

## 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 –7/8 March 2026

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 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](mailto:southedclust@btinternet.com))

### Weekday Services this coming week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
SG - 9.30am		SG 9.30am	SG - 6.00pm First Reconciliation	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 Brothers and Sisters,

"Water is life. Yet, for many, it is dangerously scarce... Often the only water they (in Ethiopia) can find is dirty – but they must drink it to survive." (SCIAF Lenten letter). "Water is life." This is the theme of today's gospel, recounting an extraordinary conversation between Jesus and a woman drawing water from a well. It results in a multiple divorcee, a Samaritan, a woman – becoming a missionary disciple. Perhaps we should reflect on Jesus as the Water of Life; how accessible he is and how important he is in sustaining our life. At the same time, we need to remember our brothers and sisters who lack the basics and respond generously to SCIAF's "wee box" appeal. Perhaps we can use Lent as a time for "change" – through personal transformation and by placing the "wee box" next to the kettle. [Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

### RCIA: Rite of Election

This weekend we welcome our RCIA catechumen and candidates, and their Sponsors, to St John Vianney's Parish Mass at 09:30 on Sunday 8 March. During this Mass **Brannon, Brogan, Joseph,**

**Kristof, Liam, Reuben and Susan** will participate in the Rite of Election. This is an important moment on their RCIA journey. Please continue to pray for them as they move into the final stages of their journey towards reception into the Church on Holy Saturday.

### **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.

### **Lourdes Prayer Petitions**

If you have any prayer intentions that you would like placed at the Grotto, please write your intention & place in an envelope and leave it in the sacristy by Palm Sunday (27th/28th March). Address it to HCPT Group 88 or Jacqui or Roseanne. We will be lighting candles for our Cluster Parishes and remembering you ALL in our Masses while in Lourdes. You may be able to watch for our Group 88 (Red Hoodies) at [directfromlourdes.com](http://directfromlourdes.com) (24hr TV from the Grotto) and HCPT Facebook/YouTube channel or HCPT Scotland Facebook. On Tuesday evening HCPT will lead the Torchlight Procession, on Thursday it is the HCPT Trust Mass in the Underground Basilica where there will be about 5000 of us.

### **Next Bereavement Service: Sat 14 March @ 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.

If you would like more information, email Jacinta or phone her on 664 5581.

### **SEECAT Lent groups**

\* **Wednesdays 12.30-2pm**, at Church of Scotland Liberton Northfield, Gilmerton Road.

\* **Wednesdays 1.30pm**, at St Barnabas Episcopal Church, Moredun Park View. This follows on directly from the 12.30pm prayer group which everyone is also welcome to attend.

### **Stations of the Cross**

\* Mondays @ 2pm in St Catherine's (from 23 Feb)

\* Tuesdays @ 7pm in St Gregory's (from 24 Feb)

### **Support SCIAF This Lent**

Across Ethiopia, families are facing the impacts of drought, conflict, and the growing water crisis. With your support, SCIAF can help communities access clean water, restore livelihoods, and build a future free from poverty. To learn more about how your generosity is changing lives this Lent, please visit [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox).

### **BIG LENT WALK**

Maureen Quinn and Carol Mulvenna will walk the BIG LENT WALK again this year. The distance this year is the full length of the Blue Nile – 1450 kilometres! While it is highly unlikely we will reach this distance – even between us – we invite anyone from the cluster who walks to add their miles and we might reach that target! Sponsor sheets available at each mass if you would like to sponsor us.

### **Special Collection NEXT weekend**

Next weekend 14/15 March at all our masses, there will be a second collection for **SCIAF and Episcopal Charities**.

### **SEECAT Passover Meal, Monday 30 March 7.00pm at St Catherine's**

Every year we join with our sister churches to share a simple meal which includes some of the elements of the Passover Supper, and to share prayer and reflection to remind us of the Passover meal Jesus celebrated as the Last Supper. This year it will be at St Catherine's Church Hall, 7 pm, Monday 31 March. Entrance is by ticket only, suggested donation £6, and tickets are available from Jacinta Flockhart at St Gregory's, Maureen Quinn at St John Vianney's, Melanie Whitlock at St Catherine's. All are welcome, come and join us.

