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 Nov 2026

(1st Sunday of Advent – Year B)

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
30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
No service	No service	SG – 10.30am **Funeral Mass Patricia Fallon**	Holyrood School Retreat	SG – 10.00am **Funeral Mass Josie Moir**

Next Weekend Mass times:

St Gregory's	St John Vianney	St Catherine's
Saturday	**Sunday**	**Sunday**
6pm	9.30am (**in St Gregory's**)	11.00am

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the Season of Advent begins, Jesus' words may sound strange: "Stay awake!" Stay awake for what? Amidst the hustle-bustle and busy-ness of our Christmas preparations, perhaps Jesus is challenging us to rethink how we use our most precious commodity - our time. Perhaps this Advent we could generously give away some of it to someone who is lonely, struggling, grieving, on the fringe of society. And perhaps, in doing so, we might find Christ when we least expect him and receive far more in return than we give.

Upcoming Funerals

Patricia Fallon – Wednesday 2 December, Funeral Mass 10.30am at St Gregory's.
Josie Moir – Friday 4 December, Funeral Mass 10.00am at St Gregory's.
Margaret Balloch – Monday 7 December, Funeral Mass 10.00am at St Gregory's.

Advent Evenings: Time to be still & reflect

Before Christmas, we have the beautiful season of Advent. This year, we are hosting our Advent Evenings in St Gregory's. They run every Monday evening, 23 Nov-14 Dec, 7.30- 8.30pm with refreshments served afterwards. If you would like time to be still, to listen and reflect on God's Word amidst the frantic Christmas rush, then come and join us as we focus on the real meaning of Christmas.

A time of waiting in Trust and with Hope in Advent ~ Sat 5 Dec

10.30am-12.30pm in St Catherine's church. In this time of change and uncertainty in our churches (and in the world) the Prayer Foundation invite you to a time of silent prayer. A time of waiting in Trust and with Hope. The two hours will be broken into 20 minute slots. Each 20 minutes of silent prayer will start with a spoken prayer. Please come **for as long or as short a time** as you can manage. All are welcome.

St Catherine's Christmas toy collection

This year our collection date is **Sun 13 Dec**. Thanks to your amazing generosity over the years, we have been able to give the Social Work Department and the School hundreds of toys that will hopefully have brightened up some children's Xmas morning. If you can donate, please wrap any gifts individually and mark the age of the child and whether it is for a boy or a girl. Hopefully we can get close to, or even more than, our great collection last year. Thank you. Catherine & Brian.

Cluster Seniors Christmas Party

Sat 12 Dec, 12.30- 4.30pm in St Catherine's Hall. Come along for an afternoon of good company, singalong, dancing and lovely food. Please give your name, contact details, and if transport is required, to Jacinta (SG), Susanne & Carol (SJV), Janet, Suzanne & Linda (SC), and you'll receive your ticket. Ho! ho! ho! *Love, Santa's Elves*

Christmas Raffles in the Cluster

St John Vianney's Raffle

Tickets are now on sale from Maureen, Christine, Kathleen and Susanne, £1 per strip. There'll be our usual selection of fantastic prizes. The raffle will be drawn after Mass on **Sun 13 Dec** at our Christmas Coffee morning, with lots of nice things to eat, tea, coffee & hot chocolate. Thanks. Susanne.

St Catherine's Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas Hamper at £1 per strip, from the back of the church from Maureen Philips.

St Gregory's Raffle

Please put your donation in an envelope putting your name and contact number on the outside.

