

*THE PARISHES OF
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE*

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple: 0131 669 5447

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

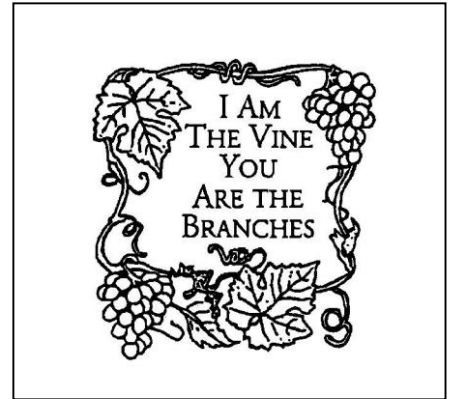
Administrator: Pauline Connarty

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*FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
3RD May 2015*



Your prayers are asked this week for Fr Tom Hennessy who died on Friday 24th April. A Requiem Mass for Fr Hennessy was celebrated at St Mary Magdalene's Church last Friday 1st May ... please also continue to pray for Mgr James Rae, settling into St Joseph's Care Home in Gilmore Place, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

(A portrait of Fr Hennessy is included with the newsletter and can be found on the back of the 'Sunday Plus'.)

THIS WEEK

Monday May 4th:

9am-12:45pm: Bank Holiday Club Day: 'There will be a **holiday club day** at the halls and church on Bellfield Street (formerly the Old Parish, Portobello). School children in nursery (aged 3) to Primary 7 are welcome to attend. The day will include worship, crafts, games, drama, music, a bible story, and snack. This is a sneak peak at our plans for the summer holiday club scheduled for 20 July to 24 July. The cost to attend on 4 May is £1 per child. To register your child for this one day event, please email Michelle Brown at portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com'

10.30am to 12noon: St Martin's Magdalene Drive: DEMENTIA FRIENDLY: a new venture taking place on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, 'The Friendly' is an informal gathering for those with dementia along with their carers to meet and make friends in a kindly setting, take part in activities or simply share and unwind. Please contact Nell on 669 4351 for further details or come along on the day. See posters at the back of both churches.'

7.30pm: Lauriston Place: SCHOOL OF PRAYER. The fourth in a series of workshops being run by the Jesuit Fathers. *Prayer and being called: Discernment* (Cath McManus). To be followed by ...

Monday 1st June: 7.30pm: Decision Making on the road through grief (Brendan McManus)

Admission by donation. For more information visit www.lauriston.org.uk

Thursday 7th May: 7.30pm: Parish House, 3 Sandford Gdns: Justice & Peace Group meeting.

Saturday 9th May: 10am to 12pm: Food Station, 1 Harrison Place, EH11 1SF: FRESH START SALE ... selling high quality items, fresh produce from the growing space, baking and hot drinks. If you would like to donate to the sale or volunteer as a helper please contact Jenny Baird on 476 7741 or jenny@freshstartweb.org.uk.

Sunday 10th May: 7.30pm: Portobello & Joppa Parish Church, Joppa: *The Feast of Life: A Musical of Hope from Christian Aid.* Tickets £5 (accompanied children free) from Ian Warwick 669-4906 or any Feast of Life Singers. Refreshments after the performance. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday 19th May: 7.00pm: St Patrick's Church, Cowgate: Inter Parish Archdiocesan Choir rehearsal for Pentecost Mass. (This Mass for Catholics who have recently been received into the Church will be held at St Patrick's Cowgate on the 23rd May, the Vigil of Pentecost, at 5pm. All are welcome to join the choir, and there is no audition. Please register by emailing Jacqueline.heron@staned.org.uk.)

Saturday 13th June: Gillis Centre, Edinburgh: Catholic Education Commission Open Forum: The theme of the first Open Forum meeting is: 'Developing Catholic Teachers and School Leaders to ensure the future of Scotland's Catholic Schools'. Members of the Scottish Catholic community – parents, teachers, clergy – are invited to discuss issues such as: How are teachers being recruited, educated and supported to work in Catholic schools?

