

15–22 February 2026

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 14 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St. Cyril & St. Methodius 6th Sunday of the Year	
Sunday 15 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of the Year	Intentions of Archie Cairns People of the Parishes
Monday 16 February	St Peter's	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	Intentions of Douglas Hunter
Tuesday 17 February	St Columba's	9.30am	6th Week of the Year	
Wednesday 18 February	St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 7pm	Ash Wednesday	Professor Adrian Brady RIP
Thursday 19 February	St Columba's	9.30am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	
Friday 20 February	St Peter's	9.30am	Friday after Ash Weds	Clinton Dimney RIP
Saturday 21 February Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	Saturday after Ash Weds 1st Sunday of Lent	Intentions Fr. Nicholas Hodgson
Sunday 22 February	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes

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 15 February readings: p133

First reading: Sirach 15: 15-20

Psalm: 119 (118): 1-2 4-5 17-18 33-34 R1b

Response: **Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37



St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh
Sixth Sunday of the Year —Year A
15–22 February 2026

- In this section of the sermon on the mount Matthew illustrates Jesus' attitude to the law.
- Jesus does not dispense with the law but asks for a deeper observance of it. Every small part of it is to remain, but only as radically interpreted by Jesus.
- His justice far surpasses the legalistic approach of the scribes and Pharisees. For the Pharisees the letter of the law was everything.
- Jesus proposes new standards of goodness for his disciples. It is not enough for them to become better Pharisees
- **Flor McCarthy SDB**
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Father Daniel writes ...

Whilst we await the return of Canon Kenneth from his retreat, and hoping to hear more of his spiritual experiences over the coming weeks, I wanted to share with you my reflection on Pope Leo's declaration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi (10 January 2026 – 10 January 2027).

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. This sacred year invites the Church to renew her commitment to Gospel simplicity, peace, reconciliation, and care for creation in the spirit of the "Poor Man of Assisi."

During the Jubilee, the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence by making a pilgrimage to a Franciscan church or shrine (or any church dedicated to St Francis), receiving Confession and Holy Communion, praying for the Holy Father's intentions, and living with sincere detachment from sin. The sick and housebound may participate spiritually through prayer and offering their sufferings to God.

A special moment of grace will take place in Assisi from 22 February to 22 March 2026, when the body of St. Francis will be exposed for veneration.

To make this Jubilee spiritually memorable, consider:

- Practising concrete acts of mercy and forgiveness
- Simplifying your lifestyle in solidarity with the poor
- Caring intentionally for creation
- Praying the "Prayer of St Francis" regularly in your family
- Making a parish or personal pilgrimage during the year

May this Jubilee renew in us the joy of living the Gospel with humility, courage, and peace.

God's invitation to relationship
An introduction to Ways of Praying

EPIPHANY GROUP
rooted in the Ignatian tradition

A short prayer course on Zoom to support people into a deeper prayer life through tutors' input guided prayer experience & sharing

Mondays 7- 8.30pm 23 Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March

To register: waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk www.epiphanygroup.org.uk

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 information www.epiphanygroup.org.uk to register email: waysofpraying@epiphanygroup.org.uk

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

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens

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Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji

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St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeteredinburgh.org.uk

St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbascedinbhu.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@stcolumbascedinbhu.org.uk

St. Columba's Hall hire:

James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 15 February	Sixth Sunday of the Year —Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish
Monday 16	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room 7pm, Justice and Peace monthly meeting. Church room. All welcome.
Tuesday 17	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 18	Ash Wednesday , day of Fast and Abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes: 09.30 St. Peter's, 7pm St. Columba's. <u>No 11am School Mass.</u>
Friday 20	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Saturday 21	10/10.30. Talk from Rev. David Coleman, Eco-Congregation Scotland, St. Columba's Middle hall After 12 noon Mass, Lenten Lunch for SCIAF, St. Peter's Parish room
Sunday 22	First Sunday of Lent —Year A Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish

Canon Kenneth is away - returning Tuesday 17 February.

Congratulations to Harry Magennis, Baptised on Saturday 14 February at St. Peter's.

Justice and Peace monthly meeting Monday 16 February, 7pm in the Church room. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome - especially prospective new members.

Ash Wednesday, 18 February, a day of Fast and Abstinence. Masses and distribution of ashes will take place at 09.30 in St. Peter's and 7pm St. in Columba's. There is no 11am St. Peter's School Mass as it is the school mid-term break.

