

25 January - 1 February2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 24 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Francis De Sales 3rd Sunday of the Year	Intentions of Fr. Sean Bradley People of the Parishes
Sunday 25 January	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of the Year	DM: Helen and George Winter RIP KO: Intentions Jacqueline Heron- Douthart
Monday 26 January	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Timothy & St. Titus	Kathleen Dalyell
Tuesday 27 January	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week of the Year	KO: Nina McDonald RIP DM: Tom Johnson RIP
Wednesday 28 January	St Peter's	9.30am	St. Thomas Aquinas	KO: Thanksgiving Rodil Family January celebrations
Thursday 29 January	St Columba's	9.30am	3rd Week of the Year	
Friday 30 January	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of the Year	
Saturday 31 January Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. John Bosco 4th Sunday of the Year	Intentions Fr. Nicholas Hodgson
Sunday 1 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of the Year	

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 25 January readings: p127
First reading: Isaiah 9: 1b—4
Psalm: 27 (26): 1-4 13-14 R1a
Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17
Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23

Volunteers needed to join St. Peter's Children's Liturgy team. The Children's liturgy celebrates the gospel reading from a resource that allows the children to understand the reading at a younger level; we then have a very short discussion about it; followed by an activity (usually colouring in). New volunteers needed to join the team. No previous experience working with children required; the role is open to anyone over the age of 18, male or female. The only requirement is that all new leaders must join the PVG Scheme and attend a safeguarding training session (PVG and training session will be organised by our Parish Safeguarding co-ordinator). After that you'll receive induction and support from the team. We'd love to welcome new volunteers to our team. Please contact Aoife Palmer aoife_drew@yahoo.co.uk or 07816 876 746

God's invitation to relationship. Free 6 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; sharing. Participants say: *I am forever changed due to the course and very excited to grow deeper in my spirituality through prayer.*; *It has been eye-opening the different ways that we can pray and hear God's voice.*

Course dates: Mondays: 23 Feb (7-9pm); 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March (7-8.30pm). For info www.epiphanygroup.org.uk to register email: waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk Flyers at the back of the church.

St. Peter's website annual review. Could all who lead ministries at St. Peter's review their pages and get back to Juliet **asap** with changes: julietmmackellaig@gmail.com

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.

Edinburgh Singers Concert, 28 March, St. Cuthbert's, Lothian Rd. Missed out on tickets for the Edinburgh Singers' sellout Christmas concert? Tickets for their Spring concert are already on sale from The Queen's Hall. Some glorious music for choir and organ will be performed.



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
Third Sunday of the Year —Year A
25 January - 1 February 2026

- Jesus' ministry begins under the symbol of light. Matthew sees him as fulfilling Isaiah's wonderful prophecy. He joyfully introduces him as the great light that has dawned.
- Though Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, his mission will extend to the whole world.
- Jesus takes up the torch from the hand of John the Baptist who has been arrested.
- 'Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand', continues the Baptist's call to conversion.
- As the light of John wanes the light of Jesus dawns.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

Three Catholic Cardinals Issue Rare Joint Statement on the Morality of U.S. Foreign Policy, 19th January 2026.

Cardinal Blaise J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Robert McElroy, archbishop of Washington and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., archbishop of Newark today issued a strongly worded statement measuring U.S. foreign policy against the principles set forth by Pope Leo XIV in his Jan. 9, 2026 address to members of the diplomatic corps accredited the Holy See.

Commenting on the statement, Cardinal Cupich stated, "As pastors entrusted with the teaching of our people, we cannot stand by while decisions are made that condemn millions to lives trapped permanently at the edge of existence. Pope Leo has given us clear direction and we must apply his teachings to the conduct of our nation and its leaders."

Cardinal McElroy offered these thoughts: "Catholic social teaching testifies that when national interest narrowly conceived excludes the moral imperative of solidarity among nations and the dignity of the human person, it brings immense suffering to the world and a catastrophic assault on the just peace that benefits every nation and is the will of God." Further he noted, "In our current national debate about the fundamental contours of American foreign policy, we ignore this reality at the cost of our country's truest interests and the best traditions of this land that we love."

