

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 –14/15 March 2026

(4th 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)

Weekday Services this coming week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
SG – 9.30am		SG – 6.00pm	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 upsets the apple cart and a lowly blind man teaches his religious leaders a new spiritual truth. Sometimes, those who think they know it all, know absolutely nothing. Jesus heals a man who has been born blind. This is bad enough in the eyes of the Pharisees, but He has performed this miracle on the Sabbath. Instead of being amazed at the power and mercy of God displayed in the person of Jesus, the Pharisees are outraged at His rule breaking. The miracle is unimportant. It is up to the man, once condemned a sinner in their eyes, to point out the truth of the matter to them-this man must come from God. It's really very simple but the Pharisees egos and hatred of Jesus cause them to be spiritually blind. It is the beggar who shows deep faith and trust in the Lord. Not only has he gained his sight, but he has gained insight. Meeting Jesus has transformed him into a disciple. When Jesus tells him He is the Son of Man, he is able to say "Lord I believe" without prejudice or conditions, something beyond the ability of the Pharisees for all their education and learning. May we too be able to see Jesus and His deep love for us clearly. May we also be free from all forms of spiritual blindness. "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief".

[Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers, Grandmothers and other Women in our Lives who care for us and love us unconditionally!

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 (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.

Lourdes Charity Fundraiser Quiz

We managed to raise an **incredible £931.00** at our Family Quiz Day last Sunday. We thank you all for the amazing support and for giving so generously. We will be providing extras and making memories with the children whilst in Lourdes.

Cluster Walking Group: March Walk

Our third walk of the year will be on Saturday 28 March 2026. It will be along the Water of Leith, from Roseburn to The Shore in Leith. This walk is around 4¾ miles, and we expect it to take us between 1½ and 2 hours. For those who would prefer a shorter walk, there are lots of exit points on the route. There is a decent path the full length of the walk and it is mainly flat. There are two or three sets of steps and a couple of gentle inclines along the way.

Those who wish can bring a pack lunch – there are some benches to sit on at the end of the walk. Others may prefer to go into one of the local cafes or bars for lunch.

If you would like to come, please meet at the Roseburn Gardens bus stop at 10.30am. Lothian Bus services 12, 26 and 31 all stop here. Everybody is welcome to join us, whether you have joined us for a walk before, or this is your first time. If you have any questions, please email southedclust@btinternet.com.

Scotland assisted suicide Bill - just days left until the final vote!

On Tuesday 17 March, the Scottish Parliament will hold the final Stage 3 vote on Liam McArthur's extreme assisted suicide Bill. This Scottish Bill is even more extreme than the proposed change to the law in England and Wales. The Bill can be defeated. Every email you send to your local MSPs helps. Please take action now by visiting www.righttolife.org.uk/ScotlandFinalVote to write to your MSP and ask them to vote NO on Tuesday 17 March - it takes just 30 seconds!

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)

SCIAF Sunday

On this SCIAF Sunday, we pray for families around the world who long for safety, stability, and clean water. We give thanks for the courage of mothers in Ethiopia who walk miles each day to care for their children, often at great risk. Please give what you can in today's collection for SCIAF. You can also donate at sciaf.org.uk/donate or by calling 0141 354 5555. Thank you.

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 THIS 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.

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

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 28th April to Monday 2nd 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 or Linsey McKay (Business Manager at Holy Rood) Linsey McKay Linsey.McKay@holyrood.edin.sch.uk (661 5871)

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 2 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 4 week beginning 23/3.

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

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.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 2.00pm 4 April: **Easter Play – Unbroken** – West Princes St Gardens, free and unticketed. Further info www.easterplay.org

Sunday 7.30pm 5th April: **Resurrection** celebrate the greatest event in history – Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Tickets (free but suggested donation) available from www.originscotland.org or call 0131 541 0117

You are held in prayer



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

Those who are unwell

Olive, Neil and Betty, Isadoro 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

Gavin Flynn, Patrick Breen.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Hugh McCole, Kathrine Renwick, Alice Slaven, Canon William McLaughlin, James Duffy, Anne Matthew, John Barrett, Roma Josephine Orr Young, Edward McKail, Janet Caldwell, Hugh Doherty, Catherine Snowden, James Thomson, Joseph McVey, Helen Milligan, Helen Millar, Alice Slaven, Anne Gilhooley, Salvatore Greco, Amanda Withers, Tom and Eleanor Gorman.

May they rest in peace.