

3—10 May 2026



Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 2 May Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	St Athanasius 5th Sunday of Easter	Archie Cairns RIP
Sunday 3 May	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Easter	KO: Elke Whitty RIP DM: Archie Cairns RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 4 May	St Peter's	9.30am	5th week in Eastertide	Alasdair Buchanan RIP & comfort of his loved ones
Tuesday 5 May	St Columba's	9.30am	5th week in Eastertide	Helen and George Winter RIP
Wednesday 6 May	St Peter's	9.30am	5th week in Eastertide	David McDonald RIP
Thursday 7 May	St Columba's	9.30am	5th week in Eastertide	
Friday 8 May	St Peter's	9.30am	5th week in Eastertide	Anne-Marie & Bill Douglas, Diamond Wedding anniversary
Saturday 9 May Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	5th week in Eastertide 6th Sunday of Easter	Archie Cairns RIP
Sunday 10 May	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	6th Sunday of Easter	DM: Dante Lannie RIP 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 3 May readings: p265
First reading: Acts 6: 1-7
Psalm: 33(32): 1-2, 4-5, 18-19 R22
Response: *May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord*
Second reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-9
Gospel: John 14: 1-12

Reflection
 For Jesus, to die was to return to the Father from whom he had come. In other words, it was to go home. So it is with us. When we die, we do not so much go to God as return to him. Like homesick cranes flying night and day back to their mountain nests, let all our life take its voyage to you, oh Lord, for you have made us for yourself,
 And our hearts will never rest until they rest in you.



Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living (GPRL). The course aims to help participants develop and deepen their experience of prayer and live more reflectively. An opportunity to explore faith, discover meaning and come to a deeper, closer relationship with God. Provides space to examine hopes and desires; to move towards the fullness of life we long for in ourselves, in those around us and in the global community.

Facilitated by the Epiphany Group, runs online on **Tuesday evenings 7-9pm from 3 November 2026 to 16 March 2027** with the addition of 3 in-person days in Edinburgh on Sat 21 November 2026, Sat 30 January 2027 and Sat 6 March 2027. Cost is £450; we're keen no one is excluded for financial reasons so if this is a consideration for you, please enquire about financial help. For more information visit <https://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/growth-in-prayer/> to download an application form. Apply early as places are limited. For more information: gprl@epiphanygroup.org.uk.

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
Fifth Sunday of Easter —Year A
 3 - 10 May 2026

The gospel contains a number of related themes. Jesus consoles his disciples who are distressed over his words about his going away. They ought not to be troubled; he is not abandoning them; he is going to prepare a home for them in the ample House of the Father.

He himself is the way to the Father. So close is the communion of the Father and Son that one who looks on Jesus with the eyes of faith sees the Father, and sees that the 'works' of Jesus are the achievement of the Father. And because Jesus is now the risen Lord present in their lives, they can do 'greater works' than Jesus did in his public ministry.

One theme is common to all three readings: Christ continues his words and works in the world through his disciples.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Canon Kenneth writes ...

After the update of dates last week, from now till the summer, some fabric updates:

St. Columba's Church
 Having repainted the panels in the main body of the Church last year we are now going to paint the arch on the sanctuary as well as the light sanctuary walls. The sacristy will be painted, the Parish Room and corridor.

St. Columba's Hall
 Having completed the interior paint work last year we will paint the outside windows and doors at the front and any windows that need done at the side and back.

St. Peter's Church
 I am told by the stonemasons that there remains two weeks work to complete the sanctuary. The metal railings still have to be constructed and kgrip, a golden line marker indicating each step have still to be done. After we have celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation next week the new lighting, sound system and new carpet tiles will begin and take place over the next few weeks.

Caretakers Flat
 It is hoped that the renovation work on the Caretakers Flat will begin about the same time.

Parish Priest: Canon Kenneth Owens
frkenneth.owens@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502
Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Magaji
FrDaniel.Magaji@staned.org.uk 0131 447 2502
 St Peter's: 77 Falcon Avenue EH10 4AN; www.stpeterchurchedinburgh.org.uk
 St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.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@stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk
St. Columba's Hall hire:
 James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes ...

