St Columba's and St Peter's, Edinburgh

Thirty second Sunday of the Year — Year A

8 - 15 November 2026

SCAN ME

Today and for the next two Sundays the Gospel is taken from Matthew's eschatological sermon (24: 1-25: 46) which deals with the end times. The parable of the 10 virgins stresses the need for watchfulness.



To understand the parable we need a little background. In those days when a couple married, they didn't go away for a honeymoon; they stayed at home. For a week they kept open house. To the festivities of that week their chosen friends were admitted. It was that joyous week that the foolish virgins missed because they were unprepared.

Matthew and his community have come to accept that the parousia may be delayed. The point of the parable is this: since the disciples do not know the day nor the hour of the Lord's coming, they must be prepared so that when he comes they can enter his Kingdom.

To be prepared means to be a `doer' rather than a mere `hearer' of the word. It means living soberly in the present with one's gaze directed towards the future.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Canon Kenneth writes ...

At the last St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council we were discussing the timing of Christmas Masses. St Columba's Masses will be at 7pm on Christmas Eve and 9.30am on Christmas Day. In St Peter's 11.30am on Christmas morning was well attended. However Midnight Mass was less than one hundred parishioners. Last year we were one of only four parishes that had Mass at Midnight (Cathedral, St Pat's, St Albert's). So the discussion was should we have a Christmas Vigil Mass at 5.30pm our usual time, a later Mass at 9pm or retain midnight Mass at Midnight. Speak to Canon Kenneth or Fr Daniel or email us on the parish email.

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St Columba's: 9 Upper Gray Street EH9 1SN; www.stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk
Deacon: Rev John E Smith: DeaconJohn.Smith@staned.org.uk
Parish Secretaries:
St Peter's: Sharon Kedney Office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk (10-1 Thursdays)
St Columba's: Sr Karin: sister@stcolumbasrcedinburgh.org.uk
St. Columba's Hall hire:
James Meehan: Jamesmeehan50@gmail.com

This Week in our Parishes …

Sunday 8 November	**32nd Sunday of the Year — Year A** Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today We celebrate the `Rite of the presentation of the Gospel` at 09.30 and 11.30 Masses for those preparing for Confirmation 10.30 St. Columba's: Sister Karin's Sacramental Preparation groups for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes
Monday 9	09.30 Monday Mass at St. Peter's has resumed 7.30pm, RCIA meeting, St. Peter's Parish room
Tuesday 10	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Columba's
Friday 13	Teas and coffees after Mass at St. Peter's 7pm, St. Columba's Curry night, Main hall
Sunday 15	**33rd Sunday of the Year — Year A** Children's Liturgy at both morning Masses today Teas and coffees after the morning Masses in both Parishes



Congratulations to **Murray Jack Fitzpatick**, Baptised last Sunday at St. Columba's.

Today we celebrate the **`Rite of the presentation of the Gospel`** at 09.30 and 11.30 Masses for those preparing for Confirmation.

Canon Kenneth is away 9 - 13 November inclusive, Fr. Daniel is available for any pastoral emergencies.

T**he Havard family** would like to thank everyone for the prayers, Masses, and support which they received following John's death. So many people contributed to make the funeral a memorable occasion, including John Riederer and his team of helpers. People who came with little or no experience of church were struck by the vibrant parish community life. Thanks to all for their generosity £360 was raised for Freshstart.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Katie Bardsley** died very peacefully on Sat 31st Oct. She was 96 and had been a parishioner at St Columba's for over 10 years. Her funeral will be at St Columba's church on Thursday 26th at 11am.

Are you a **young woman thinking about a vocation to the religious life**? Come to `Explore', a retreat day that includes a chance to reflect and explore God's will for you. **Saturday 14 November, 10am-7pm**, 9 Upper Gray Street, EH9 1SN. Includes Mass, reflections, prayer, holy hour, a chance to socialise over pizza. To register, email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO: mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

SCIAF Remembrance Mass, Saturday 14 November, 12.30pm, Sacred Heart Jesuit Church. In the month of the Holy Souls we celebrate Mass in memory of loved ones lost. Names can be added to Book of Remembrance online or in Church before Mass.

