, it can be hard to hold on to a sense of wonder but the Christmas story is full of surprises, amazing events which touch ordinary lives, from a sky of angels to a newborn baby. These Advent Reflections are an invitation to rediscover wonder and what it has to teach us.
- Includes audio reflection for each week of Advent, and material to read/ponder at own pace. Material is in an attractive booklet. For more information/to book, visit <https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/rediscovering-wonder/> or email info@heartinpilgrimage.org.uk.
- Postcards at the back of the church.

Star of Wonder: A Quiet Day for Advent: Saturday 29

November, 10.00am - 3.30pm, St Columba's by the Castle, Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh.

- Cost £35 (£25 concession, or pay what you can) includes lunch, coffee and cake
- The coming of Christ in the world was heralded by a star, a pin-prick of light in a dark sky, so easy to miss. Sometimes, to catch the good news, we need to stop, stand still, look up and wonder. The day draws on a mix

of reflective approaches and creative material incl. art, poetry, music, and includes guided reflections and individual quiet time. For information/to book visit <https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/star-of-wonder/> or email info@heartinpilgrimage.org.uk

- Postcards at the back of the church.

Saturday 6 December Advent Walking Retreat. A chance to walk, talk, and meditate on the coming of Christmas.

- Based on Mass Readings and Gospel message of the 2nd Sunday in Advent, the walk will start in Culross in Fife (birthplace of St Mungo) and finish at the National Shrine of St Margaret in Dunfermline.
- There'll be an opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration with Benediction followed by 5.30pm Mass. The 2nd Sunday of Advent is a reminder that Advent is a period of both joyful anticipation for Christmas and a time for serious reflection on one's life and calls people to open their hearts to Jesus.

To register for this free event contact Deacon Pat Carrigan at obl.columba@gmail.com

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



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 julietmmackellaig@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
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe —Year C
23 - 30 November 2025

Here we see how the inscription over the cross, and all those who witnessed the crucifixion (the crowd, the rulers, the soldiers and the thieves) unwittingly proclaim the true identity of Jesus.

The irony is that the title, which are pronounced in mockery, are true: Jesus is both messiah and king.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

Thanks to all who attended the General Meeting of St. Columba's Parish Pastoral Council. Here are the suggestions that were made:

- Quiz night
- Christmas Craft Workshop
- Ceilidh
- Fundraising/Events Committee
- Family Foundation Initiative
- Burns Night
- All Saints party, build on this with other parishes and look at the international traditions like Carnivale for example
- Afternoon social e.g. afternoon tea
- Celebration of family parties for birthdays and the like
- Water into wine evening (ask the Bowling Club!)
- St. Valentine's dance
- Children's entertainer

These will now be worked up into a plan at the next St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council in December.

It is hoped to have a General Meeting of St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council in 2026.

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

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

Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji

FrDaniel.Magaji@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502

St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterrcchurchedinburgh.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 23	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe —Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 24	5pm, Baptism, Selva Thornton, St. Columba's 7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 25	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 26	7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's hall
Friday 28	7pm, St. Andrew's Day social, St. Peter's Parish room
Sunday 30	1st Sunday of Advent —Year C Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



Upcoming events in our Parishes ...

Saturday 6 December	After 12noon Mass, the Outreach Alternativity lunch: St. Peter's
Sunday 14 December	2-4pm Nativity Play and Carols, St. Columba's
Saturday 20 December	Pre-Christmas drinks and nibbles after 5.30 Mass, St. Peter's, Parish room

Congratulations to Natan Gungui Valente, Baptised last Sunday at St. Peter's.

Fresh Start: Following Biddy Kelly's talk and Pop-up this week, remember to bring in your foreign and/or obsolete money. You can put it in the used stamp box.

Today and next Sunday: November Real Advent calendars, at £5 are available at tea & coffees after 9.30am Mass, St Columba's: or email paul_atkin@outlook.com. The UK's only Fairtrade Advent calendar: 25 Festive Fairtrade chocolates, 24 page Christmas activity book, supports charitable causes. A fun way for parents, grandparents, Godparents to share the Christmas story.

SCIAF Christmas cards will be on sale again **today** at St. Peter's after 11.30 Mass.

Wednesday 26 November, 7pm is the next meeting of our **Catholic Teens Group** (for P7- S4). Meeting monthly 7-8.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month at St. Columba's Hall to have fun and learn more about our faith. Ask your parent/guardian to register interest, emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Friday 28 November, 7pm, St. Peter's Parish Social, Parish room. Please sign up and indicate a dish you can bring. It would be good to have some songs, poems and recitations as well as music.

Next **Sunday, 30 November**, is the **first Sunday of Advent** when we'll light the Advent wreath.

St. Andrew's feast day will be celebrated on **Monday 1 December**.

St. Andrew's Vespers, St. Columba's. Monday 1 December, 6.30pm. Service followed by a cup of tea in the GP room.

The Outreach Alternativity lunch: Saturday 6 December immediately after 12noon Mass at St. Peter's. Tickets on sale at £10. Please join us—a chance to have an enjoyable meal while reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas sale of home-made preserves at St. Peter's. Before/after Vigil and Sunday Masses **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December**. Homemade chutneys, marmalade and jams make excellent stocking fillers. All proceeds to Parish SCIAF Project.

