

22—29 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 28 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th Week of Lent Palm Sunday	Archie Cairns RIP Ann Traynor RIP
Sunday 29 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Palm Sunday	People of the Parishes KO: Trudie Milne RIP
Monday 30 March	St Peter's	9.30am	Weekday in Holy Week	Archie Cairns RIP
Tuesday 31 March	St Columba's	9.30am	Weekday in Holy Week	
Wednesday 1 April	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	Weekday in Holy Week	Archie Cairns RIP
Thursday 2 April	St Columba's St Peter's	7pm 7pm	Thursday of the Lord's Supper	In gratitude for our priests and for priestly vocations Suze Houdijk-Zijerveld RIP
Friday 3 April	St Columba's St Peter's	3pm 3pm	Passion of the Lord	
Saturday 4 April Easter Vigil	St Columba's St Peter's	8pm 8pm	Easter Sunday Easter Sunday	People of the Parishes
Sunday 5 April	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 11.30am	Easter Sunday	KO: Carmel Tipping RIP DM: Donald Alex MacEachen RIP

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
Additional Confessions:
 Holy Monday, 30 March, St. Peter's 7-8pm
 Holy Wednesday, 1 April, St. Columba's 7-8pm

Sunday 28 March readings: p182
First reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm: 22(21): 8-9. 17-18a 19-20 23-24 Ra
Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Second reading: Philippians 2: 6-11
Gospel: Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

Stations of the Cross: Monday 30 March, with Fr Federico Dundas. Join Fr Federico and people from across Scotland for the Stations of the Cross 7:45pm on Lent. We will pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Registration: <https://bit.ly/stations26> or QR code



Want to come closer to God but don't know how?
'God's invitation to relationship': A 6 week prayer course online to support people into a deeper prayer life through tutors' input, guided prayer experience and sharing.
Wednesdays (zooming from Scotland) starting 8 April (7-9pm); 15, 22, 29 April (7-8.30pm); 6, 13 May (7-8.30pm). Offered free although donations are accepted. Participants have said:

'This is the most exciting prayer journey I could ever have imagined.'; *'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.'*
 Enquiries: invitation@epiphanygroup.org.uk

Run by the Epiphany Group of Spiritual Directors in Scotland
www.epiphanygroup.org.uk

Jesus is taken down from the cross—Partrick Purnell SJ
 His dead body fell back upon her breast; she knew every piece of His tortured body; there had been a birthing, cradling and weaning
 She knew him so well, the broken head, the crumpled feet; the pierced hands; the beaten body. What theology will manage to decipher these bruises?
 Of a God who loved too much? How can I, the passer-by know where to stand as life drains out of His driven flesh.



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 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 of the Passion of the Lord —Year A 29 March—5 April 2026

- In his passion narrative, Matthew follows Mark closely.
 - Like Mark, he presents Jesus as being abandoned by his followers and having to face his hour alone. There is no friend or supporter by the cross; Jesus dies rejected and mocked. Both have a Jewish trial of Jesus and a Roman trial.
 - The Jewish authorities sought to convict Jesus of planning to destroy the temple, and of blasphemy. The Roman trial centred on Jesus' claims to be the King of the Jews. Both authorities failed to grant Jesus justice and both maltreated him.
 - Throughout his narrative, Matthew stresses two factors in particular: the passion fulfils the prophecies of scripture (in other words, it falls within God's purpose), and because of his full knowledge and free decision, Jesus was in control of the situation.
- Flor McCarthy SDB**



Canon Kenneth writes ...

Try to get more out of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem

Monday of Holy Week, Jesus clears out the temple with a whip

Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus is anointed with oil at Bethany and preaches on the Mount of Olives

Spy Wednesday, Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Holy Thursday, Jesus celebrates the Last Supper, prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, and is arrested

Good Friday, Jesus is sentenced to death, scourged, beaten, crucified, and dies on the Cross

Holy Saturday, Jesus is buried in the tomb and descends into hell

Easter Sunday, Jesus rises from the dead

We are all trying to make sense of life. One way for us to understand our lives is to look at them through the great experiences that happen during Holy Week.

