

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 – 13/14 December 2025

(3rd Sunday of Advent – Year A)

Cluster contact details

Postal address: 2 Captain's Row, Edinburgh, EH16 6QP
Phone number: 0131 563 8391
Email address: southedclust@btinternet.com
Website: www.southedinburghrc.org.uk

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
15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
No service	No Service	SJV School – 9.30am Parishioners welcome	SC – 12 noon Funeral Mass Alesandra Inglis	Mortonhall 10.00am Funeral Service Mary Brogan

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,

In today's gospel John the Baptist is in prison confronted by doubts. Jesus does not appear to be his idea of a Messiah. Perhaps just as many of us would like, he wanted someone who would sweep into the world and sort things out wholesale. What he is hearing about, is a gentle individual, no wealth, no trappings and seemingly no power. Jesus doesn't rebuke John for his doubts but neither does he directly assert his identity. He sends back word of what he has done. It is in his actions that he reveals he is indeed the Messiah. In today's world it is our actions that show Jesus' message is still alive! [Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

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.

New parishioners – registering with our parishes

Welcome to our parishes! We are pleased that you have become part of our faith community. If you would like to receive our weekly electronic newsletter and other important information throughout the year, we would ask you to consider registering with our parish communities - simply complete the online form <https://www.southedinburghrc.org.uk/cluster-registration> - If you don't have internet access, please ask one of the Welcome Team at Mass for a paper copy of the Registration Form. Please complete the form and return it to St Catherine's Parish House, 2 Captain's Row, Edinburgh, EH16 6QP, marked for the attention of the Cluster Administrator.

Upcoming Funerals

Alessandra Inglis – Thursday 18 Dec, Funeral Mass 12noon in St Catherine's.

Chris Hampton – Monday 22 Dec, Funeral Mass at 10 am in St David's in Dalkeith.

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).

Christmas Raffles

Both St Gregory's and St John Vianney's Traditional Christmas raffles will be drawn after masses next weekend. There will be teas, coffee and treats.

This year, SJV raffle proceeds will be donated to Pregnancy Counselling and Care Scotland who support families and individuals during pregnancy and early parenthood or at times of loss, by providing practical and emotional support. They have recently had to start paying rent for their premises.

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

St Catherine's Christmas Fair Trade Stall

This Sunday, **St. Catherine's** hold their Christmas FT Stall after 11am Mass. Come and find some unique and fair gifts. Another way to support the producers is to sign the [FT Foundation petition](#) on behalf of tea producers.

New prayer opportunity

New prayer opportunity on the last Sunday of the month at St Catherine's church. The next one will be on 28 December. The church will be open from 10am for 30 minutes of silent prayer. There will also be an option to be prayed with/for. It is hoped that this ministry will eventually also take place for St Gregory's and St John Vianney's. For more information please email Clare Roller claire.roller@icloud.com

New bank arrangements for the Cluster

We have been requested by the Archdiocese to move our bank accounts from Bank of Scotland to Royal Bank of Scotland. This requires all offertory donations we receive by **standing order** to be amended by the payer. **if you are donating** to your parish, please contact Fred McConnell – fredmcconnell@btinternet.com our Cluster accountant. about **what you need to do**.

If you are donating to St John Vianney's parish, and picked up a handout last week, please note that there has been a **change to the bank details** by the Archdiocese. Please collect a letter from Graham Scrimgeour, Director of Finance for the diocese, explaining this. Heartfelt thanks to all our generous donors.

St Catherine's Orchard - present dream, future reality?

Last Sunday Juliette spoke about a Cluster meeting. A group of us imagined our church gardens complete with orchard, wild flowers and fruit bushes as well as places to sit and relax. To take this further we hope to have a meeting in the New Year (details to follow) and invite the Gracemount Community Gardens to talk to us about their experience and whether they could help. We would ask if you are interested in any way to please contact us on the following email address patricia57gillian@gmail.com. Thanks very much.

Thanks to all Parishioners

who purchased Christmas decorations a week ago. **£120** was raised for **St Vincent de Paul**. Thank you for your generosity, *Maureen Quinn*

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 5 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's - Group 1 (week beginning 15/12).

SJV Primary ~ Christmas Charity Food Hamper Initiative

Linked with St Vincent De Paul Society, we are accepting donations of non-perishable food items which will **support families in our school and beyond**. Please send in donations to the school. Thank you!



School Christmas events

Parishioners are welcome to attend these events. Come and support our children.
SJV Whole School Advent Mass ~ **Wed 17 Dec @ 9:30am**, led by RE Pupil Group.
SJV School Carol Concert ~ **Thu 18 Dec @ 1.30pm** in the school hall.
St Catherine's Primary School Raffle ~ Draw in the school on **Thu 18 Dec**.

New Year's Lunchtime Concert

An invitation to Liberton Kirk on December 30th for the New Year's Lunchtime Concert. This year's theme is *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*. The concert starts at 1pm but doors opening at 12.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies available. Entrance is by the suggested donation of £8 per person, cash only. See noticeboard.

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](#) 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, tinned veg, tinned tuna, rice, diluting juice, fruit juice, sponge puddings. 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, Liliam Rivero, Jimmy Love, Ronnie Doig, 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

Chris Hampton, Christopher Bell, Pauline Aylott, Brian Phillips, Stuart Millikin.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Week beginning 15/12/25

Bridget Coyle, Margaret Maggie McCole, John Bonner, Elsie Veitch, James Devers, Allan MacLean, John Manderson, Matthew Milne, Herbert Cobb, Stephen (Stevie) Donald, Alice Weir, Eddie Gardner, Jane Smith, Peter Archibald Clancy, George Petrie Hay Wilson, Grace Ford, Michael Devitt, Helen Kay, Bridget Calvey, Catherine Gannon Stanton, Elizabeth McGowan, Nan Jappy, Mary Macrae, Doreen Greco, James Barclay, Patricia Hunter, Theresa Martin.

May they rest in peace.

Due to an oversight, not all the anniversaries for the *Week beginning 01/12/25* were published, so we have published these again. Our apologies for any distress this may have caused.

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 Pearce, Miranda (Pandy) Campbell, Mary Dodds, Margaret Risi, Mary Brown, Annie McLaughlin, Doreen Lamb.

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