

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 – 20/21 December 2025 (4th 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
22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
No service	No Service	Christmas Eve Vigil Masses SG – 6.00pm SC – 8.00pm	Christmas Day Mass SG – 10.00am	No Service

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 Sisters and Brothers,

As with Mary's "let it be" to a motherhood outside of her betrothed state, so Joseph goes against the accepted law and agrees to take a pregnant Mary as his wife. Jesus is born through the breaking of the status quo. Indeed, his whole life is a continuation of that challenge to the way the world thinks is normal.

Christmas is about transformation but the 'how' for us personally has to start with us looking at 'our normal' and comparing it to the gospel message. Perhaps we could try reading the gospel daily for a while? [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.

Upcoming Funerals

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

Cluster Christmas Concert

Thank you to everyone who came along to Tuesday night's Christmas Carol Concert. It was such a lovely, family community feel. Everyone enjoyed the night, all singing along. Thank you to all the singers, ticket sellers, tea ladies, and to Santa who made a special visit. Thank you to one and all. We raised an amazing £415 and this will be put towards StCs roof fund. Merry Christmas to you all for supporting this event. Catherine and Moyra 🎵🎤👤🎄

Cluster Seniors Christmas party

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Seniors Christmas Party. What a fun, fantastic afternoon. Great company, food, music and dancing. Thank you to all of Santa's helpers, who gave their time to put it altogether and of course, to Santa, who made a special stop to come and see us too. A very big thank you to one and all. Merry Christmas

Christmas Toy Appeal at St Catherine's

It was truly a fantastic response from everyone, particularly when things are difficult for many people. Five of Santa's Elves sorted them all out on Sunday after Mass and they were delivered to St Catherine's school and the Social Work Dept. on Monday. Both the school and the Social Work were very grateful and both said that they would make a great difference to many children. Thanks again for all your generosity.

St Catherine's Christmas Fair Trade Stall

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas stall. We took **£175** to the shop. We have also given a **£200** donation to [Transform Trade](#). This was doubled and brings our annual donations to **£500**. A thank you message from Transform Trade says, "This Christmas, your gift is helping smallholder farmers to build a brighter future for their families, by working together as a community to trade fairly on their terms, addressing injustice and raising their incomes. Your gift will make a difference today, and for years to come."

Cluster Bereavement Service

Next Bereavement Service ~ Sat 10 Jan 9.30am in St Gregory's. Candles are lit for family and friends of the Cluster who have died in the last month, or if there's an anniversary of a loved one, please say when you arrive. **Teas and coffees** will be available after the service. For more information, contact Jacinta 07791 332753.

SSVP

The SSVP wishes to thank the parishioners who have generously supported our conferences over this Christmas period. Your help has enabled us to expand our circle of support to people in need throughout the cluster and beyond. Your care, love and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Special collection 3/4 Jan

A special collection for **Justice and Peace** will be taken up at the three weekend Masses of 3/4 Jan. You can also donate by scanning the QR code here. If you are a taxpayer, please consider gift-aiding your donation. Gift Aid adds 25% to your donation at no extra cost to yourself.



Justice & Peace Collection

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.

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 1 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 2 (week beginning 29/12).

Get your number for 2026

£2 per no. per month from Jan to Nov, so **£22 annually**. Multiple numbers welcome. I'm happy to take monies monthly, quarterly or for the full year. Monies in an envelope with your **name & phone number** and drop off at St Gregory's. I'm also happy to collect. Sadly we have lost a few of our members, so new supporters more than welcome. Church funds need you! *Ann Callaghan*

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



Ladies' Guild

Both St Gregory's and the Cluster Ladies' Guilds have now finished for the winter. They will resume in March 2026.

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, 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, 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 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.

We remember in love

Alesandra Inglis, Mary Brogan, Chris Hampton, Christopher Bell, Pauline Aylott, Brian Phillips.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Anniversaries from 22/12/25 to 11/01/26

Ruby Bird, Ina Boyle, Josephine Marino Perry, P.J. Naughton, Jimmy Gallagher, Nora Gallagher, Annie Ogden, Helen McKay Thompson, Gemma Strathie, Tom Fagan, Margaret MacDonald, Eddie Kerr, George Hastie, Charles McCann, Tom Fagan, James Murphy, Fiorinta (Flora) Ballack, James Kelly, Annie Reynolds, Michael Hopper, Annie Gardner, Mary Ann Kelly, Avril Gillespie, Bill Wood, Agnes Prior, Anne Margaret Clark, Robert Smith Roy, Harry Sinclair, Elizabeth Cockburn, Isa Kane, James Ritchie, Nicola Janette Robertson, Helen Harris, Bridie Glen, Dolly McIntyre, Jim Brennan, Josephine Perry, Mary Ellen McCole, Nancy Wilson, Mary Roarty, Peggy Cairney, Marie Perry, Andrew Doig, Margaret Allan, Hugh Malone, Peter Mullen, Betty Dryden, John Waugh, Evelyn Reilly, Angela Roach, Thomas Roarty, Sarah Holden, Kate Devers, Theresa Berry, John Waugh Snr, Michael Klimionek, Helen Gaynor, Terry Moriarty, Elizabeth Crawford, Ivor de Rollo, Mary McGeever, Annie McBride, Rachel MacMillan White, Janet Swan Gibbons, Michael Kempton, May Ferguson, Ann Carr, Tony Milligan, Neil Gray, Catherine Doig, Agnes MacLean, George Gallagher, Celia White, James & Mary Gallagher, Christina McDermaid, Patrick Rafferty, David Moffat, Joseph Boyle, James Ritchie, James Malone, Christelle Robin, Mary Cowe, Maria Walker, Agnes Waugh, Karen Quigley, Margaret Dobbyn, James McGeown, Peter Murray, Ina Hogg, Hugh Higgins, John Clark, Patrick Durick Doherty, Joseph McVey, Mary Lawson, Anne Perry, John Daly, Peggy McKelvey, Margaret Moore, Violet Doig.

May they rest in peace.

Christmas and New Year Newsletter

The newsletter will take a break over the festive period and will resume weekend of **10/11 Jan 2026.**

We wish you and your loved ones a Joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.