Just try this exercise – at the end of every day, ask yourself:

“What sort of day did I have today? Did I have an Ash Wednesday day, or did I have an Easter Sunday day? Did I have a Good Friday day, or did I have a Holy Saturday day?”

What defines those sorts of days?

Good Friday is an easy one - it's a day of suffering and sacrifice. There are some days you get to the end of, and you feel like that's the kind of day you've had.

What's **Holy Saturday?** It's a day of darkness, doubt, anxiety, confusion, and a day where faith is tested.

What's **Easter Sunday?** It's a day of new life. Maybe there's a birth of a child in the family, and we see it as a miracle, a gift from God.

Taken from Dynamic Catholic Institute

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This Week in our Parishes ...



Sunday 29 March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after morning Mass in each Parish 2-4pm, Children's Easter Craft Day, St. Columba's Church hall
Monday 30	No RCIA meeting this week, next meeting is Monday 13 April 7-8pm, Confessions, St. Peter's
Tuesday 31	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7pm, St. Mary's Cathedral annual Chrism Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley
Wednesday 1 April	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Columba's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7-8pm, Confessions, St. Columba's
Holy Thursday 2	The Triduum 7pm, Mass St. Columba's - with the washing of the feet 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 3	07.45-8am Prayer breakfast service, Newington Trinity, followed by breakfast. All welcome 3pm Liturgy of the Passion St. Columba's 3pm Liturgy of the Passion St. Peter's
Holy Saturday 4	8pm Easter Vigil St. Columba's 8pm Easter Vigil St. Peter's Note: no 12 noon Mass, Adoration or Confessions on Holy Saturday
Easter Sunday 5	9.30am Mass St. Columba's 11.30am Mass St. Peter's Easter Sunday teas and coffees after the morning Masses in each Parish Note: no evening Confession or 6.30pm Mass in St. Columba's

Please note also that there will be additional Confessions as follows: on Holy Monday, 30 March in St. Peter's 7-8pm and on Holy Wednesday, 1 April in St. Columba's 7-8pm.

'Real Easter Eggs' for sale at £5 each, after 9.30 Mass at St. Columba's or email: paul_atkin@outlook.com. Great for children and grandchildren, the only Easter Egg with an Easter story book in the box; made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

Children's Easter Craft Day, 2-4pm, TODAY Sunday 29 March, St. Columba's Main Hall. Easter crafts and fun for all ages. Family tickets £10.

Pat Cairns sends her grateful thanks for the support given to the family during this difficult time and for generous donations given after Archie's Requiem Mass. The splendid sum of £526.60 will be split between SCIAF and Mary's Meals. A mass, in thanks, will be said for the Parish.

WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE With your support, a fairer and more peaceful world is possible. In this final week of Lent, please continue to pray for SCIAF's work – and keep using your WEE BOX to make BIG CHANGE.

You are invited to join Archbishop Leo Cushley in St. Mary's Cathedral for the **annual Chrism Mass, 7pm, Tuesday 31 March.** The Priests will renew their priestly commitment and the oils will be blessed for distribution to the parishes.

During Lent there have been additional Masses and the last of these is **Wednesday 1 April 09.30 at St. Columba's.** This Mass will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

Volunteers needed for the Washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, 2 April at St. Peter's and St. Columba's. Please sign up using the sheet at the back of Churches.

Holy Week in Newington Churches Together

- There will be ecumenical services at Newington Trinity in Mayfield Church during Holy Week starting at 7.45am followed by breakfast. **Canon Kenneth Owens** will take the service on **Good Friday 3 April.**
- There will be **'Walk of Witness'** through Newington on **Good Friday** starting at Mayfield at 9am and stopping at St. Columba's, St. Peter's, Luton Place and ending at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church.

