

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 –16/17 May 2026

(Seventh Sunday of Easter –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
18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
			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 is preparing his followers for the next stage of the journey. The God who called Abraham lives and breathes incarnate in Jesus, calling the whole of humanity to journey with him not to a piece of land but to a transformed state of mind, a metanoia. That same God will enter into each of the disciples, and they will share fully in the divine life. In last week's gospel Jesus promised he would send them an Advocate, a Helper. Now he is telling them that the journey continues in their bodies, their lives. And so it is with us. It is our privilege and responsibility to incarnate God in our lives and to invite the rest of humanity to walk with us on the journey towards the fulness of eternal life. We are never alone in our journey because we are a living temple of the Holy Spirit, with brother Jesus as our guide and a loving Father/Parent anxiously waiting to welcome us.

St Gregory's Open Parish Meeting 13 June

I would like to invite all parishioners of St Gregory's to an Open Parish Meeting to discuss the parish's finances. It will take place **immediately after the 6pm St Gregory's Parish Mass on Saturday 13 June. This is a very important meeting**, and I hope that as many St Gregory's parishioners as possible will be able to participate in it. *Fr Alex*

Celebrating the Feast of Pentecost: 23/24 May

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the first Pentecost when people gathered from many nations, and they all heard the apostles speaking in their own language. Our three Cluster faith communities are blessed and greatly enriched by cultural diversity, by people who have come from many nations to make their home here with us in Southeast Edinburgh.

At Mass, we will celebrate and honour that richness and diversity in three complementary ways:

1. The reading from St Luke's Acts of the Apostles will be read in multiple languages.
2. Fr Alex will invite us to pray the Our Father together but in our own native language.
3. Everyone is invited to bring a small plate of food of their native country to share after each Mass.

For planning purposes, it would be helpful to let us know what dish you are bringing: Jacinta (SG) on 07791 332753 or Maureen Quinn (SJV) on 07752 722502 or Jane (SC) on 07787 184524.

Alpha Week 6: Why and How should I read the Bible?

You can still join us for a film and a chat on the big questions of life and faith. We meet every Tuesday, 7-8.30pm, in St Catherine's church. Why not come along and give it a try? We'd love to see you. All welcome. Email us cluster.alpha@outlook.com

Many thanks to SG Ladies Guild for giving up their night for us last week since Confirmations were taking place in St Catherine's. Thanks also to our new Hospitality Team who provide us with tasty titbits and a special shout-out to Liam's mum, Julie, who runs a café and lavishes us with delicacies!

Monthly Prayer Group

Prayer Group Thu 21 May: Change of venue

Please note! The monthly prayer group will now be meeting in Newington Trinity - Priestfield Church which has kindly offered us the use of their labyrinth at 2 Marchall Place, EH16 5HW. The church is served by buses 2, 14, 30 and 33 and there is plenty of on-street parking. Refreshments will be available from 7pm and we will begin at our usual time of 7.30pm. We will look at how labyrinths can aid prayer. Find out more about labyrinths here. Come along and discover more about this ancient meditative prayer practice. All welcome.

More labyrinths are found in George Square Gardens, inside Polwarth Parish Church and at St James Church in Peebles.

Novena to Our Lady

Will be held in the Cluster through the month of May.

* In **St Catherine's** every **Monday** at **2pm** from **4 May**

* In **St Gregory's** every **Tuesday** at **7pm** from **5 May**, followed by the Ladies Guild.

Please note: There will be no **Novena** or **Guild** on **12 May** at **St Gregory's** to allow the Alpha team to use the hall as the Confirmations take place at St Catherine's.

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.

Communications Sunday

Special collection TODAY for the apostolate of communications. Your donation supports the work of the Office of Communications and Evangelisation (led by Bishop Frank Dougan of Galloway Diocese).

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 1 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's - Group 4 week beginning 18/5.

Welcome Meal for our Newly Received

No proper celebration without food, certainly when your parish priest is Fr Alex. In welcome of our Newly Received members of the Church, Fr Alex pulled out all the stops and treated our brand-new Catholics, their sponsors and the RCIA Team to a Middle Eastern feast, followed by mouth-watering desserts by Anthea and Pat. Photos <https://www.southedinburghrc.org.uk/cluster-information/2025/life-of-the-cluster> In Fr Alex's words: We hope you continue to feel fed and nourished within the Cluster community you will help build. Love from your Community!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Cushley on 12th May. May they be blessed with the Holy Spirit. 🙏
We deeply appreciate the catechists across our three parishes and the staff at our Primary Schools for generously sharing their time, talents and faith to guide and prepare our children.