Christmas at the historic Greyfriars, Saturday 13 December, 7:30pm. The Edinburgh Singers' traditional evening of Christmas Carols and seasonal song, with organ and trumpet, mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £20/£14, children under 12 free, from www.thequeenshall.net

Calling all budding actors. St. Columba's is staging a **Nativity play during the Carol Party on Sunday 14 December** in St. Columba's Church Hall 2-4pm. If your child would like to take part, please email Sister Mirjam, **before 24 November**, at edin@thework-fso.org, mentioning name/age of your child. **Rehearsals** in the church hall: Sundays 30 November and 7 December 10.30-11.15am and Friday 12 December at 3.30pm.

100 Club for Zimbabwe. We had a great uptake for this in 2025 and look to do even better next year. Please pay your £20 per number in cash to Agnes or Steph or by bank transfer to: Sort Code 83 19 19, a/c 00103317, a/c name St. Columba's Justice and Peace group 100 club. Please email if you're doing this so we that don't hassle you (agnesannwatson@gmail.com, steph_mitchell@hotmail.co.uk)

We need '**knitted angels**' to give to children during 'Newington Churches Together choral singing' at Nicolson Square, **Sunday 14 December, 1pm**. Angel patterns will be at back of both Churches. Please help.

Parish news continued overleaf...

Summary of the recent talk at St. Columba's by Biddy Kelly, MD Fresh Start

For several years at St. Columba's and St. Peter's we have been collecting for the charity Fresh Start and on Saturday 18 October Biddy Kelly gave a talk in St. Columba's hall to update and inspire us on their work.

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh charity concentrating on supporting previously homeless people who have just been given their own place to live, and helping them to turn it into a home.

For the past 25 years since Fresh Start began as an initiative by a group of people from Edinburgh's churches, individuals, organisations and parishes have collected bed linen, cooking utensils, cleaning products and toiletries to be taken to the depot in Ferry Road.

There, an army of volunteers sort the donations and put together Starter Packs of essentials to help the new householders settle in. In the past year **18,589** Starter Packs were delivered, with love, care, dignity and compassion.

Fresh Start has also broadened its engagement with those facing homelessness and poverty. The chief immediate cause of homelessness in Edinburgh is the breakdown of family relationships, and Fresh Start helps people to rebuild their lives with people they can trust, and works alongside other charities to address underlying issues of poverty and inequality.

Fresh Rooms is a decorating service involving hundreds of Fresh Start volunteers, and **126** households benefited from their work last year to personalise their new homes.

Fresh Start Pantry and Shop is another initiative, offering food at affordable prices to help people eat well in their new homes. In the last year, **293** families used this service, ensuring **245** children could be well fed.

Many people who have been homeless do not know how to cook and the **Fresh Start Kitchen** has been established to teach individuals how to cook at home. They also provide a

large number of meals which are distributed to the community.

Growing Spaces is the name given to their community garden services which is another new initiative, providing social contact as well as food for the Pantry.

Finally Fresh Start offers **advice, support and information** at the community hub in Pilton. Specialist advice and support are offered there by Fresh Start and other community organisations, and English classes are available for those who need them, for example victims of trafficking.

All this activity relies on the help of many volunteers - painters, cooks, gardeners, teachers, among others.

Volunteering is a good way to support Fresh Start.

Meanwhile we continue to donate household items for the **Starter Packs**.

With Christmas approaching cash donations are invited for the **'Cookers for Christmas' appeal**.

Boxes for donations of items for Starter Packs are situated at the back of both churches.

A list of household and food items wanted, and a link for making online cash donations, are available on the Fresh Start website: <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/donate>



Fresh start are collecting for Festive Fare for food hampers for needy families **during November**. Thank you to all who donated festive goodies over the last couple of weeks.

If you'd like to donate it's non-perishable items such as mince pies; Christmas cake; chocolates: coins, selection boxes, Advent calendars; biscuits, crackers; crisps, nuts, chutney, jam; non-alcoholic fizzy drinks; tea, coffee, hot

chocolate; Christmas crackers. Donations can be left in the box at rear of both Churches.

Fresh start always need donations of beddings, kitchen items, food and cash. Small items to be left at back of the Churches and give cash in the sacristy.

Parish news continued...

Volunteers urgently needed for the St. Peter's altar linen laundry team (which shortly will be reduced to just two). Please contact Anne Donnelly if you can help: annedonnelly57@gmail.com; mobile 07963 666035. Duties are not onerous and full instruction will be given.

This Advent we will again endeavour to raise £1200 to provide the gift of "Water for a Village". Hard though it may be to believe there are still many villages in the world where there is no clean water. Real gifts are a great present for everyone. There is a wide choice from as little

as £9 something for everyone and it "always fits". Details on SCIAF website.

St. Cuthbert's Way: St Peter's & St. Columba's Parish Pilgrimage. A group walk from Melrose to Holy Island over 2 weekends **Autumn 2026**. Pre-booked Minibus Saturday am and Sunday pm. Accommodation arranged for Saturday night near Harestanes and Wooler. If interested email Alex.a1bennett@hotmail.com. Leaflets at back of Church.

Donations needed of clothing, trainers/shoes and backpack bags for refugee men. Please leave at back of both Churches.