

South Edinburgh Cluster

The faith communities of St John Vianney's, St Gregory's and St Catherine's

Journeying from maintenance to mission

Cluster News – 29/30 November 2025

(1st Sunday of Advent – Year A)

Cluster contact details

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Cluster Team:

Fr Alex Davie – Parish Priest; Maureen Wallbanks – St Gregory's Parish Coordinator;
Sr Ninian Duffner – St John Vianney's Parish Coordinator

Cluster Administrator:

Carol Mulvenna: available on **Mondays and Friday mornings** (0131 563 8391 or southedclust@btinternet.com)

Weekday Services this coming week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Fr Alex is on Retreat				

Next Weekend Mass times:

St Gregory's

Saturday

6pm

St John Vianney

Sunday

9.30am (in St Gregory's)

St Catherine's

Sunday

11.00am

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We all know that during the four weeks of Advent most of us will have to get through a mountain of tasks involving the cluster, our work, our friends and our families. Perhaps we can interpret today's message to "stay awake" as meaning "stay conscious", "keep someone in mind". We can't ignore Christmastide, but we can make the supreme effort to remain conscious of the central character in it all - the Christ child. If we can get into the way of linking all our preparations into the mantra "Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus" (as we trudge round the shops!) we will have started something really important. We will be living our lives "in Christ" not just for Christmas but forevermore.

[Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

Upcoming Funerals

Brian Phillips – Wednesday 10 December 20235, Funeral Mass 10.00am St Gregory's.

Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing)

If you have a **planned admission to hospital** and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing) before you go into hospital, please approach Fr Alex in the sacristy, before or after Mass. If you are **admitted to hospital** and would like to see a priest, please speak to the nurse in charge on your ward and he/she will arrange for one of the priests on the hospital chaplaincy team to visit you.

Cluster Reconciliation Service ~ Thu 11 Dec

7pm in St Gregory's Church. Everyone in our three parishes is invited to come along to this celebration of God's forgiveness.

"Where we have failed each other, prompt forgiveness.

Where we have harmed each other, provide healing.

Where we have blessed each other, provoke thanksgiving.

So may we live with one another in love,

awake to frailty, grateful for grace, tender in patience."

Carla A. Grosch-Miller

St Catherine's Christmas toy collection

Our annual toy collection will take place on the 14th December. Please mark on the present whether it is for a boy or girl. Please also write what the age group of the present is. We had a wonderful collection of presents last year so hopefully we can get close to that number again. It makes such a difference to our school and also the wider South East community children when they receive our gifts. Thank you in anticipation. *Catherine & Brian.*

Cluster Christmas Concert

Tue 16 Dec @ 7.00pm in St Catherine's. We look forward to welcoming you all along to a relaxed and enjoyable evening of some well known and not so well known Christmas songs, as well as audience participation! So, buy your tickets, put on your Christmas jumpers, and make the church sparkle and shine with song and laughter. Tickets at **£5** each on sale in all churches from **Jacinta & Sr Jeannette** (SG), **Kathleen & Carol** (SJV), **Suzanne & Linda** (SC).

St Catherine's Advent Fair Trade Stall

Today after 11am mass. Please come and browse or buy. We hope to have some Christmas presents to tempt you as well as our usual stock of household staples. Thanks for all your support.

Christmas Raffles

St Gregory's Traditional Christmas raffle

A hamper has kindly been donated to help us raise funds for the parish. Donations of prizes (i.e. bottles, chocolates, toiletries etc) would be most welcome. To join in, put your donation of what you can afford into an envelope marked 'St Gregory's raffle', with your name & contact number. Drop off in the basket in the porch or hand to Jacinta at Mass. Community has always been at the heart of what we do - thank you in advance for your donations. Draw: Sat 20 Dec after 6pm Mass with teas, coffee and treats. Jacinta

St John Vianney Christmas Raffle

Sun 21 Dec after 9.30am Mass. Raffle tickets are on sale now at £1 per strip. We will have the usual great variety of prizes including a lovely hamper provided by Maureen & Frank Quinn, toiletries, bottles, chocolates and lots more. Tea and coffee will be served along with mince pies and other Christmas goodies. All welcome 🎄

St Catherine's Primary School Raffle – Draw in the school Thursday 18th December. Loads of prizes including a lovely hamper.

Cluster Seniors Christmas Party

Sat 13 Dec, 12.30–4.30pm in St Catherine's Hall. Ho! ho! ho! 🎅👶 Santa's Helpers would like to invite our Seniors of the Cluster to an afternoon of good company, singalong, dancing and lovely food. Please give your **name, contact details**, and if transport is required, to **Jacinta** (SG),

Susanne & Carol (SJV), **Janet, Susanne & Linda** (SC), and you'll receive your ticket. Love, *Santa's Elves* 🧝

Cluster Bereavement Service

Our Next Service is **6th December** at 9.30am in St Gregory's, with our January Service on **10th January**. There will be an opportunity to light a Candle in memory of loved ones. Please note the change of dates for the December & January Services as unfortunately most of the group have another commitment in December with SPRED. Please contact Jacinta if you have any questions.

New prayer opportunity starts this Sunday

The Prayer Foundation was launched on the First Sunday of Advent 2018 and its main role has been to pray for those in need of prayer as well as holding afternoons of prayer. Our team are now also available to **pray in person** with and for people who are in need of prayer. This ministry will start in St Catherine's church on the **1st Sunday of Advent (30 Nov, St Andrew's Day) from 10-10.30am** before Mass and will continue on the last Sunday of each month. All are welcome to come for silent prayer or to be prayed with/for. It is hoped that this ministry would eventually also take place for St Gregory's and St John Vianney's. For more information please Clare Roller claire.roller@icloud.com.