EDINBURGH CHURCHES FOR SANCTUARY: SYRIAN REFUGEES

Jim Roarty writes: 'As a consequence of the Syrian civil war over 3.2 million have been forced into becoming refugees, including more than 1 million children. Some of these will be Christians driven from their country by religious persecution. Other countries volunteering to take in refugees include USA (70,000), Canada & Australia (10,000 each), Germany (5,000) – all figures are per annum. The UK volunteered in January 2014 to take 750 per annum, but so far has only accepted 143 refugees. Resettlement of refugees is managed under the Government's Gateway Protection programme which provides funding for healthcare and education. A number of Edinburgh churches, now including our own, are working with the City of Edinburgh Council to encourage them to follow the lead of other towns and cities in offering a welcome to some of these refugees. The Council is meeting this Tuesday 5 May to consider its position. Please sign the petition at the back of each Church and do all you can to encourage our City Councillors to support this initiative.'

NOTICEBOARD

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP: The next meeting of the Justice & Peace Group will take place on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Parish House, 3 Sandford Gardens, Portobello.

SISTER PARISHES' DISCUSSION GROUP: Is anyone interested in helping to form a discussion group? Elisabeth Elton, one of our most venerable parishioners, writes: '*We are, or we should be in a continuous learning process till we die. Exchanging points of view with other people is one way to learn. Personally, I feel a vacuum in this respect. We have our well planned small groups in Lent and Advent. They are fine; but I am after something in addition, less structured, more spontaneous, an opportunity to learn about local, national and international topical issues with a religious, philosophical or social content. The aim is not to revel in argument contests but serious reflection leading to appropriate action. Would it be worthwhile to experiment with a "debating circle" in our 2 parishes? We would volunteer in turn to introduce a subject, perhaps by reading an excerpt from a newspaper, a quote from a television or radio programme, a word from the pulpit or a remark over the garden fence. Doesn't the Church tell us the Holy Spirit is in all of us, so why not trust the Holy Spirit and go for a potentially exciting spiritual experiment, a leap for freedom within the unity of the Church, our right of expression, respecting the Church's God given authority but counteracting authoritarianism. Freedom (not licence) is an indispensable ingredient of love. I would welcome feedback. Elisabeth Elton.*' If you are interested in joining a parish discussion group please contact Pauline Connarty in the parish office, or Fr Jock on 669 5447 – or speak to Elisabeth herself (whom you will find at most morning Masses at St John's in one of the front pews on the left!).

FRESH START: A Sponsored Walk will take place on Friday 29th May ... setting out at 10am from Jubilee Gardens, Stockbridge, and walking an 8 mile route along the Water of Leith, around Colinton Dell and on to the Union Canal towpath, finishing at the Fresh Start Food Station at Harrison Place where lunch will be served. This popular event helps to raise vital funds for FRESH START to support the most vulnerable in our community to move forward in their lives after homelessness. Walk as an individual or a team and raise money to support FRESH START. No registration fee, but entrants are asked to raise a minimum of £25 per person. To register please phone 0131 476 7741 or go to admin@freshstartweb.org.uk.

SINGING GROUP OF CRAIGENTINNY. St Christopher's Church Hall, 77-79 Craigentenny Rd, Edinburgh, EGH7 6QL. Come and Join Us! For people with dementia and their carers on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. For further details see leaflets at the back of each Church or email SingingGroup@cma17.fsnet.co.uk.

BRIDGE CLUB meets in St John's Church Hall on Monday evenings at 7pm. If you play bridge, or have done so in the past, you are most welcome to join. Please phone Jean Douglas on 0131 657 9962 for further details.

To live is to risk

We must learn how to look into our fears because we cannot let ourselves be controlled by fear. We have to look our fears right in the face, and we can't always do it by ourselves. We need to be helped, because if we can't look death and failure in the face, well, then we can never live because to live means to risk, to do things, to have projects that might fail, that might go wrong.'

