

31 May—7 June 2026



| Date                  | Church                                     | Time                        | Feast  | Mass intention                                       |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Saturday 30 May Vigil | St Peter's<br>St Peter's                   | 12 noon<br>5.30pm           | 8th week in Ordinary Time<br>The Most Holy Trinity | Giuseppe Picciotto RIP                               |
| Sunday 31 May         | St Columba's<br>St Peter's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11.30am<br>6.30pm | The Most Holy Trinity                              | Joe Reilly RIP<br>People of the Parishes             |
| Monday 1 June         | St Peter's                                 | 9.30am                      | St Justin  | Rod Nelson-Shaw RIP                                  |
| Tuesday 2 June        | St Columba's                               | 9.30am                      | 9th week of the Year                               |  |
| Wednesday 3 June      | St Peter's                                 | 6pm*                        | St Charles Lwanga                                  | Ian McCafferty RIP                                   |
| Thursday 4 June       | St Columba's                               | 9.30am                      | 9th week of the Year                               |  |
| Friday 5 June         | St Peter's                                 | 9.30am                      | St Boniface  | Mary Riley and Hector Walker<br>MacDonald McLean RIP |
| Saturday 6 June Vigil | St Peter's                                 | 5.30pm                      | The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ             |  |
| Sunday 7 June         | St Columba's<br>St Peter's<br>St Columba's | 9.30am<br>11.30am<br>6.30pm | The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ             | People of the Parishes                               |

**Confessions: (usual times)**

**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

**\*No Confessions, Exposition or 12 noon Mass at St. Peter's on Saturday 6 June**

**Sunday 31 May readings: p81**

First reading: Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9

Psalm: Daniel 3: 52. 53. 54. 55. 56 R 52b

Response: **To be praised and highly exalted forever!**

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-14

Gospel: John 3: 16-18

**Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living (GPRL).**

This 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. Space to examine hopes and desires; 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 3 in-person days in Edinburgh (Saturdays 21 November 2026, 30 January and 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](mailto:gprl@epiphanygroup.org.uk).



**The Seven Hills of Edinburgh Pilgrimage**, route approx. 26km, taking in Castle Hill, Corstorphine Hill, Craiglockhart Hill, Braid Hill, Blackford Hill, Arthur's Seat and Calton Hill. Starts at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Broughton Street, **9am, Saturday 13 June** with a dedicated reflection at each peak from Monsignor Jeremy Milne. Register [here](#).

**Abortion Recovery Care & Helpline (ARCH)** was started with women who experienced abortion and struggled in the aftermath. We are dedicated to promoting the emotional and psychological well-being of women, men and families after an abortion by the provision of counselling and supportive help. Our services are provided confidentially, compassionately, without judgement and free of charge. **If you want to talk to someone who will listen compassionately call our UK Helpline 0345 603 8501, 7pm-10pm daily & 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.**

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  
The Most Holy Trinity —Year A  
31 May—7 June 2026**

- The Trinity is a mystery. When we say something is a
- mystery, it doesn't mean we can't know *anything*
- about it. It just means that we can't know *everything*
- about it. Faith doesn't contradict reason, it transcends
- it. We should keep this in mind when discussing the
- mystery of the Trinity.
- 
- God (the Father) has shown his love for us by sending
- his Son to save us; all who believe in him will have
- eternal life. Those who deliberately reject Jesus
- condemn themselves; they have rejected the source
- of life.
- **Flor McCarthy SDB**



**Canon Kenneth writes ...**

Some thoughts from Pope Leo XIV

At the presentation of his first social encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV appealed for artificial intelligence to be placed firmly at the service of humanity, warning against technologies that foster domination, exclusion and war.

Addressing participants gathered in the Synod Hall on Monday for the presentation of the encyclical, the Pope described the current technological revolution as an “epochal turning point” comparable to the upheaval confronted by Pope Leo XIII during the Industrial Revolution.

“Artificial intelligence already touches many areas of our lives and affects decisions that shape human coexistence, he said, noting that it is also “dramatically changing how war is waged.”

