





Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 27 December Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John Feast of the Holy Family	Peter Ellis RIP DM: Jim Gray RIP
Sunday 28 December	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Feast of the Holy Family	KO: Mr David Gallegos RIP  People of the Parishes
Monday 29 December	St Peter's	9.30am	Christmas Octave	Jim Gray RIP
Tuesday 30 December	St Columba's	9.30am	Christmas Octave	Hugh McCrorey
Wednesday 31 December	St Peter's	9.30am	Christmas Octave	John Cairns RIP
Thursday 1 January 2026	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	Mary Mother of God	KO: Special intention DM: Guiseppe and Gianna Picciotto RIP
Friday 2 January	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen	KO: Charles Brien RIP DM: Intentions Tony O'Brien
Saturday 3 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Weekday of Christmas The Epiphany of the Lord	DM: Intentions Tony O'Brien
Sunday 4 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Epiphany of the Lord	DM: Mr David Gallegos RIP KO: Jim Gray RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 5 January	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmas	Intentions Tony O'Brien
Tuesday 6 January	St Columba's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmas	Mr & Mrs Hugens-Geres (wedding anniversary)
Wednesday 7 January	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmas	Judy Mone RIP
Thursday 8 January	St Columba's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmas	Holy Souls
Friday 9 January	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday of Christmas	Intentions Cordner Family
Saturday 10 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Weekday of Christmas	Joe Dunn RIP
Sunday 11 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	The Baptism of the Lord	People of the Parishes Jim Gray RIP

<b>Confessions:</b>	<b>Sunday 28 December readings: p106</b>	<b>Sunday 4 January readings: p115</b>
<b>St Peter's:</b> Saturday 11-11.45am (during Adoration) and 4.30-5.15pm. <b>St Columba's:</b> Sunday 6-6.15pm	<b>First reading:</b> Sirach3: 2-6 12-14 <b>Psalm:</b> 128(127) : 1-2 3 4-5 R cf.1 <b>Response:</b> Blessed are all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways <b>Second reading:</b> Colossians 3: 12-21 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23	<b>First reading:</b> Isaiah 60: 1-6 <b>Psalm:</b> 72 (71) 1-2 7-8 10-11 12-13 R11 <b>Response:</b> All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you O Lord <b>Second reading:</b> Ephesians 3: 2-3a 5-6 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2: 1-12
<b>Adoration:</b> St Peter's: Saturday 11am		

<b>The Open Door - free taster of Day Sessions:</b> Friday 16 January/6 February 10.30am - 12.00noon Know someone who'd benefit please bring them along - there will be refreshments, nice biscuits and fun activities.  We're delivering services 5 days per week (Mon-Fri). Places available for anyone over 50 who'd benefit from both practical assistance and a chance to socialise. <b>Please get in touch</b> with Lynnette or Simon on 0131-447-9757, email us	on <a href="mailto:lynnette@theopoendoor.org.uk">lynnette@theopoendoor.org.uk</a> or drop in to talk with us at The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY	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](mailto:office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk) by Wednesday evening please. St Peter's website contact Juliet MacKellaig at [julietmmackellaig@gmail.com](mailto: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  
**Feast of the Holy Family —Year A**  
28 December 2025—11 January 2026

**Holy Family 28 December 2025**

The gospel story is coloured by the story of Moses in Egypt. Just as Moses had to be rescued from Pharoah, Jesus had to be rescued from Herod. The story also contains echoes of the Exodus. Matthew sees Jesus as reliving the history of his people.

Even though the evangelist's intentions are theoretical he does cast the Holy Family as displaced persons and homeless refugees.  
**Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

It is a privilege to celebrate my fourth Christmas here in St. Columba's and St. Peter's. Thanks to all who have helped to prepare the Churches and celebrate the liturgies. It was also good to see so many visitors with us for Christmas. Thanks for all the cards and gifts as well as good wishes and prayers. May 2026 be one with many blessings.

**Canon Kenneth Owens**

**A word of gratitude**

As I celebrate my first Christmas with you, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warmth, kindness and generosity you have shown me. From the very beginning, I have been deeply touched by your welcome to Scotland, your encouraging and thrilling messages, cards and memorable gifts that spoke volumes of your love and thoughtfulness.

Your hospitality has made this Christmas truly special and has helped me feel at home among you. I thank God for each one of you and for the beautiful spirit of faith and community that defines this parish.

May the joy, peace and hope of the newborn Christ fill your hearts and homes, and may the Lord richly bless you and your families now and always. With sincere thanks and prayers.

**Fr. Daniel Magaji**

**The Epiphany of the Lord 4 January 2026**

For Matthew, the story of the magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the good news of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection.

God revealed himself to the Jews through the scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Hence Matthew shows the Magi (who were Gentiles) receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox: the Jews who have the scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the scriptures, find and adore him.

**Flor McCarthy SDB**



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

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## This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 28 December	The Feast of the Holy Family—Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish 1pm, Baptism, Chloe Coulter Ogilvie, St. Peter's
Tuesday 30	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Thursday 1 January 2026	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 at St. Columba's
Friday 2	09.30 Mass St. Peter's (normal services resume)
Sunday 4	The Epiphany of the Lord —Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 5	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 6	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Sunday 11	Baptism of the Lord —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses we celebrate the Rite of Our Father* 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish



This newsletter covers 2 weeks, 28 December to 11 January 2026.