Jean Vanier, Encountering the Other, p27, quoted in Jean Vanier: Essential Writings.

Offertory Collection on 25th & 26th April 2015

St Mary Magdalene's	St John the Evangelist
£296.32	£1201.27
Special Collection (Ecclesiastical Students' Fund)	
£144.32	£405.90

MANY THANKS

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those whose have died recently, including: Fr Tom Hennessy and Elaine Johnson

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Ian Gorman, Mabel Sistrom, Sarah Boyle, Annie Czaba, Glenda Wood, Henry Stuart Mackersey, Annie Maguire, Peter Moran, John McElroy, Kevin Flynn, Edward Hanlon, Theresa Henderson, David Michael Metcalfe, Elizabeth Meenan, Lorna Demarco, James H McGrory, Bridget Murray, Mary Macnamara, Helen Downie, Margaret Hanlon, John Kane, Jim Ponton, Mary Taylor, John Rennie, Angela Renaldi, and Taylor Scambler.

Please pray for the sick of our sister parishes, including:

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Tom Brown, Jean McCraw, Jimi Boyle, Michele Grandone, Mgr James Rae, Gerry Gallagher, Maureen Lawrie, Jude Payne, Maria Domenica Crolla, Mary Grady, Baby Ailsa Fitzgerald, Jane McGuire, Mona Scouler, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Jenny Wormald, Erin Corbett, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Fay Dignan, Sheila Alexander, Roz Byers, Pat Kershaw, Michael & Mamie Richards, Joan Howie, Helen Harrison, Cathy McGravie, Alf Macnamara, Marie Angela Crolla, Dolores Jones, Malachy Meehan, Jane Murray, Ann Ward, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Elizabeth Mackail, Pat Gilmartin, Betty McEwing, Annie Watson, Anne McGeachie, Mary Robertson, Maria Juska, Isobel Phillips, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Silvia Berry, Tony Matrundala, Jude Ferguson, Mary & James Muir, Liz Davis, Rose McKay and Denis Davidson.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Veronica Mackenzie, William and Hugh Mcgeady, Hew Dalrymple, Peter Kent, Isabel Bolus, Valentino and Paloma Rivera, Isabel McInrue, Jeanette Amos, Anne Gallagher, Denise O'Donnell, Margaret Davis, Dorothy Jamal, John Allan, Jane Morton, Christopher Browne, Christian and John Parham, Conor Kerrigan, Rupert Ridge, Vera Hawkes, Maria St. Denis, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, and baby Ray Donovan Syme.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

Readers for this Sunday: Sam Henry & Tessa Haring
... and for next Sunday: Irene Duncan & Aileen Hall

Bidding Prayers: Jean Douglas
Bidding Prayers: Anne Jabir

FOOD PARCEL SERVICE: If you would like to donate to the food parcel service supporting families in the local community, please leave donations of tinned food in the box provided at the back of the Church. Tins of tuna, hotdogs and meatballs would be much appreciated, as would any toiletries you can donate. These will be distributed from St Teresa of Lisieux Parish who are helping 8 to 10 families per week.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club winner for April is Jennifer Morris who wins £25 with number 24. **Congratulations Jennifer!**

Fr John Robinson will kindly be covering for Fr Jock from Wednesday to Friday – Fr Jock will be on the island of Bute with his 'priests' support group' (the J's! – Fr Jeremy Bath, Fr James Tracey, Fr Gerry (Jerry?) Hand, Fr Jim Smith, Fr Jock and, a special guest, Fr Loreto Joseph Tabone) for their annual 3 days quiet time away together.

St. John's

Maria Igoe writes: 'The Charity Coffee Morning will be on Monday 4th May in the Hall after 10am Mass. Donations will go to SCIAF for their emergency fund for Nepal. Please come along.'

