

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 – 29/30 August 2026

(22nd Sunday of the 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
31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
No service	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 Brothers and Sisters,

In today's gospel Jesus lets us know that he wasn't sent into this world to fit in, but to proclaim a new way of living. His message was one of peace and justice, so why would it generate such a negative response? As humans we are encouraged to see the world as a place of winners and losers thus justifying the prevailing injustices. Jesus tells us, through Peter, that we need to look beyond our human short-term view and consider a life where the good of all should be our goal despite the challenges that we will face. This message is as true today as it was in Jesus' time and can perhaps be summed up by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's quote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Do we find it difficult to believe that we face any challenge with Jesus, who wants a world where we could all be winners?

Welcome!

Today we welcome the families of **Oscar Will** and **Alba Anderson** who will be baptised at the 11.00am mass in St Catherine's.

Becoming a Catholic/RCIA - What's that got to do with you?

Are you, or somebody you know, thinking about becoming a Catholic? Perhaps a friend, neighbour, work colleague, or a member of your family? It might be someone who has no experience of church, or someone who wants to further explore their faith life. We will be starting RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) during September and are holding an initial meeting on Sun 30 August, immediately after 11am Mass in the side chapel at St Catherine's – lunch will be provided.

If you are inviting somebody to think about RCIA, it would be great if you could come along to that meeting with them – walking into a place they are unfamiliar with can be difficult for some people. Please email us southedclust@btinternet.com if you'd like more information. There will also be leaflets at our Masses this weekend.

SEECAT Retreat / Day of Recollection 2026

Sat 5 Sept, 10am - 4pm in the hall of Liberton Northfield (280 Gilmerton Road). Led by **Gerry Mulvenna**. Starting with tea/coffee, it will be a mixture of prayer, worship, sharing (for those who wish to), short talks and reflecting – hopefully something for everybody. The theme this year is "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you". Everybody is very welcome. No need to book, just come on the day. Please bring a pack lunch. If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please email us southedclust@btinternet.com

SEECAT Pilgrimage Walk Saturday 12 September

We will be continuing our annual Season of Creation pilgrimage walk with the theme of Water of Life, on Saturday 12th. We will start at Bridgend Farmhouse Peace Garden at 10.00 and our route will be 6+ miles, taking in Wells o' Weerie, Dunsapie Loch, and St Margaret's Loch, with opportunities for prayer, silence and reflection, noticing how God's ways are revealed to us in urban greenspaces. Bring a packed lunch and dress for all weathers! For full details and itinerary there will be posters soon, and see <https://seecat.org/pilgrimage/> or email pilgrim@seecat.org.

The West Bank Today: Facing the Abyss

St John's, Portobello, are hosting a talk on **Friday 4 September**, 7.00pm start, in their church hall with speakers from the Hebron International Resource Network. It is an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from those on the ground in Palestine and gain a deeper understanding of the realities facing communities every day. The reality, which we don't see much of in our media, is that the Palestinian residents of the West Bank are under constant attack from Israeli settlers trying to drive them from their homes and land. The situation is so bad that even the US Ambassador to Israel has called the Israeli settlers "terrorists". Tickets which are free are available from Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-west-bank-today-facing-the-abyss-tickets-1997903951501>

This event is being sponsored by Iain Lothian of St James Episcopal Church, Leith who will be hosting a similar event in his own church on Saturday 12 September at 7.00pm - again book through Eventbrite.

Mike Mineter has travelled with HIRN in the West Bank three times, seeing their amazing work in building schools, playgrounds; supporting students; and helping beleaguered Palestinian communities - such as Umm Al Kheir now under dire threat.

Update on The Chosen

I am delighted to report that over the past few weeks 40 people came forward and signed up to watch The Chosen TV series together. We now have six house groups who will begin meeting over the next few weeks. They join an already well-established group in the Gilmerton area. Please keep them all in your prayers as they begin this exciting, new faith sharing adventure. *Mary Morrison*

St Gregory's fundraising Team

We would like to thank the cluster parishioners for their support to boost our funds!! So far, the **weekly bonus ball** has raised £200 and is available after Mass each week. If you would like a number please speak to Jacinta, Susan or Anne. Many thanks to those who donated their winnings back.

