

8—15 March 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 7 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	2nd Week of Lent 3rd Sunday of Lent	DM: Gianna Picciotto RIP
Sunday 8 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes
Monday 9 March	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	Florence McCartney RIP
Tuesday 10 March	St Columba's	9.30am	St. John Ogilvie	
Wednesday 11 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	
Thursday 12 March	St Columba's St Peter's	9.30am 9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	DM: Mary Connolly RIP Anniv.
Friday 13 March	St Peter's	9.30am	3rd Week of Lent	
Saturday 14 March Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	3rd Week of Lent 4th Sunday of Lent	Mgr. McNally RIP and Betty McNally RIP KO: Susan Collier RIP Anniv.
Sunday 15 March	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Lent	DM: Intentions of Natalia Eherenberg-Coll 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 8 March readings: p158**  
**First reading:** Exodus 17:3-7  
**Psalm:** 95 (94): 1-2 6-7b 7c-9 R7c 8a  
**Response: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'**  
**Second reading:** Romans 5: 1-2 5-8 1: 8b-10  
**Gospel:** John 4: 5-42

**To protect Creation of which we are part - Rev'd David Coleman, Justice and Peace talk 17 January**

The Rev'd David Coleman, a URC Minister and Environmental Chaplain to [Eco-Congregation Scotland](#), gave a thoughtful and well-informed talk on the Christian imperative to care for God's Creation, recognising that we are part of it.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical Christian environmental charity, addressing the reality of climate change and the imperative for conservation – and the need for conversion, changing our hearts and minds as well as our actions.

Faced with the reality of global warming and its negative consequences, our anxiety is real but our faith gives us hope and a call to action. Care for Creation is not optional or secondary. Pope Leo in his message for the Season of Creation 2025 reminded us environmental justice is a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ in Whom all things were created and redeemed. And there is an inescapable bond between a concern for nature, for justice, and for the poor.  
 St. Columba and the Celtic saints - no less than St. Francis -

held a vision of the 'Communion of Creation', recognising our connection with our fellow-creatures and respecting them. The stories of St. Columba with the crane and the whale illustrate his relationship with his fellow-creatures.

We can all take small steps: repairing, reusing, recycling – thinking differently and encouraging each other as we seek to hope and act together with Creation. Our own actions may seem insignificant in the face of a global environmental crisis, but when we put our actions into the hands of God, they are a prayer.  
 Blessed are You, Lord God of all Creation.  
**David and Ruth Sinclair-Jones**

**Links to resources:**

- The Letter: Laudato Si film with Pope Francis [The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders | The Letter: Laudato Si Film](#)
- Short reflective videos <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/stilling-videos-thematic-catalogue/>
- Lent resources <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/2026-lent-preaching-creation-crucified/> 2025 Season of Creation <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/creation-2025/>

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  
**Third Sunday of Lent — Year A**  
 8—15 March 2026

For this Sunday and the next two, the Gospel readings are taken from John.

John doesn't give us parables. He gives us extended discourses built around images. The lectionary presents the stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus.

In the first story Jesus speaks of water; in the second story he speaks of sight; and in the third he speaks of life. There is a double level of meaning in all of those.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. As the Israelites journeyed through the desert, Moses provided them with the life-saving gift of ordinary water. Jesus, the new Moses, offered something infinitely better. He offers us 'living water', that is a share in the very life of God. It is through the waters of Baptism that we receive a share in the life of God.  
**Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

**Dominican Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe is visiting war-torn Ukraine in order to express his support and solidarity to the local Church, and the communities of the Order of Preachers.**

He arrived in the capital, Kyiv, on February 27, where he met the Bishop Vitalii Kryvytskyi of Kyiv-Zhytomyr, and visited a makeshift memorial for soldiers who have died during the war. He then preached a retreat from February 28 to March 1, and will spend the rest of his two-week trip visiting his Dominican brothers. In an interview with Vatican News, he reflected on the first days of his journey and the need for Christians to pray and hold onto hope in the face of the uncertainty and suffering that comes with war.

**Your Eminence, what does this visit to Ukraine and being here with the Ukrainian people mean to you?**  
**Cardinal Radcliffe:** I am extremely happy to be here in Ukraine—a country I first visited thirty years ago. I came at the invitation of my brothers and gladly accepted it. Whenever I visit a country where there is suffering, I always learn something. So I have come above all to be with my brothers and sisters.