A new “Rerum Novarum” moment

Drawing a direct parallel with Pope Leo XIII's landmark 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIV said the Church today is likewise called to interpret the “new things” of the age in the light of the Gospel and the dignity of the human person.

He explained that *Magnifica Humanitas* emerged from extensive listening to scientists, engineers, educators, political leaders and families concerned about the future of younger generations. At the same time, he said he had heard “very troubling voices” regarding autonomous weapons systems and algorithms capable of denying access to healthcare, employment or security based on unjust and prejudiced data.

From that process of discernment, the Pope said, came a conviction expressed clearly in the encyclical: “artificial intelligence needs to be disarmed.” Acknowledging the forcefulness of the phrase, Pope Leo XIV said the gravity of the present moment requires words capable of “awakening consciences and indicating paths forward for humanity.

**Parish Priest:** Canon Kenneth Owens

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St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; [www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbarcedinburgh.org.uk)

**Deacon:** Rev John E Smith: johnsmith@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 31 May  | <b>The Most Holy Trinity —Year A</b><br>Children's Liturgy at St. Peter's today (NOT at St. Columba's)<br>Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, during 09.30 Mass St. Columba's<br>Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes |
| Tuesday 2 June | Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's  |
| Wednesday 3    | Mass at St. Peter's has moved back to 6pm   |
| Friday 5       | Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's  |
| Saturday 6     | 10am, Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion St. Peter's<br>There will be <u>no</u> Exposition, Confessions or 12 noon Mass at St. Peter's  |
| Sunday 7       | <b>The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ —Year A</b><br>Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today<br>Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes  |



**Congratulations** to the children who make their First Holy Communion **today** at St. Columba's and to the children of St. Peter's who do so this coming Saturday.

We had an insightful talk by Fr. Ray Warren OMI on 'Our Lady' and we shared and enjoyed delicious food brought by attendees at our 'Eat and share' at St. Peter's last Thursday. The next 'Eat and Share' will be in September, details will be communicated nearer the time.

**Mass at St. Peter's on Wednesdays** has moved to **6pm**.

**We welcome Fr. Damian Kikta SAC**, a newly ordained Pallottine priest who was here the summer of 2024 to learn English. Fr. Damian arrives from Poland joining us **Thursday 28 May—Tuesday 2 June**. He'll celebrate Mass in St. Peter's on Saturday 30 May and Sunday 31 May and in St. Columba's on Tuesday 2 June.

Due to First Holy Communion celebrations at St. Peter's there will be **no Confession, Exposition, 12 noon Mass at St. Peter's on Saturday 6 June**.

**Sunday 7 June is Corpus Christi Sunday**. Details of the Corpus Christi procession in Galashiels can be found here: <https://archedinburgh.org/event-guide-corpus-christi-procession/>

**Saturday 13 June, 2-4pm**, St. Columba's feast day social. Main hall. Please join us and bring a starter, a main or a dessert.

**St. Peter's Primary School annual summer fair Saturday 13 June, 11am- 2pm**. Open to the whole community, free to attend. Bringing together families, friends and local residents. We'd love to see you there.

- Toys, games, school clothing, unwanted gifts can be **donated for the tombola by Friday 12 June** to St. Peter's school office. Home baking gratefully received on the day.
- One of the biggest fundraisers is the **annual auction**. Raising vital funds for the school to support its Equity Fund and provide essential equipment for sports, IT and literacy. Last year we bought 10 bikes to teach children road safety and 10 violins to support the school orchestra.

- **We're seeking donations for our auction** from local residents and businesses: products, services, vouchers or experiences are all welcome. Names of all donors will be published in our school newsletter (read by 350 local families) and also publicly acknowledged on the day. Please email: [ptastpetersprimary@gmail.com](mailto:ptastpetersprimary@gmail.com) if you can donate. Thank you so much!

**Sunday 14 June:** St. Peter's General Parish meeting, in the Church **12.30pm**.

**Sunday 14 June is St. Margaret's procession**, details can be found here: <https://archedinburgh.org/event-guide-st-margaret-pilgrimage-dunfermline/>

**Thursday 18 June**, 7pm, Caritas Justice and Peace Mass, St. Peter's Livingston.

**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 a reception in St. Peter's courtyard and Parish room.

**Save the date: St. Columba's Parish**. There will be a pastoral visit by Archbishop Leo Cushley on **Sunday 11 October at 09.30am**. He will celebrate Mass and join the community for coffee in the hall afterwards.