The **first Monthly Fundraiser** is on **Saturday 19th September – Family Quiz Night** 7.30-9.30pm (after the vigil Mass). Tickets cost £2.00 will be available soon from Jacinta at SG, Anne Spence SJV and Roseanne Allison SC. Come and join us for a fun-filled evening. Thank you for your continued support.

Ladies' Guild

The cluster Ladies' Guild meets on Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm in St Catherine's Hall. St Gregory's Ladies' Guild meets each Tuesday at 7pm in St Gregory's Hall.

Fairtrade Stall and Teas & Coffees

There will be a fairtrade stall before and after the St John Vianney Mass on Sunday 6th September, along with teas and coffees after Mass. There are a variety of fairtrade produce and gifts available. Please note we can only take cash.

St Catherine's Summer Fair Trade Stall

We are back after our summer break with a stall after 11am mass on Sunday 30 August. We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for your continuing support. Tricia Kaminski

Eco Cluster on WhatsApp

A few Cluster parishioners have got together to create a so-called WhatsApp Community for sharing best practice and new ideas on living more sustainably with faith, community and care for our common home at its heart. A "Community" is a hub on WhatsApp for groups with various themes. Ours currently has three groups:

- * Eco Tips: Share hacks & info on living more sustainably
- * Swap-Share: For free-sharing items (or request items)
- * Orchard & Gardening: Working towards our tree orchard.

You choose which groups you'd like to be part of. More thematic groups can be added. Within the groups, the chat works like in any other WhatsApp group you might belong to.

If interested [email](#) Enrique, Mari, Frank and Margareta for details. This is a private initiative by Cluster parishioners

Season of Creation (SOC): 1 Sept to 4 Oct

Tree Planting Event ~ Sat 3 Oct morning. We want to plant some fruit trees in St Catherine's gardens (near the cherry tree located away from the church entrance). Recently, we have seen the destruction wrought by fires, particularly on our trees. Replenishing and planting trees seems to be a good way to say "let's protect creation." However, we need your help to start our planting, digging etc. We'd also love to hear from people keen on hospitality. It'd be great to end with a simple shared lunch. If you are interested, please email me or just turn up on the day. More details soon. To find out more please email Frank Meehan – frankmeehan_uk@yahoo.co.uk

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 they will arrange for a priest on the hospital chaplaincy team to visit you.

Cluster Parishes Cleaning Rota

St Catherine's - Group 1 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 2 week beginning 31/8.

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

Crisps, small jars of coffee, tinned tomatoes, chocolate treats, savoury biscuits. 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; **please note the new email address:** southeastedinburghfoodbank@gmail.com



Urge your MP to Reject Westminster Assisted Suicide Bill

Please contact your MP today and urge them to vote no to assisted suicide in the UK Parliament. Vulnerable people must be protected, proper care strengthened, and compassion, dignity and support prioritised over assisted suicide. Find your MP at:

<https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

From the Archbishop's Ad Clerum

Events are listed at archedinburgh.org/events

You are held in prayer



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

Those who are unwell

Vivian Murphy, Peter Monkhouse, Evan McKay, Jackie Flockhart, baby Jack, Sam Munro, Keith, Stephen Addison, Audrey Scott, Alla Pisotska, Maria Patyna, Marion Brydon, Baby Darling, John Coll,

Martin Coll, David Fenwick, Val McAndrew, Kevin Devlin, Olive, Isadoro Fulgencio, Margaret Hendry, Bill Watt, Monika, Jeanette Bell, Ralph, Carson, Liliam Rivero, Jimmy Love, 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, Linda Anderson, 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, 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

Marie Martin, Sr Rosemary Bayne, Evelyn Davidson, Mary Campbell, Betty McKendrick, Jane Creedon, Moira Cosgrove.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Ninian Jamieson, Charlie McCauley, Dan Quigley, Patrick Duffy, Maria Evita Iarriella, Sheila Ross, Hugh Doherty, Eva Campbell, Pat Doherty, David Williams, Mary Buchanan, Joseph Forrest, Anne McCaffrey, Thomas Donoghue, Pat Dolan, David White, Erwin Ridder, Alan Nolan, Bridget Duff, Helen Burke. Michael Joseph Boyle.

May they rest in peace