Cardinal Tobin remarked that, "Recent events, including participation in last week's consistory in Rome with Pope Leo and brother cardinals from across the world, convince me of the need to underscore the vision of Pope Leo for just and peaceful relations among nations. Otherwise, escalating threats and armed conflict risk destroying international relations and plunging the world into incalculable suffering."

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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 25 January	Third Sunday of the Year —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 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
Monday 26	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 27	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7pm, St. Columba's Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Parish room
Wednesday 28	7 - 8.30pm Catholic Teens Group, St. Columba's hall
Thursday 29	7 - 9pm, Our second 'Eat and Share' will take place in the St. Peter's Parish Room
Saturday 31	After 12noon and 5.30pm Vigil Mass: fundraising stall raising school fees for children in India*
Sunday 1 February	Fourth Sunday of the Year —Year A At 09.30 and 11.30 Masses today we celebrate the Rite of Illumination Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 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 - and at St. Peter's there will be a fundraising stall raising school fees for children in India*



The special collection for the **White Flower, SPUC Appeal** raised **£1205.55** (St. Columba's £647.17 and St. Peter's £558.38. Thank you for your generosity to support SPUCs vital work protecting life from conception to natural death.

The next **Teens Group** is on **Wednesday 28 January, 7pm** (for P7- S4). Join for games, chat and snacks the last Wednesday of the month at St. Columba's halls. New members from any school or Parish warmly welcomed. Ask your Parent/guardian to register your interest at teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk.

Our second 'Eat and Share': 7-9pm, this Thursday 29 January, St. Peter's Parish Room. Bring food to share; Fr. Daniel will lead a discussion on the topic of The Diocese of Bauchi and the differences between his experience in his own diocese and his first 4 months with us.

Next Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February. St. Peter's Parish Council has a project to help vulnerable people in India, through our partner, the St. Agnes charitable foundation, who help poorest Indian children living in some of the worst conditions. We aim to **raise £500 to pay school fees** (St. Agnes foundation will provide the schooling). £75 covers a year's school fees/needs for one child. The average price of a coffee in Edinburgh is £3.50, 21 cups equals 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 jam or cacti for your home? You can do this Saturday 31 January & Sunday 1 February at the St. Peter's Parish charity stand. We can't help everyone but maybe we can help fellow Catholics in a country which is not covered by large international organisations.

Next Sunday 1 February we celebrate the **Rite of Illumination** at the 09.30 and 11.30 Masses. In

preparation for 1st Confession/ Reconciliation the children promise, and their parents renew their promise, to keep the flame of the Faith - received at baptism - alive in their hearts.

St. Peter's will offer tea and coffee on Friday mornings after Mass, starting **Friday 6 February**. Please do join us.

Date for the diary: **St. Columba's, Saturday 21 February**, 10 for 10.30. The Rev. David Coleman, of Eco-Congregation Scotland, will be giving us some tips on how better to care for our common home as a congregation. Very much in line with what Pope Francis demanded of us in Laudato si' .

Date for the diary: Lenten lunch, **St. Peter's, Saturday 21 February after 12 noon Mass**, tickets £10 - available after Mass from 1 February. Proceeds to SCIAF.

Southside Faith care are offering **free drop-in digital sessions: help or advice on using mobile phone, laptop**
• Weekly sessions for 10 weeks from Tuesday 20 January: 1.30-3.30pm, Prestonfield Neighbourhood Centre, 63 Prestonfield Avenue, EH16 5EX
• Fortnightly sessions for 10 weeks from Thursday 22 January: 1.30-3.30pm, Morningside United Church, 15 Chamberlain Road, EH10 4DH
See poster at back of Church for more details.

Many thanks to St. Peter's Parishioners for the large amount of pre-used bedding, crockery and other items donated over the past few weeks for the Fresh Start charity. And to all Parishioners who continue to generously donate. Fresh start are an Edinburgh charity helping people, who've been homeless, to get established in new homes.