Sunday 3 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter —Year A Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes
Tuesday 5	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Wednesday 6	7pm, Sacrament of Confirmation by Archbishop Leo Cushley, St. Peter's
Friday 8	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's
Saturday 9	2pm, International Family Potluck Party, St. Columba's Parish hall
Sunday 10	Sixth Sunday of Easter —Year A Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes



Upcoming events in our Parishes...

Thursday 14 May	Ascension, Holy Day of Obligation. Masses: - 09.30, St. Peter's; - 11am, School Mass, St. Peter's (all welcome) - 7pm, St. Columba's
Thursday 28 May	7pm, 'Eat and share', St. Peter's Parish room, Our Lady', speaker Fr. Ray Warren OMI
Sunday 31 May	09.30, celebration of Sacrament of First Holy Communion St. Columba's
Saturday 6 June	10am, Celebration of Sacrament of First Holy Communion St. Peter's
Saturday 13 June	2-4pm, St. Columba's Feast day Social event, St. Columba's Halls and Garden
Sunday 14 June	12.30pm, St. Peter's General Parish meeting, in the Church—all welcome
Saturday 20 June	At the Vigil Mass: Dedication of the new Altar at St. Peter's by Archbishop Leo Cushley (approx. 1.5 hrs). Followed by Prosecco and cake in St. Peter's courtyard and parish room
Tuesday 23 June	11am, School Leavers P7 Thanksgiving Mass

First Sunday is TODAY, 3 May—when we collect donations for the **'Food/Basic bank**. Please leave in basket at back of the Church in St. Columba's; cash donations can be given in the sacristy.

Confirmations on Wednesday 6 May. Please offer prayers for the young people of our Parishes who are being confirmed by Archbishop Cushley this Wednesday at our own St. Peter's church.

International Family Potluck Party. 2pm, Saturday 9 May, St. Columba's Parish hall. Bring a dish from your country—everyone is welcome. Any questions contact Barbora 07535 296 125.

Families are welcomed to **The Gillis Centre for a family picnic**, children's catechesis, talks for adults, a Rosary Procession and Vigil Mass at The Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 9 May at 1pm. Reserve your spot: Picnic & Vigil Mass for Families Tickets, Saturday, May 9 • 1 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite**

Mass at St. Peter's will be at **6pm from Wednesday 13 May.**

Reminder regarding Upper Gray Street regarding parking. We encourage Parishioners to **please be sensitive to our neighbours when parking, especially** at the 09.30 Sunday Mass at St. Columba's.

Refugee Week, 15-21 June. The Refugee, Asylum & Migrant Working group (RAMWG) have a workshop on **'Journalism'** on Thursday 18 June, 2-4pm in the Chapter House, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place EH12 6AW. **We are looking for journalists and students in journalism** to come and talk/work with us. If you can help please sign the list on the notice boards of both Churches.

Date for your diary: Saturday 20 June at the Vigil Mass: Dedication of the new Altar at St. Peter's by Archbishop Leo Cushley (approx 1.5 hours). Followed by Prosecco and cake in St. Peter's courtyard and Parish room.

SCIAF 200 Club St. Peter's urgently needs new members! Can you help? Annual fee is £12 with a monthly draw for prizes of £25 & £15 and a Christmas draw for £50). With fewer than 200 members **please consider supporting.** Forms at back of Church or see Anne-Marie Douglas.

A reliable single woman seeks to **share a flat** in the area. Please contact Elizabeth at vanzwetelizabeth@gmail.com

Many of you sent good wishes to my brother, Samson, and his wife to be, Blessing, on their forthcoming wedding. Everything went really well and here are the happy couple after the ceremony on 25 April 2026. They thank you for your generous and kind good wishes, as do I. **Fr. Daniel**



Parish news continued overleaf....