### **An Invitation to Pray and Reflect this Lent**

*Mary Morrison writes* "The monthly prayer group are offering a Taizé Prayer Service in St Catherine's Church on **Thurs 12 March, 7.30pm-8.30pm** with **refreshments** afterwards. You are

warmly invited to join us for some quiet, reflective prayer based on the Last Seven Words or Sayings of Jesus. What do these words mean for us today? How can we draw strength from them in our own struggles and how do they speak to us of the unconditional love of God? **Come and see."**

### **Alpha is back**

Whether you are new to the church or would simply like to take some time to explore your faith more deeply, Alpha is for you. We meet **every Tuesday from 14 April-16 June, 7-8.30pm in St Catherine's church**. Come and join us for some food, a film and a chat. No pressure. No judgement. Just a relaxed, friendly evening considering those big questions of life and faith. **All welcome**. Contact us at [cluster.alpha@outlook.com](mailto:cluster.alpha@outlook.com)

### **Teas & coffees after Mass**

Catch up with old pals and make new ones over a cuppa. **Sun 8 March** after **St John Vianney's** 9.30am Mass and **Sat 14 March** after **St Gregory's** 6pm Mass. At **St Catherine's** most Sundays after Mass.

### **St Gregory's 200 Club**

The lucky winner for the February draw of the 200 Club had number 69. £70 to her and £70 to church funds. Thanks, as always, to all those who support us in this way. *Ann Callaghan*

### **Next Bingo Night ~ Mon 9 March**

Come and join our Bingo in St Catherine's Hall at **7pm on Mon 9 March**. Another date for your diary is **13 April**. Bingo books are £1 for one, £3 for three and £5 for six books. Refreshments are £1 tea/coffee and £1 if you want a piece of cake. All welcome!

### **Happy 60th Birthday, Mabel!**

On Sunday 22 Feb, we were privileged to celebrate the 60th birthday of **Mabel Moffat** at St Catherine's Hall. Mabel, you have given a shine to the Sunday masses (and other occasions) for over 15 years playing your guitar in the music group. The biggest of Thank Yous for your faithful dedication, your friendliness and your radiant smile. Congratulations and choicest blessings from all the Cluster! 🎸🎸

### **St Catherine's Primary School Newsletter**

That's it added here: <https://stcatherinesedinburgh.wordpress.com/monthly-sway-newsletters/>

### **Invigilators at Holy Rood**

Would you be interested in becoming an invigilator for the Qualifications Scotland exams in Holy Rood RC High School? The exams run from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. We are looking for people who are available during mornings and/or afternoons and would like to join the invigilation team. Invigilators are appointed by Qualifications Scotland and have to go through the Disclosure Scotland process for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG), this is handled by Qualifications Scotland. The position is paid at an hourly rate of pay. If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact our Chief Invigilator, Hilary Stokes, [hastokes@outlook.com](mailto:hastokes@outlook.com) or Linsey McKay (Business Manager at Holy Rood) [Linsey.McKay@holyrood.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Linsey.McKay@holyrood.edin.sch.uk) (661 5871)

### **Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota**

St Catherine's - Group 1 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's - Group 3 week beginning 9/3.

### **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**

Toilet rolls, shampoo, conditioner and deodorants. 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](mailto:edinburghfoodbank@blythswood.org)

### Cluster Services in Holy Week

Everyone is welcome to participate in this celebration of the summit of our Christian faith.

**Thursday 26 March @ 7pm. Reconciliation Service** at St Catherine's church

**Holy Thursday 2 April @ 8pm. Mass of the Lord's Supper** at St Catherine's church

**Good Friday 3 April @ 7pm. Stations of the Cross with Veneration** at St Catherine's church

**Holy Saturday 4 April @ 8pm. Easter Vigil Mass** at St Gregory's church during which 7 new members will be received into the church.

**Easter Sunday 5 April: Easter Sunday Masses 9.30am** at St Gregory's church and **11am** at St Catherine's church

### SEECAT Holy Week events

Everyone welcome at these ecumenical events.

**Mon 30 March @ 7pm. Passover Meal** at St Catherine's. Tickets only.

**Wed 1 April @ 7.30pm. Stations of the Cross** at Liberton Northfield.

**Good Friday 3 April. Prayer Walks** leaving individual churches at **10am or 10.15am** for **Open Air Service@11am** at Morrison's.

**Good Friday 3 April @ 3pm. Service** at Gracemount High School.

You are held in prayer



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

#### *Those who are unwell*

Neil and Betty, Isodoro Fulgencio, Margaret Hendry, Bill Watt, Monika, Jeanette Bell, Baby Freya, Ralph, Carson, Chrisanne Dsouza, Baby Patsy, Geoff Brown, Baby Lana, Liliam Rivero, Jimmy Love, Ronnie Doig, 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, 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

Patrick Breen.

*Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:*

Nancy McCabe, Alexander McHardy, Ellen Curran, George Murray, Anne O'Conner, James McGuckian, Michael Boyle, Peter Simmons, Lucy Black, Thomas Malone, Louis Stachini, Jane Smith, Molly Donlevy, Manus Ferry, Agnes Simpson, James O'Connor, Elizabeth McNally, James Hanlon, James Beitlich, Danny Cullen, Nellie Dollan, Thomas Murphy.

*May they rest in peace.*