**Congratulations** to Ada Josephine Schweiger, Baptised Sunday 21 December at St. Columba's.

**Congratulations** to Sophia Marianna Andreas, Baptised Saturday 27 December at St. Peter's.

Donations for the **Newington Church's Together Food Bank**, collected on First Sunday: **Sunday 4 January 2026**. Please leave donations in box at the back of St. Columba's.

Next **Sunday 11 January** we celebrate the **\*Rite of Our Father** at 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. Children preparing for First Holy Communion will receive the prayer of the Our Father during their journey of growing in faith and their relationship with God.

The weekly **RCIA meetings** will recommence on **Monday 12 January 2026**, St. Peter's Parish room.

**Save the date: Laudato 'si**. Ten years after Pope Francis's great encyclical how are we doing and what has changed? **Kathleen Onori**, former Climate ambassador for SCIAF, will be addressing these questions and reminding us of the challenges thrown down by Pope Francis. **10.30am Saturday 17 January**, Middle Hall, St. Columba's, 10am for tea/coffee.

**Save the date: save the price of a coffee for January**. St. Peter's Parish Council has started a project to help vulnerable people in India, through our partner, the St. Agnes charitable foundation, who help the poorest Indian children living in some of the worst conditions. We aim to **raise £500 in January to pay school fees** for poor children (the St. Agnes foundation would provide the schooling).

£75 will cover a year's school fees and needs for one child. The average price of a coffee in Edinburgh is £3.50, 21 cups of coffee is equal to the fee for a school year. Could you pay the price of a coffee towards the school fees of a child in India or buy a jar of redcurrant jam or some cacti for your home? All this can be done **mid-January** (date to be announced soon) when St. Peter's Parish will have a charity stand for the donations and the sale of the jams and plants. We can't help everyone and solve all problems everywhere but maybe we can help fellow Catholics in a country which is not covered by large international organisations. See you in January at the charity stand.

**Book donations needed for Holy Corner book sale May 2026** - raising funds for Christian Aid. Donations to Morningside United Church, Holy Corner from Wednesday **14 January - Saturday 28 March 2026**. For details see poster at back of Church.

**Donations of warm clothing, coats and shoes etc.** for men and essential accessories and backpacks, suitcases. Please leave at back of St. Peter's and St. Columba's Church.

**100 Club for Zimbabwe**. A great uptake in 2025 and looking to do even better in 2026. Please pay £20 per number in cash to Agnes or Steph or by bank transfer: Sort Code 831919, a/c 00103317, a/c name St. Columba's Justice and Peace group 100 club. Please email if you're doing this so we don't hassle you [agnesannwatson@gmail.com](mailto:agnesannwatson@gmail.com), [steph\\_mitchell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steph_mitchell@hotmail.co.uk)

**New Diocesan Directory** on sale at back of both churches: special price £1.

## Some biblical reflections for the Solemnity of the Holy Family:

- **Respect for Parents:** Sirach 3:2-6 emphasises honouring and respecting parents. This respect strengthens family bonds and reflects God's commandment.
- **Compassion and Kindness:** Colossians 3:12-13 calls for compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. These virtues help maintain harmony and love within the family.
- **Forgiveness:** Colossians 3:13 urges families to forgive one another. Forgiveness heals relationships and brings peace to the household.
- **Love and Unity:** Colossians 3:14 speaks about love as the bond of perfection. Love holds the family together and fosters unity.
- **Teaching and Admonishing:** Colossians 3:16 encourages teaching and admonishing one another with wisdom. Sharing wisdom and guiding each other helps the family grow in faith and virtue.
- **Obedience and Understanding:** Luke 2:51 shows Jesus being obedient to Mary and Joseph. Obedience and understanding in the family build trust and respect among members.
- **Parental Responsibility:** Sirach 3:12-14 reminds parents of their duty to care for their children. Parents have a responsibility to nurture and guide their children in faith.

**Patience and Gentleness:** Colossians 3:21 warns fathers not to provoke their children. Patience and gentleness from parents foster a supportive and loving environment.

• **Prayer and Worship:** Luke 2:41-52 describes the Holy Family going to Jerusalem for the Passover. Regular prayer and worship together strengthen the family's relationship with God.

*Source Young Catholics*



## Reflections



### Feast of the Holy Family

Of all the influences upon us, the family is the greatest. Every family is a small community. The virtues that build and foster community are: Kindness, gentleness, humility, patience, mutual forgiveness, and love. These are not easy virtues to practice. But when practiced with consistency, The rewards are great in terms of peace and harmony in the home.

### Epiphany of the Lord

Jesus is truly the light of the world. His words have echoed down the centuries, bringing light to those in darkness, and hope to those in despair. And for two millennia his compassionate deeds Have illuminated the world. Lord keep us strong in faith, Fill our hearts with your love, And bring us to the glory of your promise.