

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 – 07/08 February 2026

(5th Sunday of the 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
9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
SG – 9.30am	No Service	No Service	SG – 9.30am	SG – 9.30am

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,

In today's gospel Jesus tells the crowd that they are the salt of the earth. It is easy to know if salt has been added to a dish but only after you taste it. Our purpose in life, like salt, is to make a difference by how we act and not what we claim. If you are of a certain age, you may remember a poster that was often outside churches. It read "if you were accused of being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?" These readings call us to ask ourselves this question. [Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

Making the Vision a reality – from reflection to action

Over the past year, the Cluster Pastoral Council has been working on the actions required to help make the "Vision" a reality. Nobody can have missed our renewed focus on welcome, but there is a lot else getting under way, if not always so visibly. Read more about this here [link to website <https://www.southedinburghrc.org.uk/cluster-information/cluster-pastoral-council/updates-2026> printed insert for paper newsletter]. More importantly, as we move from reflection to action, we invite you reflect on your own gifts and talents and the part you can play in helping to build God's

kingdom here in South Edinburgh. We will say more about this when Council members make a short presentation at the masses this weekend and next.

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.

Lent is just around the corner

A chance for us to draw ever deeper into relationship with the Father. Here are some online & in-person opportunities to pray and reflect this Lent:

* Daily reflections - Lectio 365 –

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/26370352672567913>

* Windows into Heaven - Praying with Icons –

<https://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/event/windows-into-heaven-praying-with-icons-online/>

* An Introduction to Ways of Praying - Epiphany Group -

<https://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/introduction-to-ways-of-praying/>

* Through Lent with St Matthew - Ignatian Spirituality Centre –

<https://www.onlineprayer.net/l26-m/>

* A Moment at the Well - 7 March Heart in Pilgrimage –

<https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/a-moment-at-the-well/>

* Lent Day of Prayer - 14 March Ignatian Spirituality Centre –

<https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/dop>

* Life before Death - 21 March Ignatian Spirituality Centre –

<https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/life-before-death>

* Pilgrimage Retreat on Iona - 20-25 March –

<https://mullanotherway.co.uk/pilgrimage-on-iona>

* Heart in Pilgrimage at-home retreat packages –

<https://heartinpilgrimage.org.uk/online-retreats/>

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 2 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 4 (week beginning 26/01).

Bingo Night

Come and join our Bingo in St Catherine's Hall at **7 pm this Monday 9th February**. Other dates for your diary are 9th March, and 13th April.

Community lunch every Monday

@ **St Catherine's Hall**. We provide a bowl of soup, cake and a cup of tea/ coffee. Doors open at **11.30am** and lunch is served **from 12-1pm**. It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends & make new ones. If you've not been before, do come and join us

St Catherine's Orchard - Can you help?

We are still hoping to plant an orchard but we need help to achieve our vision of the church garden complete with orchard, wild flowers and fruit bushes, as well as places to sit and relax. **Calling all** gardeners, would-be gardeners, garden designers, would-be garden designers, and anyone who would like to be part of this venture. We have been promised help and advice by the Gracemount Community Gardens and by a resident in the Inch experienced in low maintenance, ecological gardening. **We would love to hear from people** and you can contact us here patricia57gillian@gmail.com

St. Catherine's School New Build - The next steps

On **Tue 10 Feb, 3.30 to 5pm, in the school hall**, the architect and landscape designer will focus on School Layout/Design and Playground/Landscape Design. All welcome.

200 Club

The winning number for January was No 28 with the winner receiving £65 and a further £65 going towards church funds.

There are still plenty numbers left for 2026. If you are interested just pop £20 in an envelope for the February- November draws- together with your name and telephone number and drop off at St Gregory's between now and end February. I will acknowledge receipt and let you know what your number is. Many thanks. *Ann Callaghan*

St Catherine's School newsletter

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/BPmrBcOZ7raIEqzE?ref=Link>

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

Diluting juice, fruit juice, tinned fruit, 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



Financial Help for Scots in 2026

Don't Miss Out: As households across Scotland continue to feel the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis, many people may be missing out on vital financial support they are entitled to. To find out more about benefits that may be available visit mygov.scot/benefits or use the **QR code** for the Social Security Scotland benefits page.

Stations of the Cross

The Archdiocese hosts online Stations of the Cross each Monday in Lent. The first one is on Monday 23 February at 7:45pm and will feature a reflection from Archbishop Leo. The annual event is to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/stations26

Valentine's Day afternoon retreat

This Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) couples are invited to join the Archdiocese's afternoon retreat reflecting on the Gift of Marriage. It takes place 2pm-5pm at St Kentigern's Church, 26-28 Parkgrove Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 7QR and is led by renowned Scottish Catholic playwright Stephen Callaghan and wife Rachel. Details and registration at bit.ly/archretreat26

Catechists for Special Needs

SPRED (Special Religious Development) groups need more catechists! Your role will be share the Lord with adults with special needs at fortnightly term-time meetings. Catechists are trained by the Archdiocese and meet fortnightly for preparatory sessions. Interested? Contact Sr Mary Benedicta Maier RSM, SPRED Coordinator, at srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk to serve.

SPRED: Sacramental Prep & Faith Formation for Children and Adults with Special Needs

Children and adults with special needs are invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church by being welcomed into a SPRED (Special Religious Development) group. If you are interested in your child or adult son or daughter participating, Sr Mary Benedicta Maier RSM, SPRED Co-ordinator, would love to hear from you at srmary.benedicta@staned.org.uk.

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, Jeanette Bell, Baby Freya, Ralph, Carson, Chrisanne Dsouza, Baby Patsy, Geoff Brown, Baby Lana (3 months old), 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

Carmelina McGregor, Miroslawa Kruczynska, Irene Turnbull.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Ammani Thomas, Rose Hoban, Michael Corrigan, Andy Doig, Danny McKelvey Jnr, Thomas McManus, Ann Brown, Annie Ogilvie, Paul Hunter Igoe, Robert Thackery, William Sibbald, Kim Hogg, Daniel Gallagher, Brian Lightly, James Keegan, David McAllister, William Jamieson, Madge Mason, Charles Smith, Gabriel Newton, Margaret Keaney, Alice Monaghan, Agnes Jamieson, Andrew Anderson.

May they rest in peace.