

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 –21/22 March 2026

(5th 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
23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
SG – 9.30am		SG – 9.30am	SG – 9.30am SC – 7.00pm Reconciliation Service	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,

The last words of today's gospel are Jesus instructing the people to "Unbind him and set him free". Jesus, who has demonstrated his power to bring Lazarus to life, is also saying that Lazarus can't fulfil his life unless he can be free. Literally Lazarus was bound by cloth and enclosed by stone. Figuratively we are all bound. Some are trapped by crushing poverty brought about by unjust systems or others because the system makes them feel inadequate. In what way are you bound? In what way are you freeing others? [Adapted from this week's Prayer Resources]

RCIA: Presentation of the Creed ~ Saturday 21 March

This weekend, during St Gregory's Parish Mass at 6pm on Saturday 21 March, our sisters and brothers preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist will be presented with the Creed. The Presentation of the Creed is a significant ceremony within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), typically occurring towards the end of Lent. In this ceremony, the Church

symbolically "hands on" its ancient statement of faith - the Apostles' Creed - to those preparing to be received into the Church at our Easter Vigil on Saturday 4th April.

Please continue to pray for Brannon, Brogan, Joseph, Kristof, Liam, Reuben and Susan as they take this important step on their journey and enter the final two weeks of preparation for reception into the Church. Please also pray for their Sponsors and the RCIA Team accompanying them on their faith journey.

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.

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.

Sun 29 March: Prayer opportunity

at St Catherine's church. 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 would eventually also take place for St Gregory's and St John Vianney's. For more information please email [Clare Roller](mailto:Clare.Roller)

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

* Tuesdays @ 7pm in St Gregory's

Reflect with SCIAF

This Lent, your prayers and donations are making a BIG DIFFERENCE to families in Ethiopia and in vulnerable communities worldwide. As we prepare for Easter, SCIAF has created prayers and reflections to support your Lenten journey. Please go here <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/925-2026-holy-week-reflections> to download your prayer resources today or watch the prayer video.

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.

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 30 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 3 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.

Strong Arms needed to carry the Cross on Good Friday

On Good Friday we carry the big Cross from St Catherine's down to join the SEECAT Open Air Service at Morrisons, setting off at 10.00 am. It is a powerful symbol of the meaning of Good Friday - and we need strong people to help carry it. Some of our stalwarts have left the parish and we need new people to come and join the cross-bearers. It's a great thing to do as a family, too. Please come and speak to Monica Thompson or Melanie Whitlock if you can help.

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

Margaret Sclater, Margaret Martindale, Gavin Flynn, Patrick Breen.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Alice Slaven, Josie Moir, Patrick McDevitt (Jnr), Mary Anne McDonald, Caroline Laidlaw, Walter James, Eileen McGarvey, William Stoodly, Honor Smith, Agnes Docherty, Catherine Connell, David Robertson, Ian Grassick, Christine Marshall, Jane Boyle, Danny Boner, Patrick McDevitt, Eleanor Rowley.

May they rest in peace.