Cluster Christmas Concert ~ Tue 15 Dec 🎵

@ 7pm in St Catherine's Church. Come along to this very relaxed and enjoyable evening where you will hear some well-known and not so well-known Christmas songs. There will also be audience participation. So, put on your Christmas jumpers, and make the church sparkle and shine with song and laughter. Tickets on sale this Sunday in all churches at £5 each from Jacinta & Sr Jeannette (SG), Kathleen & Carol (SJV), Suzanne & Linda (SC). Come and support the 'Cluster Christmas Singers', as they raise money for two great charities: Marie Curie and Colitis/Crohn's UK. 🎵 It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... 🎵🎅

Deepening Our Appreciation of the Eucharist

You are invited to come to St Peter's, 77 Falcon Avenue, EH10 4AN, for the 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 final session is from 1 – 3 pm on **Sunday 5 December** – *Transubstantiation. How the Mass prepares you to receive Holy Communion.*

SCIAF Advent Carol Service ~ Sun 29 Nov

@ 4pm at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh. The service will be sung by the Schola Cantorum, in partnership with SCIAF. Approx. one hour. Everyone is warmly welcome, and you are encouraged to invite family and friends.

Amos Trust Christmas Tour

Palestine Into Tomorrow

This Christmas, Amos Trust is hitting the road — bringing Palestinian voices, music and stories to churches & venues across the UK. From London to Glasgow, we'll be joined by speakers, artists and musicians from Palestine and beyond for evenings of hope, solidarity and culture. In Edinburgh on **Thu 3 Dec @ 7pm** at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1SR. Tickets £10, book here https://scottishstorytellingcentre.online.red61.co.uk/event/913:6918/913:30820/

Bethany Christian Trust - Caring Christmas Trees

More than a Tree - When you purchase one of our sustainable and locally sourced Caring Christmas Trees, every penny goes directly towards the practical and long lasting commitment we have to ending homelessness in Scotland. See the notice board for details or find out more on our website https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/trees/

St Catherine's FT Stalls

Our Advent stall will be on 29 November and our Christmas Stall will be on 13 December. Please let us know if you have any requests from the shop. We will be stocking our usual food and drink as well as some items which would make attractive and worthwhile Christmas presents. Please come and browse and support the stall. Thanks very much.

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 7/12.

Christmas with Origin Scotland

An evening of carols led by the Origin Scotland choir and orchestra. The evening comprises congregational singing, performance by the choir and orchestra, and readings from the scriptures. Saturday 5 December, 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Tickets from www.originscotland.org suggested donation towards costs although free tickets available for those on low income.

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

Pasta sauces, shampoo and shower gel. 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

Cluster Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve – Thursday 24 December
6.00pm – St Gregory's
8.00pm – St Catherine's
Christmas Day – Friday 25 December
10.00am – St Gregory's
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Sunday 27 December
9.30am – St Gregory's
11.00am – St Catherine's

You are held in prayer



Please remember in your prayers:
Those who are unwell

Douglas Smith, Oliver Sankey, Kimberly Papirio, Liz Napier, Darlene Guthrie, Julie, Jorge Rodriguez, Roberto Rivero, Angela Gallagher, Bernie Ameno, Derek Boult, Lynn Gallagher, John Moore, Vivian Murphy, Peter Monkhouse, Evan Mackay, 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, Bryan Hawthorn, Graciela Camargo, Berhane Shiker, Michael Doherty, Erin Colvin, Jorge Mario Gaitán, Josie McKeen, Teresa (sister of Maureen Henderson), Natalia, 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, 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

Maggie Biggins, Marlyn Roberts, Josie Moir, Margaret Balloch, Patricia Fallon, Hugh Roarty, Alexander Hart, John Smyth, Daniel Philips, David Vincent, Margaret McGlashin, Matthew Burns.

Those whose anniversaries occur around this time
Marie Stewart, Dennis Charleston, Sheila Mullen, Ellen McNeill, Charles Clarkin, Irene Boynes, Edward Gay, Eric Innes, Betty Brock, Thomas Allan, James Grimley, Madge Hall, Joseph O'Rourke, Mary Lightly, Ann Blackwell, Fiona Harrold, Patrick Sibbald, Freda Bowman, Margaret Topping, Evelyn Robson, Robert Robson (Jnr), Betty Curran, Marie Williams, Father Albert Gardner, James Maxwell Ingram, Mary Ellen Pearce, Miranda (Pandy) Campbell, Mary Dodds, Margaret Risi, Doreen Lamb.

May they rest in peace