Cleaning at St. Columba's on Holy Saturday, 4 April starting at **12noon.** Please come with family and friends to prepare your Church for Easter.

We keep in our prayers everyone who is joining the Church and receiving the Sacraments at Easter, especially those within our own cluster of parishes: Sricheta Karmaker; Chin Chun Lui; Cansu Senturk; Erdi Senturk; Stephen Turner; Isla Tierney; Scott Dunlop; Angus Field and Edward Robinson.

Sunday 12 April is Divine Mercy Sunday and there will be Confessions and Benediction from 2.50pm at St. Peter's.

Don't miss it! **Saturday April 25, 12.30 for 1pm** in St. Columba's Main Hall - **Justice & Peace Family lunch with kids' corner.** Adults £15, Children £7 - all profits go to Food Vouchers for local Catholic schools. Tickets available at the back of church after 9.30 and before 6.30 Sunday Masses. Eat well and help out!

Parish news continued overleaf...

St. Columba's and St. Peter's Lenten Season 2026
Developing my spiritual life through insights from **The Confessions of St Augustine**

Book 9 and 10

Confessions does not end with Book 8, just as Christians' lives usually do not end with their conversation, but rather begin there, to further conversations and fuller life.

Scripture is almost a sacrament for Augustine whose effect on him is nothing short of ecstasy. He continues to get to know God better through the reading of scripture and the application of it to his new life as a Christian. Scripture is a living document for him that now gives shape and new insight into this life. He decides to end teaching rhetoric and devote his time to getting to know the Lord. He decides to return to Africa and moves with his mother and a group of friends from Milan.

The place of Monica, his mother, has a huge role in this book. Her tears would be the flood that bore him into the baptismal font. She has the consolation of knowing that Augustine has been baptised and rejoices that her son, whom she enrolled in the catechumenate, is now a Christian. At Ostia, just outside Rome, Augustine and his mother together have a conversation about eternal life, it lifts their eyes to God and just brushes against eternity with their hearts. Monica dies peacefully.

This book talks more about God than about Augustine. He is trying to allure us into the very life of God. Now Augustine is attempting to usher us "fellow citizens and pilgrims" into the sort of intellectual and spiritual ascent towards God that he has often, and described in this work, experienced.

The intellectual search for God in his memory, his mind, fails. Yet of course the effort is not futile, for in searching

his memory he can confess, famously, "Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new, late have I loved you." He next offers a reflection on time. His search will end in praise even if he does not make much progress in his endeavours.

There is a striking metaphor used of Augustine's, a scattered self, and God's work of gathering those pieces together. He is keen to identify his teaching with the work of the Holy Spirit. The goal of human memory, reason, and will should finally be the search for divine glorying the pages of scripture. Augustine spends most of his time in this book as a restless figure, seeking rest in God.

For your personal reflection:

- What most attracts you to Augustine's story?
- What insights have you gained for your spiritual life?
- How does Augustine help you to know better the merciful love of God?



Prayer/reflection

The day on which Jesus died, might well have been called *Bad* Friday but we call it *Good* Friday. We do it so be cause that dark day was made luminous by the goodness of Jesus, and because we see it in the light of Easter. His death may have seemed a defeat. It was not a defeat; it was a victory; The victory of love over hate, Of good over evil, and of life over death.



Parish news continued...

The Refugee group is planning a workshop on 'Journalism for 'Refugee Week' 15—21 June 2026. We are looking for Journalists' to attend at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston place, Edinburgh. If you can help' please put your name and contact on the list at the back of both Churches.

The new tax year begins 6 April. For Gift Aiders at St. Peter's who use the weekly Lockie envelopes these will be available during the coming week. A good number of Gift

Aiders prefer to give contributions via Direct Debit. Taxpayers who'd like to sign up for Gift Aid please see Andrew Thackrey after Saturday evening Mass or Anne Marie Douglas after Sunday Mass (or give their names to any pass keeper). Some extra envelopes may be available for use by those who aren't Gift Aiders but who like to use the weekly envelopes.