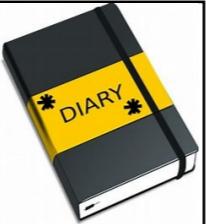
Ash Wednesday, 18 February, SCIAF launches the WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Appeal. This year's Lent Appeal focuses on the country of Ethiopia. Water is life. Yet, for many, clean water is dangerously scarce. Conflict, climate change, and deep aid cuts are driving this devastating water crisis, reversing decades of progress and leaving millions at risk. This Lent, let hope flow and use your WEE BOX to help bring clean water, dignity, and opportunity to those who need it most. To find out more please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

St. Peter's will offer tea and coffee on Friday mornings after Mass. Please join us this coming Friday - we would love to meet both visitors to the parish and parishioners.

Towards an Eco Congregation, **Justice and Peace talk Saturday 21 February, 10am**, St. Columba's Middle Hall. Rev. David Coleman is a Minister with the United Reformed Church and Environmental Chaplin for Eco Congregation, a charity supported by a group of Scottish Churches. He will update us on the work of this charity, resources available for parishes and how we can get more involved. A way for us all to embrace the spirit of Laudato si'.

Lenten lunch, St. Peter's, Saturday 21 February after 12 noon Mass. Tickets £10, available after Mass. Proceeds to SCIAF.

Remembering service: a prayer service for those who've suffered the loss of a child, from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, together with those who wish to come in love and support, to have time in quiet surroundings to fully recognise their loss and help with healing. Ecumenical and open to all. **Sunday 22 February 5pm, St. John the Baptist RC Church, Corstorphine**, 37 St. Ninian's Road, Edinburgh EH12 8AL.



Composition and History of Matthew's Gospel:

- **Attributed Author:**
 - Matthew was a tax collector, one of the twelve apostles (see Matt 9:9; 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13).
 - Although not all the apostles could read and write, tax collectors like Matthew certainly could.
 - The apostle Matthew himself may have written an early collection of Jesus' sayings in Hebrew or Aramaic, but probably not the full 28-chapter Gospel written in Greek as found in the New Testament (the "canonical Gospel").
- **Actual Author:**
 - An anonymous second-generation Jewish-Christian teacher used various sources (inc. Matthew's writing?) to create what we call the Gospel according to Matthew.
 - This author was a trained "scribe" (cf. Matt 13:52), very familiar with the Hebrew Bible and fluent in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
 - Just as for the other Gospels, the title "Gospel according to Matthew" was not added to the text until the second century.
- **Original Readers / Intended Audience:**
 - Mostly Jews who had come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfilment of biblical prophecies.
 - Matthew teaches them more about the significance of Jesus, but without abandoning their Jewish heritage (Matt 5:17-20).
 - Matthew challenges them to put their faith into action (not just words, but also deeds).
 - Matthew's community was evidently opposed to/by the Pharisees (Jewish leaders who denied that Jesus was Messiah).
- **Date of Composition:**
 - For many centuries, most people thought Matthew was the oldest of the four Gospels, but most scholars today believe that Mark was first.
 - The canonical Gospel of Matthew was probably not finalized until the late 70's or 80's of the first century, although it incorporates older sources.
 - Its main sources are the Old Testament, the Gospel of Mark, the Q-Document, and other oral or written material about Jesus.
 - The final composition of Matthew was almost certainly after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70 (see Matt 21:41; 22:7; 24:15-16)
- **Place of Composition:**
 - Possibly in Palestine, but more probably in or around the city of Antioch, the capital of the Roman province of Syria.
 - An influential early Christian community was there: "it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians" (Acts 11:26b).
 - Early in the 2nd century already, Bishop Ignatius of Antioch (died ca. 110 AD) quotes passages from Matthew's Gospel.

This is material researched by Rev. Felix Just SJ at <http://catholic-resources.org>

A prayer for the end of the day

Grant, oh Lord, that each day before we enter the little death of sleep,
we may undergo the little judgement of the past day,
so that every wrong deed may be forgiven
and every unholy thought set right.

Let nothing go down into the depths of our being
which has not been forgiven and sanctified.

Then we shall be ready for our final birth into eternity,
And look forward with love and hope to standing before you,
who art both judge and saviour, holy judge and loving saviour.

Bishop Appleton

