

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 – 19/20 September 2026 (25th 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
21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
Fr Alex is on holiday and there will be no services For any pastoral emergencies, contact the local priests				

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,

Isaiah sums up God's actions as "... my ways are not your ways" and in today's gospel Jesus underlines that message when we see that God's generosity knows no bounds. St Paul urges people today to "avoid anything,, that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ".

Just as with his early followers, we find this relationship with Jesus both humbling and daunting but being missionary disciples means continuing to engage with a love that does not count the cost – ever. It is a love that is both 'out of this world' and yet also deep within us. Held in that love and supported by our faith community, let us journey and discern together in following "God's ways" no matter where they may lead us.

Merger Enquiry Group – First Update (September 2026)

This is the update Fr Alex gave on the work of the Merger Enquiry Group during last weekend's Masses (12/13 September).

In July, our three Parish Councils helped establish the Merger Enquiry Group. Its purpose is to look carefully and prayerfully at what a future merged parish might mean for our communities. This is an enquiry, not a merger plan, and no decisions have been made. Over the past month, the group has met three times. We are beginning by imagining what a future merged parish could look like — its identity, ministries, and practical arrangements. With that shared picture, we can then explore the opportunities, challenges, and implications that would need to be considered. We have also started reaching out to other parishes who have already walked this path. Their experiences will help us learn what works well and what can be difficult. A Terms of Reference has been drafted to guide our work and will be updated as needed – a paper copy is on the noticeboards as you enter/leave both our churches. The group meets every two weeks, and we expect the enquiry to continue through the autumn, concluding towards the end of 2026. A recommendation will be offered to Fr Alex early in 2027. We will continue to keep parishioners informed with monthly updates. Please keep this work in your prayers.

Membership: Fr Alex, Gerry Mulvenna, Brian O'Callaghan, Stephen Small, Maria McCann, Anne Henry, Anne Marie Weston, Christine McNally, Fred McConnell, Nixon Masih, Maureen Quinn, David Noake, Sr Jeannette McGlone, Susanne Lackie, Tina Bremner, Danny Friel (Project Lead).

RCIA 2026-27

Our RCIA programme will run fortnightly, starting on Sunday 20 September. It will take place at St Catherine's (in the side chapel) starting at 12:30 and finishing at 14:00, with lunch provided. We ask everybody to pray for our enquirers and for the RCIA Team who will journey with them. If you, or someone you know, couldn't come to the Information Session on 30 August, but is interested in RCIA, please do come and join us on Sunday 20 September.

Registering for preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation

As you will know, our parishes, families and schools work together each year to prepare our young people for the sacraments of First Reconciliation (Primary 3), First Holy Communion (Primary 4), and Confirmation (Primary 7). If you would like to register to enrol your child in the sacramental preparation program, please use one (or more) of the following QR codes:



In a change to previous years, you must register your child using this process irrespective of which school your child attends.

Please note that the **deadline** for registering is **Saturday 31 October 2026**.

Petitions for Lourdes

George and Teresa Muldoon going to Lourdes 24-29 Sep. If anyone would like petitions taken get them to George and Teresa by **Sun 20 Sep**.

Bingo Night ~ Mon 21 Sept

7pm in St Catherine's hall, organised by Maureen Philips. Everyone welcome to attend. 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.

Cluster Walking Group: Sat 26 Sept

A circular walk, starting at Birkenhead (Powdermill Brae) and taking in the Gore Glen and Arncliffe House. 2-3 hours and 5¾ miles, with beaten earth paths or grassland. Some short muddy sections and some steps and inclines on the way where walking poles may help. Please meet at 10:55 at the Gilmerton Crossroads bus stop on Drum Street (outside Iceland) to catch the 29 bus (at 10:57). You might like to bring a packed lunch. Everybody is welcome to join us and if you have any questions, please email southedclust@btinternet.com

Bethany Welcome Centre

This year the Bethany Welcome Centre has received funding from Edinburgh Council has been open over the summer. Usually, the Centre closes from May until September and many of the homeless are left without any accommodation. Due to the ongoing prayers, generosity and volunteers, the cluster team has been able to provide meals with a warm smile and clothing at both the Care Van and in the Welcome Centre once a month throughout the year. Around 66 people use the Care Van and approximately 50 in the Welcome Centre. Each and every guest is very grateful for all they receive from the cluster volunteers. I would like to thank the cluster parishioners for the valuable support to the Bethany project. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, please contact Jane Watson: 07787184524

Deepening Our Appreciation of the Eucharist

Over four Sunday afternoons you are invited to come to **St Peter's**, 77 Falcon Avenue, EH10 4AN, for a series on deepening our appreciation of the Eucharist. Discussion, reflection, prayer and worship for each session will be initiated by a short video from the *Aquinas Institute*. There will then be the opportunity to reflect further on the themes raised, all of which are linked to the Eucharist. The first session is entitled ***Is the Catholic Eucharist in the bible? The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist***, Sunday 20th September 1 – 3pm. Each of the sessions is stand alone but builds to an overall teaching on the Eucharist. Please email office.stpeteredinburgh@staned.org.uk to let them know if you wish to participate.

HCPT Lourdes Easter Pilgrimage 2027

Jacqui and Roseanne are once again taking part in the HCPT Lourdes Easter Pilgrimage 2027 and are hoping you will support them in their fundraising ventures. NEW GOODS SALE on Saturday 26th September 2026 2-4pm St Gregory's Church Hall, Walter Scott Avenue. We have Christmas Cards and Decorations, Sunglasses and much more at very reasonable prices.

Litter Picking Morning Sat 26 Sept

10am–12 noon at Burdiehouse Burn Local Nature Reserve. Meet at Lasswade Road gate (Parking at Gracemount Leisure Centre). All materials supplied! Great event for families and soup in SC hall afterwards.

Reminiscence Afternoons – Southside Faith Care

Join us for refreshments and chat about your recollections of days gone by, with Memory Boxes and Guest Speakers on Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm at Newington Trinity – Priestfield, 2 Marchhall Place, EH16 5HW. The second is Edinburgh – In Days Gone By on Tuesday 22nd September. See notice on noticeboard for upcoming events.

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 4 this coming week; St Gregory/St John Vianney's – Group 4 week beginning 28/9.

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

Tree Planting Event ~ Sat 3 Oct morning. Your help appreciated, ending with a simple shared lunch. If you are interested, please email me or just turn up on the day. frankmeehan_uk@yahoo.co.uk

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



You are held in prayer



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

Those who are unwell

Mary Phelan, John Moore, Vivian Murphy, Peter Monkhouse, Evan McKay, Jackie Flockhart, baby Jack, Sam Munro, 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, Andrew Woodstock, Evelyn Welsh, Jacqui Phillips, Annette Sibbald, Paula Smith, Victoria, Dylan Joseph, 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

Linda MacKay, Charles Clark, Keith, John McConnell, John Mattocks, Patrick Maher, Chris Ovenden, Mary Moschini, Marie Martin.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Marie Jones, Canon James Nicholson, James Hannan, Joan Wison, Pauline Monkhouse Ramsay Sibbald, Rose Murray, Catherine Regan, Ramsay Sibbald, Helen Woods, Jimmy McMillan, Francis Bagan, Hilda Bull, Stewart Ferguson, Jack Haynes, Samuel Fielding, Anne Calvey, Irene Keir, Kathy Duffy, James Donlevy, David Radin, Ronald Gerald Monaghan, Dan McCafferty, Tom McGeever, Eileen Floyd.

May they rest in peace