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SCIAF Christmas cards on sale in St. Peter's Parish room from **Sunday 15 November.**

Next meeting of the **Catholic Teens Group: Wednesday 25 November** for P7- S4. Meeting monthly 7-8.30pm, the last Wednesday of the month, St. Columba's Halls, Upper Gray Street. Come and make new friends, play fun games, get involved in excursions and service opportunities, while learning more about our faith. Your parent/guardian can register your interest by emailing: teens.stcolumbaedinburgh@staned.org.uk

Saturday 28 November, 12.30pm: Outreach J&P group **Alternativity Advent Lunc**h, St. Peter's. A lovely way to begin Advent. Tickets £10 (all to SCIAF) on sale after 5.30pm Saturday and 11.30am Sunday Masses. If vegetarian please tell ticket seller.

Congratulations to St. Peter's SCIAF "**200 Club**" October Winners: **Jack Strathearn** (£25) and **Wynne Doonan** (£15).

SCIAF Carol Service, **Sunday 29 November 4pm**, Sacred Heart Church.

Knitters needed to knit 'Christmas angels' (distributed to children at Newington Churches Together carol service, Nicolson square, **Sunday 13 December** 1pm). Pattern leaflets at back of both Churches.

Safe the date/sign up: **St. Columba's Carol Singing and Nativity Play, Sunday 13 December 2.30-4pm**, Main Hall. If your (grand)child would like to participate, sign up with Sister Rian at rian.vb@thework-fso.org or fill out the green sheet the Sisters are handing out. Rehearsals: Sunday 29 November and 6 December, 10.30am; Friday 11 December, 3.30-5pm in the Halls.

St. Aloysius' College, Glasgow, Scotland's Jesuit school, Open Morning Saturday 14 November, school tours from 10.30am. Hear about the College's Catholic and Jesuit tradition, academic excellence, wide range of opportunities available. The College welcomes applications for its Ignatian Academic Excellence Scholarship for pupils entering S1 in August 2027. Up to 50% remission of annual tuition fees, from S1 to S6, for pupils demonstrating outstanding academic potential, intellectual curiosity, integrity and a commitment to contributing positively to their school community. Applications close 31 December. Contact St Aloysius' College for further information.

Parish news continued on page 4>>>

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Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

Catholics pray for the dead primarily to intercede for souls undergoing purification in Purgatory so that they may enter the full glory of Heaven.
This ancient tradition is deeply rooted in Catholic theology, scripture, and the belief that the spiritual bond between the living and the deceased transcends death.

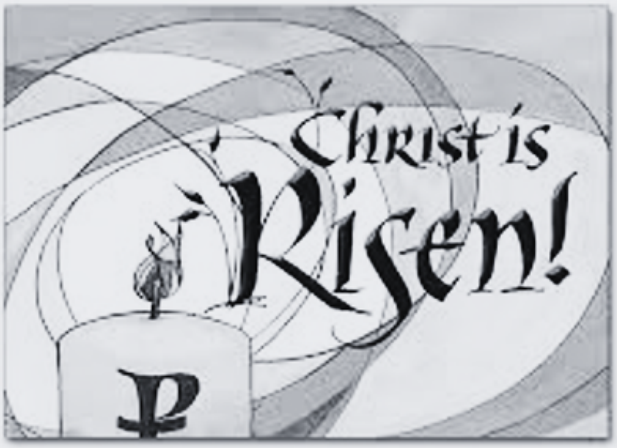
1. Aid for Souls in Purgatory
The Catholic Church teaches that individuals who die in God's grace and friendship, but are still imperfectly purified, are assured eternal salvation. However, they undergo a post-mortem purification—known as **Purgatory**—to achieve the holiness required to enter Heaven. Catholics believe their prayers, sacrifices, and Masses can actively aid these souls, easing and expediting their purification process.

2. The Communion of Saints
This practice relies heavily on the doctrine of the **Communion of Saints,** which states that all members of the Church—the living on Earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the saints in Heaven—form one interconnected spiritual body.

- Mutual Spiritual Assistance: Just as living Christians ask each other for prayers, Catholics believe they can assist deceased Christians with spiritual support.
- **Reciprocal Intercession:** According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 958), praying for the dead also makes their own intercession for the living more effective. Once these souls reach Heaven, they continue to pray for those still on Earth.

3. Biblical and Historical Roots
Praying for the deceased is not a modern development; it dates back to pre-Christian Jewish traditions and early Church history:

- **Scriptural Basis:** The primary biblical defense is found in the Old Testament in **2 Maccabees 12:46**, which calls praying for the dead a "holy and wholesome thought" to release them from sin.
- **Early Tradition:** By the fourth century, offering prayers and the Eucharistic sacrifice (the Mass) for the deceased was already documented as a longstanding Christian custom.



Canon Kenneth Owens

8 - 15 November 2026

Date	Church	Time	Feast	Mass intention
Saturday 7 November Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	31st week of the Year 32nd Sunday of the Year	DM: Giuseppe & Gianna Picciotto RIP
Sunday 8 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	32nd Sunday of the Year	Intentions Eggins Family People of the Parishes
Monday 9 November	St. Peter's	9.30am	Dedication of Lateran Basilica	Intentions of the Cairns family
Tuesday 10 November	St Columba's	9.30am	St Leo the Great	Holy Souls
Weds 11 November	St Peter's	9.30am	St Martin of Tours	John Wastle RIP
Thurs 12 November	St Columba's	9.30am	St Josaphat	Mentor Stephen Oriere RIP
Friday 13 November	St Peter's	9.30am	32nd week of the Year	John Wastle RIP
Saturday 14 November Vigil	St Peter's St Peter's	12 noon 5.30pm	32nd week of the Year 33rd Sunday of the Year	RIP remembrance John Anderson and Canon Bill Anderson People of the Parishes
Sunday 15 November	St Columba's St Peter's St Columba's	9.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	33rd Sunday of the Year	KO: John Wastle RIP DM: John Havard 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

32nd Sunday 8 November readings: p152
First reading: Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm: 63(62): 2 3-4 5-6 7-8 R 2b
Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God
Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or 13-14
Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

Appeal for donations of winter clothes/footwear for male refugees. Please leave at back of Churches.

Follow **St. Columba's new Facebook** page: https://facebook.com/StColumbasCatholicEdinburgh

Fresh Start festive appeals
Help Fresh Start support families with **festive food hampers**. Donations of non-perishableseasonal items accepted **until Friday, 4 December** (advent calendars, biscuits, tea, coffee, crackers, selection boxes, no items containing alcohol). Can be left at box at the back of the Churches. Full list of accepted festive food items here.

Fresh Start Cookers For Christmas Appeal: inviting donations to the White Goods service, supporting those moving on from homelessness to access essential white goods (cookers, fridges, washing machines) so they can thrive in new homes. You can donate here: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookers-for-christmas-2026, by cash, cheque or bank transfer (don't forget Gift Aid).

Wellbeing workshop, Sunday 29 November 2-5pm St. Columba's Hall. An afternoon to focus on your wellbeing in partnership with Yoga Social Edinburgh. Yoga, meditation and opportunities to restore. Opportunities to chat and have snacks. £40 or £20 concession https//www.artinheaalthcare.org.uk/shop/
See poster at back of Church for details.

Reflection
The bridegroom said to the foolish bridesmaids,
I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.
How can we ensure that the Lord will recognise us
when we arrive at the door of the heavenly Kingdom?
By keeping the lamp of love burning brightly.
And how do we do this?
Through a continuous input of small drops of oil.
What do these drops of oil consist of?
The small things of daily life,
The little deeds of kindness and of service.

Scan for donations
St. Peters 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 julietmmackellaig@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