The Crises of Community Life

'There are four great crises of community life. The first comes when we arrive. There are parts of us which cling to the values we left behind. The second is the discovery that the community is not as perfect as we had thought. The ideal and our illusions crumble, we are faced with reality. The third is when we feel misunderstood and even rejected by the community. The fourth is the hardest: our disappointment with ourselves because of all the anger, jealousies and frustrations that boil up in us. If we are to integrate into community we must know how to pass through these crises. They all imply the losing of illusions and the gradual welcoming of reality as it is.'

Jean Vanier, Community & Growth, p 136.

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 2nd May <i>MEMORIAL OF ST ATHANASIUS</i>	10.00am: Eucharistic Service 6.30pm Vigil Mass: Canon Felix Connolly	10.00am Mass: SI – Sick Person
Sunday 3rd May 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am Mass – with baptism of Gaia Czermak Fr James Byers 1.15pm: Baptism of Ellis Barrett	11.15am Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 4th May	10.00am Mass: Owen Connarty 7pm to 8pm: <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Tuesday 5th May	10.00am Eucharistic Service	10.00am Mass: Ian Gorman
Wednesday 6th May	10.00am Mass: Linda Wisbach	
Thursday 7th May	10.00am Eucharistic Service	7.00pm Mass: Special Intention
Friday 8th May	10.00am Mass: (Mass followed by Rosary.) 3pm to 4pm: <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	
Saturday 9th May	10.00am: Mass 6.30pm Vigil Mass: SI – Silver Wedding	
Sunday 10th May 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am Mass: People of the Parish	11.15am Mass

‘A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything.’

Irish proverb



Father Tom Hennessy

25th November 1934 to 24th April 2015

A little man with a big heart.

Father Tom was born on the south coast of England where his father was a naval officer. During the Second World War his family was 'bombed out' and moved to Scotland, spending three years in the country near North Berwick.

Father Tom was a man of great faith and dedicated to his vocation. When he was a young man he had a serious motorcycle accident. His only concern about his injuries was whether they would prevent him carrying out his priestly duties.

He loved his books and was very knowledgeable but his main gift as a parish priest was the example he set in humility, faith and kindness. In his quiet way - and despite his nervous disposition, and strong sense of privacy - he observed what was going on and acted quickly to help those in need. When a parishioner's much loved father died, somehow Father Tom's words "Easter Sunday – what a great day to die" brought huge comfort. Despite his shyness he was always there knocking on the door of someone – whether a regular churchgoer or new to the Parish, or someone who was ill, troubled or housebound. His gentleness and wisdom broke through many barriers. As well as his parishioners, people of other faiths and even those with no faith found him a soothing presence. Parishioners have mentioned how lives were touched by for example a visit to a seriously ill child with no faith, the support given to a bereaved non-Catholic family (sitting gently for 2 hours with them), the comfort given to an Iraqi husband when the Iraqi War broke out, appearing unexpectedly at his door. He was particularly conscientious in visiting the sick.

Similarly, when a regular parishioner was absent for a few weeks, he appeared at her door and when she told him she'd been at other parishes, he accepted it, saying that as long as she was getting to Mass, that was what mattered. And an elderly Catholic who'd just moved in to the area was delighted in her first month to open the door and find Fr Tom there to welcome her to the parish.

He lived very simply: he never seemed to have much food in the house - his diet seemed to consist of things like baked beans, sardines and cheese. He couldn't stand pomp – he declined the invitation to be a canon, partly because he thought there'd be too much of it in the cathedral liturgy.

His health was never great – he was a diabetic – but he loved hillwalking – and often went on walking holidays. He read widely – not least Shakespeare and Dickens – and had a good theological library (the last time Fr Jock saw him was in the Blackwells Bookshop theology section!).

Fr Tom was small in stature but huge in courage and love....

Please keep Fr Hennessy in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

(A portrait of Fr Tom Hennessy put together by Jennifer Morris, Fr Jock and the Pastoral Council of St Mary Magdalene's Parish, Edinburgh.)