Catholic Education Special Collection

There will be a **special collection this weekend** at our masses. Please keep, school staff, parents and pupils in your prayers.

Masses for the Solemnity of St Andrew

Mon 1 Dec at St Mary's Cathedral (feast day this year transferred from 30 Nov). The Apostle's relics are preserved in the National Shrine of St Andrew at the Cathedral. Masses **10am** and with Archbishop Cushley at **12.45pm**. Public veneration of the relics follows both Masses. 7pm Holy Hour with sung Vespers and Eucharistic Adoration.

Fairtrade Stall

Next weekend at St Gregory's and St John Vianney's.

Christmas Items for Sale

A selection of items – wreaths, paper, decorations etc at a reasonable cost for sale in St John Vianney's. All proceeds to SVDP.

Christmas Handmade Cards

Stephanie will have some of her beautiful handmade Christmas cards for sale next weekend.

SJV School Carol Concert

Thu 18 Dec @ 1.30pm. Parishioners are warmly invited by St John Vianney's School P4-P7 children to their Carol Singing in the school hall. It would be great to see you there to support our children.

Christmas Party Gracemount Mansion Gardens

Saturday 13 December 12 – 2pm. Free Christmas party including hot tasty lunch, family fun activities, Christmas crafts. All welcome.

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 3 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 4 (week beginning 01/12).

Marriage in the South Edinburgh Cluster

Planning to get married? Whether you plan to get married in one of the Cluster parishes (St Catherine, St Gregory, St John Vianney), another church or abroad, there are certain criteria that need to be met and things you need to do well in advance of the wedding ceremony. Please go to the [Marriage page](https://www.southedinburghrc.org.uk/marriage-in-the-cluster) on our website for all the details you will require to proceed. <https://www.southedinburghrc.org.uk/marriage-in-the-cluster>

Currently needed

Tinned meat, instant mash, tinned veg, Christmas chocolate/cakes/sweets, mince pies, toiletries, toilet rolls. Thank you so much for your continued support! We really appreciate it. Normal opening hours for the Food Bank are **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am to 1.30 pm**. The relevant food bank for the Cluster is: 47 Southhouse Broadway EH17 8AS. Phone number 664 9353; Email: edinburghfoodbank@blythswood.org



You are held in prayer



Those who are unwell and in need of our prayers: Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are unwell

Fr Nick, Betty, Jesus Camargo, Susana Sanchez, Francis Reilly, Victor Trupcic, David, Daniel Philips, Bryan Hawthorn, Graciela Camargo, Berhane Shiker, Michael Doherty, Erin Colvin, Jorge

Mario Gaitán, Josie McKeen, Teresa (sister of Maureen Henderson), Natalia, Paul Cronin, Hilary Fernandes, Ethel Ferguson, Luke, Bekka and family, Geraldine Rodrigues, Vincent McCann, Sr Rosemary Bayne, Linda Anderson, Kevin Theile, Damian Mulvenna, Irena Kaluza, Belta Fernandes (Christina Fernandes 'aunt) and her daughter Ida, Catriona Darling, Ken McIntosh, Stephen, Annabelle Colquhoun, John McConnell, Andrew Woodstock, Evelyn Welsh, Jacqui Phillips, Annette Sibbald, Paula Smith, Joe MacDonald, Victoria, Dylan Joseph, Dave Lynch, Erin, Karin Rivero, Anton, Wesley Winder, Bette Boyle, Alexis Spence, Michelle Falconer, Maureen Christie, Sr. Clare Wilson, James Nolan, David Harvey, David Cole, Derek & Fiona O'Farrell, Maureen Love, David Spence, Ronnie Libang, Michael Rodrigues, Bruno, Catherine, Melissa Longmore, Gerrard Salvona, Andrzej Patyna, Hannah McGinley, Michael Bell, Margaret Adams, Bridie Addison, Tracey, Valerie Anderson, Zoila Melgarejo, Susie Hay, Rose Ross, Edison Villabona, Anne-Marie Davie, Joe McConnell, Ellen Salvona, Rudy Deras, Mary, Verdiana Kweka, Sr. Veronica, John, Jennifer, Maureen Lawson, Catherine Hart, James Duffy, Ronan Boyle, Catriona McAuley, Marie, Roney Fernandes, Christopher Browne, Xaverina Rodrigues, Anne and Helen, Sacred Heart sisters in Uganda.

We remember in love

Christopher Bell, Pauline Aylott, Brian Phillips, Stuart Millikin, Mary Williamson, Laurence Loy.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Tress Witte, Michael Witte, James Coyle, Eric Innes, Betty Brock, Thomas Allan, James Grimley, Madge Hall, Joseph O'Rourke, Mary Lightly, Ann Blackwell, Fiona Harrold, Patrick Sibbald, Freda Bowman, Margaret Topping, Evelyn Robson, Robert Robson (Jnr), Betty Curran, Marie Williams, Father Albert Gardner, James Maxwell Ingram, Mary Ellen.

May they rest in peace.

Advent and Christmas Services in our three Cluster Parishes

Cluster Reconciliation Service:	Thu 11 Dec @ 7pm in St Gregory's Church
Christmas Eve Mass:	Wed 24 Dec @ 6pm, in St Gregory's Church
Christmas Eve Mass:	Wed 24 Dec @ 8pm, in St Catherine's Church (with nativity play)
Christmas Day Mass:	Thu 25 Dec @ 10am, in St Gregory's Church
New Year's Day Mass:	Thu 1 Jan @ 11am, in St Catherine's Church