**Q: What is the main message you bring with you?**  
 I think that when one arrives somewhere, one should not come with a ready-made message. One must come in order to listen, and what one has to say should first be born from listening to people. Therefore, I come not so much to speak as to hear. This is at the heart of synodality: we come as those who listen—listening to God and listening to one another.

**Q: The retreat you led in Kyiv was dedicated to the 'Our Father.' Why did you choose this theme?**  
 In times of suffering and war, prayer is vitally necessary. The 'Our Father' is the greatest of all prayers, the Lord's Prayer. Jesus Himself prayed it as He was going up to Jerusalem to suffer and to die. He prayed it looking ahead—to the moment when He would be in the Garden of Gethsemane. Therefore, for each of us, especially when we face suffering, the Lord's Prayer is a great gift.

By Fr. Mariusz Krawiec, SSP

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## This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 8 March	Third Sunday of Lent —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after morning Mass today <b>only</b> at St. Columba's
Monday 9	7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 10	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's 7pm, St. Columba's Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Parish room
Wednesday 11	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Columba's, followed by Stations of the Cross
Thursday 12	09.30 Additional Mass for Lent at St. Peter's, followed by Stations of the Cross 7pm, the second of our zoom meetings to discuss out Lent spiritual book (details below)
Friday 13	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Saturday 14	10/10.30 St. Columba's Saturday Talk: Families Outside (Prisoner Family Support Charity); Middle hall Sale of home baking and preserves before/after Vigil Mass at St. Peter's for SCIAF
Sunday 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent —Year A—Laetare Sunday Special collection today for SCIAF 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 Sale of home baking and preserves before/after 11.30am Mass at St. Peter's for SCIAF



Thank you to **Andrew Thackrey** for a very stimulating discussion on the Nicæan Creed at our recent 'Eat and share' at St. Peter's. A good number of people were there and we had some delicious food. **Dates for forthcoming 'Eat and share'**, held in St. Peter's parish room are:

- **7pm, Thursday 26 March**, Sister Mirjam Hugens FSO, Archdiocesan Director for Religious Vocations will speak about her work.
- **7pm, Thursday 28 May**, our topic will be 'Our Lady', speaker to be confirmed.

**No** teas and coffees today **after 11:30 Mass** at St. Peter's due to a lack of available volunteers.

**Therese White** (known as Terry), a former parishioner of St. Columba's, died on Thursday 19 February. Terry and her late husband, Phil, were well-known and active in the parish for decades. Terry's funeral is **10am Tuesday 10 March**, St. Mark's RC Church, 29 Oxbgangs Avenue, EH13 9HX. Reception afterward at Braid Hills Hotel, 134 Braid Road, EH10 6JD.

**Support SCIAF this Lent.** Across Ethiopia, families are facing the impacts of drought, conflict, and the growing water crisis. With your support, SCIAF can help communities access clean water, restore livelihoods, and build a future free from poverty. To learn more about how your generosity is changing lives this Lent, please visit [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox).

Thank you to those who serve and who support **Sunday Coffee at St. Peter's** for £150 donated to the SCIAF Lenten appeal for Ethiopia. A great boost to our fund raising efforts.

Congratulations to St. Peter's '200 Club' February winners **Maria Galbraith** (£25) and **Susan McBrien** (£15).

**During Lent there will be additional Masses.** On **Wednesdays** (until 1 April) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Columba's. On **Thursdays** (until 26 March) we will have a 09.30 Mass in St. Peter's. Both Wednesday and Thursday additional Masses will be followed by Stations of the Cross.

**Thursday 12 March 7pm:** the second of our Thursday zoom meetings to discuss the content of our spiritual Lent book

'**The Confessions of St. Augustine**'. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74667021756?pwd=71d9J0xKliLcUUI9vHyMhpF2QluDy.1>  
Meeting ID: 746 6702 1756 Passcode: 7ks7Kd

**Join us at St. Peter's for tea and coffee on Friday mornings** after Mass. We'd love to meet parishioners and visitors.

Our next Justice and Peace talk is **Saturday 14 March, 10am for 10.30. Professor Nancy Loucks**, OBE, CEO of **Families Outside** (who give support to prisoners' families) will tell us of her organisation's work and suggest ways we can help.

At next week's Vigil, **14 March and Sunday Masses, 15 March** there will be a special collection for SCIAF.

This year, Laetare Sunday (and Mother's Day) fall on 15 March. **Sale of home baking; home made marmalade and other preserves at St. Peter's** will be before/after Vigil and Sunday Masses on **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March**. Proceeds to St. Peter's SCIAF project. Buy as gifts for Mother's Day, Easter, or just treat yourself.

Date for the diary: Lent evening retreat hour, Preparing the path to the cross. **Thursday 19 March, 7.30-8.30pm.** St. Peter's Parish Room. Refreshments provided.

Date for the diary: The next meeting of the **Men's Group** is **Friday 27 March** in the Church Hall. Tea and coffee from 6.30pm; talk starts at 7pm. The guest speaker is Fr. Henry McLaughlin who will speak about Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Date for the diary: Children's Easter Craft Day, **Sunday 29 March 2-4pm**, St. Columba's Church hall With a variety of crafts for all ages focusing on our Easter celebrations followed by children's disco and games. **Tickets on sale from Sunday 15 March.** £10 per family. All welcome.

Date for the diary: **Saturday 25 April 1pm, Main Hall**, Family lunch with kids' corner. Adults £15, Children £7 - all profits go to Food Vouchers for local Catholic schools. Watch this space for further details. 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 3 and 4 of the Confessions of St. Augustine

Rhetoric was of enormous political importance in the ancient world and it was Augustine's chosen field and gift. He was very taken by reading the prose of Cicero. This can be described as his first of several conversions from uncritical worldliness to philosophy. He enjoyed the drama and the audience that rhetoric gave him.

Another powerful influence on him was that he fell in with the Manichaeans. He was a follower for nearly a decade and was attracted to them by their philosophical explanation for the problem of evil. Manichaeism is based on a strict, eternal conflict between two opposite principles: the good, the spiritual world of Light and the evil, material world of darkness.

Book 3 ends with a lovely description of Monica his mother and her prayers for her son. She does not give up hope for his conversion and is convinced that eventually he will accept baptism and become a Christian. She drew comfort from a dream that her wayward son would return to God.

In Book 4 we have Augustine's moving and complicated account of his childhood friend. He is not named. But they were friends over a considerable amount of time and shared many of the same interests.

His illness, his baptism and his sudden death all shock the young Augustine. He speaks about the grief that darkened his heart. Perhaps it was his first experience of profound grief at so early an age. These Confessions of his are thirteen tries at self-reflection and knowledge of God. God was active in using Augustine's waywardness to draw him to the divine life.



In book 4 Augustine's attempted fleeing from God is remembered as identical to God's pursuit of Augustine.

#### For your personal reflection:

1. Do we value the sacraments in the way that Augustine did?
2. Have you ever loved like Augustine did, and so lost like he did?
3. Why do you suppose that his dear friend and concubine are never named in this text?

### Prayer/reflection

There is a thirst in every human heart,  
a thirst that only God can quench.  
To experience this thirst is not a curse but a blessing.  
Lord, in your goodness, give us some of the living water  
you offered to the Samaritan woman.  
May it become a spring within us welling up to eternal life.



### Parish news continued...

**Stations of the Cross: Monday, 9 March**, with Anthony Horan from the Catholic Parliamentary Office. Join Anthony 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.



**Final vote on Assisted Suicide.** On **Tuesday 10 March**, the Scottish Parliament will begin debating the final, Stage 3 of the Assisted Suicide Bill. Please share your concerns with MSPs that sick and vulnerable people need special care and protection, not abandonment. The Bill is too risky for too many. Use the letter writing tool at <https://carenotkilling.scot/>



**The Beginning Experience. Applications in by 13 March.** Loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death can result in unbearable feelings of grief and loneliness. The Beginning Experience offers a weekend away at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, **27-29 March**. Contact Louise

[beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com) or 07786 687 631

#### Fresh Start: Spring cleaning?

- If you are Spring cleaning please consider **donating to Fresh Start** and help those moving on from homelessness to make a new home for themselves.
- If items are in good working order and clean condition, your pre-loved belongings could be the thing that helps someone in Edinburgh find the fresh start they need.
- Fresh Start are in desperate need of all **accepted household goods** for Starter Packs, especially small electrical items (**lamps, kettles, toasters and irons**). A full list of accepted items is on their website but includes: dishes and cutlery; cleaning items; pots and pans; bed linen and towels; small household electric items; long lasting food products.
- All year donations of new and pre-used items can be put in the big box at back of St. Peter's Church and at the back of St. Columba's.
- **Fresh Start are also recruiting new Trustees**, applications to be in by 20 March. See details on link [here](#).

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