Bingo

Thank you to those who attended our recent Bingo Night. We raised £311.20 for church funds.

Southside Faith Care

are hosting **Reminiscence Afternoons** in Newington Trinity – Priestfield Church, 2 Marchall Place, EH16 5HW, (down from Commonwealth Pool) fortnightly on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.30pm – 19th May and 2nd, 16th and 30th June – memories of the Southside, Edinburgh, tea and a chat.

Digital Frauds and Scams Talk – Thursday 14th May – 1.30-3.30pm Newington Trinity – Priestfield Church – How to stay safe online – with Police Scotland and Barclays Bank.

Service of Healing Sat 23 May @ 3pm

The local SEECAT churches will be holding their annual service of healing at the ancient Balmwell, revered in medieval times for its healing water. There will be prayer, hymns, and a short talk, with the opportunity to be prayed with if wished, all in a beautiful leafy setting. Entrance through the Toby Carvery, 41 Howden Hall Road, EH16 6PG, then make your way across the garden, to the well.

Lay Led Services in Care Homes

Fr Alex mentioned last weekend that the Rev David Dixon would like to encourage us in this ministry and that he would run a couple of sessions to help people feel confident in this kind of ministry. He is offering Wed 20th and Wed 27th May at 1.30pm or 7.00pm in St Barnaba's depending on the time that suits those participating. If you feel drawn to this, please speak to Fr Alex.

Annual Concert 2026

Sat 23 May @ 7.30pm at Greyfriars Kirk, EH1 2QQ. Come along for a varied and popular programme by the [Edinburgh Kevock Choir](http://www.kevockchoir.org.uk/), <http://www.kevockchoir.org.uk/> including the Phantom of the Opera choral suite. Tickets £16/£14, available online or at the door. *Hilary Stokes*

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Scotland Camp Out for Hope

30-31 May, 8pm-8am, Carfin Grotto, Taylor Avenue, Carfin ML1 5AJ. 16+ years. Show solidarity with our suffering and displaced Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Come to an all-night prayer vigil, learn how you can make a real difference in the lives of others, relax and build new friendships. Spaces are limited, sign up here <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/?> Participants are encouraged to fundraise £50. Contact us by email scotland@acnuk.org or 01698 337 470 for more information.

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 carrots, chocolate bars and sweets, custard, toilet rolls, shampoo and conditioner. Thank you for the cash donation. 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



From the Archbishop's Ad Clerum

Pentecost event for young adults

Join young adults from across the Archdiocese to celebrate Pentecost at St Andrew's Church, 77 Belford Road, Edinburgh on Saturday 23 May, beginning at 4:00pm. There will be a talk, Eucharistic Adoration & opportunity for Confession, Holy Mass and a barbecue. Organised by the Archdiocese along with youth ministry at Edinburgh Jesuit Church, St Mary's Cathedral and St Albert's Chaplaincy. Register at bit.ly/pentecost26. Come, Holy Spirit!

You are held in prayer



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

Those who are unwell

Baby Darling, John Coll, Martin Coll, David Fenwick, Val McAndrew, Kevin Devlin, Olive, Betty, Isadoro Fulgencio, Margaret Hendry, Bill Watt, Monika, Jeanette Bell, Ralph, Carson, 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, Damian Mulvenna, 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

Bruce Lynch, Maire McDonald, Frances McConnell, Elaine, Neil McKendrick, Georgina Grassick, Irena Kaluza.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Alison Moffat, Margaret Heavey, Margaret Ramage, Sarah Thomson White, Ella Stoddart, Frances Gallagher, David Wilson, Bill Craighens, Henry McGhee Andrew, Kathleen O'Hanlon, Margaret Skey, Catherine Thomson, David Marshall, Steve Cooney, Brendan Boyle, Margaret Kane, Bob McBride, Basel Mohammed Jaser, Paul Abbot, Mary Hancock, John Allan, John Lovell, Patricia Gallacher.

May they rest in peace.