**SSVP Caravan at Seton Sands**. St. Peter's Conference has been allocated the Society's caravan for the week commencing **Saturday 5 September**. The caravan can sleep up to six people. If you know of any parishioner or family who would benefit from a holiday at the caravan, please speak to one of the members of the Conference.

**SCIAF 200 Club**. We're still short of 200, if you're not a member **please consider joining**. Just £12 a year and you could be a monthly draw winner of £25 & £15. Forms are at the back of Church or speak to Anne-Marie Douglas. Still time for those who have not yet renewed to do so.

## Families Outside - supporting families affected by imprisonment

### Justice and Peace talk, Prof. Nancy Loucks OBE

Professor Nancy Loucks OBE, CEO of [Families Outside](http://Families Outside), gave a thoughtful and challenging talk on the experiences of the families of the 8,500 prisoners in Scotland, and the ways in which Families Outside is supporting them. 'Not my crime - still my sentence' expresses the impact experienced when a family member is imprisoned. In Scotland more than 20,000 children each year experience a parent's imprisonment.

Prison creates single-parent households, usually led by a woman on a low income, and so families already in poverty are squeezed financially to the point of being crushed. Imprisonment of a household member affects children's health, life expectancy and prospects. The impact on children is greater than divorce or death in the family, because of the stigma: the grief can't be talked about or processed – children will be told Daddy is in the army or hospital. Children face the stereotype expectation that they will fail. And families may be split up, especially when the mother is in prison.

50% of prisoners lose contact with their families while in prison, and family breakdown is a risk factor both in and out of custody. Prisons themselves don't contact families – they leave it to the prisoner. Yet prisoners who maintain contact with their families have better mental health and better behaviour in prison and are 6 times less likely to reoffend when released.

Families of prisoners need support with housing, finance, children, stigma/negative publicity, family dynamics, travel to distant prisons, information, victimisation and both physical and mental health. And changed attitudes are needed, as well as changes in policy and practice.

The way forward is expressed in Ezekiel 18:20 – the child shall not share the guilt of the parent, nor shall the parent share the guilt of the child. Families Outside offers help in 3 ways: direct support for families, training and awareness raising for prison staff, health professionals and teachers; and input to changes in policy and practice.

The situation is depressing, but we can all take positive action to help prisoners' families:

- We can donate to Families Outside
- We can volunteer at a prison visitor centre
- We can be volunteer drivers taking people to visit prisoners
- We can talk to people about this hidden issue, and
- We can challenge people's thinking -including our own

## ... 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**. A partnership between 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. The final session of this series is:

- 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. Just come along on the day or **contact us** for further details at **Home Instead 0131 300 0599** or **Southside Faith Care 07478 543510**. For other events **organised by Southside Faith Care** please see poster at the back of Church.

**Magnificat - Saturday 13 June 2026, 7:30pm, Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh**. The Edinburgh Singers bring their 2025–2026 season to a triumphant close with an unforgettable evening of choral music in the magnificent setting of Greyfriars Kirk. The performance juxtaposes two magnificent settings of Our Lady's great prayer at the Annunciation – the "Magnificat" - by Bach and by John Rutter. Under the direction of conductor Alistair Digges, the choir will be joined by an outstanding quartet of professional soloists. Tickets £18 (concessions £14), under 12s free but ticket required. <https://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/edinburgh-singers-magnificat-greyfriars-2026>

## Reflection

Nowadays, thanks to the security camera,  
we are frequently being watched by a cold dispassionate eye,  
intent only on catching us in wrongdoing.

The feeling that someone is watching us  
is not a pleasant feeling.

But the feeling that someone is *watching over* us  
is a lovely feeling.

God is not watching us; God is watching over us.

This conviction gives us strength in times of weakness,  
comfort in times of sadness, and hope in times of despair.