St. Peter's Parish Pastoral Council April meeting

The following groups gave an insight into some of the work they do at the Parish Pastoral Council last week:

Open Door (Keiron Mellotte, manager) - The Open Door; this organisation provides social inclusion and a sense of community for elderly people. Originally founded by the churches in this area 44 years ago. The biggest challenge facing Open door is promoting it.

SCIAF (Anne-Marie Douglas) – SCIAF is compelled by love to lift people out of poverty and help people recover from disaster. It is six decades old. Nearly £135,000 has been raised since 2011. Less than 10% is used on administration. They also provide an Advent lunch and social gatherings that are especially important for elderly people. 200 club membership has gone down. This costs £12 a year but we don't have the full 200 this year.

RCIA (Derek Buglass) - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This was for adults interested in becoming Catholics. A group has operated in the Parish for possibly 30 or 40 years. The whole process takes about a year. A question was raised about ongoing deepening of faith for all Parishioners. A joint group with St. Columba's would be helpful. It was commented that community support and the initial welcome is a big part of the Christian experience.

Pro-Life Support group (Agnes Martony) – The group was founded 16 years ago. It was commented that there was a lack of support for people post abortion. There is information on St. Peter's website. St. Peter's is the only Parish that does this. *Powerbank for Life* is an app where

you say a decade of the rosary each day for an unborn child. It starts on 25 March and runs 9 months until Christmas. It was felt it could be promoted in the Newsletter every few months. A phone number would be particularly beneficial.

St. Vincent de Paul (Jacqueline Heron-Duthart) - SSVP supports people who are vulnerable or lonely. SSVP provide food parcels every week and something extra at Christmas and Easter. SSVP has a caravan in Seton Sands which St. Peter's was able to send a family to for a week. They do care home visits and provide a Eucharistic service at Colinton Care Home. It was very important for parishioners to stay in contact with the community. There is befriending service. They do home visits in pairs, for safety and other reasons, so new members are always welcome. They also give financial assistance to some families via St. Peter's School.

Fresh Start (Pat Cairns) – The basic aim of Fresh Start is to help homeless people make a home out of a flat. The idea came from the Minister at Crammond Parish Church. They asked the homeless people moving into a new flat what they would like and the answer was basic essentials. This started the idea of starter packs with four plates, four bowls, four knives and forks. Many church members are volunteers. 20,000 starter packs issued last year with 5,222 hours given by volunteers.

May is month of Our Lady



Perhaps consider taking time to pray the rosary daily or a decade of the rosary with your family.

Or take a pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto, Scotland's National Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Grotto welcomes 70,000 pilgrims annually from across the Globe. It's at the Parish of St Francis Xavier, Carfin near Motherwell.

Nearer to home there is a Lourdes Grotto in the grounds of the Gillis Centre in Strathearn Road— perhaps say a decade of the Rosary there.

Parish news continued...

Care Conversation Series: Talking about care can be an emotive topic and **it helps to be well prepared for the care conversation.** Southside Faith Care, Home Instead and Morningside United Church are hosting a series of relaxed and informative care conversations **at Morningside United Church**, 15 Chamberlain Rd, EH10 4DH.

- Power of Attorney: Thurs 21 May 2.30-4pm
- Bereavement Support with William Purves Funeral Directors: Thurs 18 June 2.30-4pm

Whatever your interest in care **join us** for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Listen, share your experiences and ask questions. Come along on the day or **contact us** for further details at **Home Instead 0131 300 0599** or **Southside Faith Care 07478 543510**

Southside Faith care are hosting two sessions with Police Scotland and Barclays Bank to update us on frauds and scams and how to keep safe online, etc. Some may like to make a list of questions to bring along. Tea, coffee etc will be available at both talks. Please spread the word.

- Thursday 7 May: 10am – 12noon, Morningside United Church, 15 Chamberlain Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DH, Small Hall – enter by door on Chamberlain Road
- Thursday 14 May: 1.30 - 3.30pm, Newington Trinity Priestfield, 2 Marchall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW