

St. Peter's Hamilton
Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

22nd March 2026

Our Parish Mission

**All are welcome in this place
Behold Love's amazing grace
All are welcome
Bring your hopes, bring your dreams
Mercy flows and love redeems**

6.53am Thursday again!

Its a busy week ahead with First Confessions and extra confessions for lent.

In the bulletin there is a letter from the Bishops of Scotland after receiving a letter from the Holy See.

We begin the fifth week of lent this weekend it is a new stage in the Lenten Season we will cover the statues and take down all the pictures in the Church.

The reason we do this is:

The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to

miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!
The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing.

When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26

First Confessions 2026

St. Peter's This Monday 6.30pm

St. Mark's This Tuesday 6.30pm

We are looking for prayer partners for our children. Their names are on the back wall of the church. Please sign up to pray for them.

Please pray for them in their next step in their faith journey, Thank You

Sundays Readings

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130:1-8

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Gospel Reading

*John 11:1-45 (shorter version John
11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45)*

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The

people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy. Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict

with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Statement from the Bishops of Scotland

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is suitable.

We are all aware of the challenges before us – fewer clergy, changing patterns of practice, and increasing pressures on our diocesan resources, among other things. Yet our mission remains unchanged: to proclaim the Gospel and to lead our people to Christ.

Two possible pathways are being proposed for careful discernment: developing deeper cooperation and the sharing of resources across dioceses within our present structures, or the merging of some dioceses.

In order to best inform ourselves and the Holy See, each bishop will engage with his diocese over the coming months for the first part of this process. Everyone will be given the opportunity to pray, reflect, and contribute.

Following-on from the presentation of a discussion paper, responses from each diocese will contribute to the initial findings which will be given to the Holy See in the Autumn.

This is not simply an administrative exercise. It is a pastoral and missionary response to our changing landscape. This process will ensure our Church in Scotland will continue to grow ever more missionary, more Christ-centred, and more collaborative in the service of God's people.

Entrusting this work to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the intercession of Our Lady, we move forward together with confidence and renewed hope.

The Bishops of Scotland

Extra Confessions Next Week

Wednesday

9.30-9.50am

6pm-7pm

Thursday
5pm-6pm

Friday & Saturday
9.30-9.50am

Defibrillator

A Defibrillator will be installed in our front car park. The Scottish Ambulance Service Training will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2026 from 6pm-8pm. If you are interesting in the training contact Fr. Frank asap. It will open to be used by the whole community.

Next Weeks Mass Programme

Monday 8.15am Mass

Tuesday : 8.15am & 10am Masses

Wednesday 10am & 7pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday 8.15am & 10am Masses

Friday: 10am Mass & Short Stations of the Cross

Saturday 10am Mass

Sunday Masses: 4pm Vigil, 9.30am & 11am Masses

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tues-Fri 9.30am - 9.55am

Sunday Rota

This Weekend

Readers

4pm Vigil: B. Cornes

9.30am: P. Davies

11am: P. McKeown

We are looking for new readers for all the Sunday Masses. If you wish to volunteer please see Fr. Frank.

Eucharistic Ministers:

4pm Vigil: S. Boyle, M. Kilpatrick & M. Halbert

9.30am: C, Bonnar, R. Gemmill & K. O'Neill

11am: T. McKenzie, S. Cunningham & D. Lee

Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota

Tuesday: P. Davies

Wednesday: B. Cornes

Thursday: P. McKeown

Friday: J. McCluskey

Saturday: A. Devlin

Please pray for the following:

Sick:

Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Neil Boyle,
John Rielly Molly Strang, James Clark,

Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson,
Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy
Callaghan, Suzanne McMurray,
Mary Coyle, Lesley Watson (Spain) Maureen McHugh,
Margaret Burke, Marie White, Kathleen Daly,
John McGuire, Jill Brown, Karen Pritchatt,
Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Jill Brown,
Marie McGuire, James Morton, Paul Kearney,
Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey,
Premature Baby Vincent McDowell,
Bill Allan, Gudren Berk (Germany),
Jaqueline McReynolds, Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth
(Easterhouse), Margaret Loan, Avril McCluskey, Elizabeth
Miller, Carol Corr and all our sick.

Recently Dead: Peter Phairs, John McDonald, Geraldine
McAuley

Month Minds & Anniversaries:

Mary Warnock, John Quinn, Philip Coccozza,
Thomas Daly Snr., Tracey Archibald, Molly Rooney,
Niamh, Niall & Derek James Rooney, Charlie Connor,
Peter McGilvary,

Please if you could make sure all month minds and
anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night.

If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

I am also looking for Volunteers to move the power-points on during the Sunday Masses, Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take a wee bit of pressure off me.

The Food Bank are running short of the following items:

**UHT Milk, Cereal, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Custard, Pasta Sauce, Jam, Diluting Juice, Toilet Roll, Toiletries
Easter Eggs for the children.**

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it

back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

**Baptism/Wedding Meetings: THURSDAY 6pm & 7pm. JUST
TURN UP**

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank You.

Fr. Frank