Parish news continued on page 4...

Concise History and Geography of the Catholic Diocese of Bauchi.

Fr. Daniel Magaji

The Catholic Diocese of Bauchi is situated in north-eastern Nigeria and historically covered the territories of Bauchi and Gombe States, with a vast combined land area of about 69,000 km², making it one of the largest dioceses in Nigeria by geographical size. The region lies within the Sudan-Sahel savannah belt, marked by open grasslands, wide plains, and seasonal rivers. It experiences a tropical climate with a long dry season from October to May, often intensified by the harmattan, and a short rainy season from June to September. Much of the diocese is rural, with scattered settlements and challenging terrain, factors that significantly shape pastoral outreach and missionary activity.

Although the total population of the area runs into about 9 million or more, Catholics remain a small minority, estimated at 70,000–100,000 faithful, roughly 1% of the population. This minority status has given the diocese a distinctly missionary character. Today, pastoral ministry is carried out by 63 diocesan priests, 4 military priests, 16 religious priests, 4 transitional deacons, 10 religious sisters, and 37 seminarians, alongside other pastoral agents.

Early Missionary Foundation From Edinburgh: A decisive turning point in the history of the local Church came with the Edinburgh Diocesan Mission to Bauchi in the early 1960s. Inspired by a strong missionary vision, Scottish priests, drawing on experience of a similar missionary zeal with SMA missionaries already present, laid firm foundations for evangelisation. Frs. Danny Simpson and McAllister (1964) were among the pioneers, later joined by other Scottish missionaries. Who were Fr. John McKinnon in 1964, Frs. Tony McNally John Gibbons and David McCann in 1965, Fr. John Agnew in 1966 and the last was Fr. Aidan Canon who came in 1976 and still the last to leave in 1991.

In 1965, Fr. Danny Simpson opened the strategically important but isolated mission of St. Giles, Gambar, an area difficult to access, especially during the rainy season. Missionary outreach soon expanded to the Tangale people around Billiri, where St. Andrew's Mission was established, opening a new horizon for evangelisation in the region.

Political Crisis and Missionary Trials: The mission developed amid intense national upheaval. In December 1965, the death of Fr. John Gibbons, parish priest of Bauchi, following a tragic road accident, deeply affected the young mission. Barely a month later, Nigeria was plunged into crisis by the January 1966 military coup, which claimed the lives of key national leaders and destabilised the country. These events disrupted missionary work and highlighted the fragility of Church structures in Northern Nigeria.

Growth through Religious Congregations: Despite these challenges, the mission expanded steadily. In 1973, the Ursuline Sisters Sr. Patricia Fogarty, Mary Teresa Ryan and Mary McCluskey from Edinburgh arrived in Bauchi, marking a major boost to healthcare and social outreach, particularly in Gambar, where a clinic was expanded and officially opened in 1974. Their dedicated service left a lasting legacy and inspired further missionary commitment beyond Bauchi.

In 1977, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus arrived in Bauchi town to strengthen Catholic education and parish ministry, consolidating the Church's presence in the urban centre.

Structural Challenge: By the mid-1970s, however, declining missionary vocations in Scotland led to a gradual withdrawal of personnel. The mission was eventually returned to the Diocese of Jos around 1981, but limited manpower hindered sustained growth across such a vast territory.

These challenges underscored the long-recognised need for a distinct ecclesiastical structure for Bauchi, capable of ensuring continuity, local leadership, and long-term pastoral commitment—an aspiration that ultimately shaped the emergence and identity of the Catholic Diocese of Bauchi as a missionary Church rooted in perseverance, service, and hope today.

Reflection

Christ is the light of the world.
His light was not lit once in Palestine and then extinguished.
It continues to shine for all who believe in him.
It is a persistent and defiant light that no darkness can overpower.

Lord Jesus, may your gentle and sure light guide us along the unfolding road,
so that we may walk with confidence
towards the light that never fades
and the life that never ends.

