

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

Deacon:

Revd Eddie White:

07986 015772

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after the Vigil Mass (7.30pm on Saturday) or any time by appointment

Pastoral Team: Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, Edinburgh, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10.00am to 3.00pm & Friday 11.00am to 4.00pm)

Web address:

<https://www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com>

Joint Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

18 JUNE 2023

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



These are the names of the twelve apostles: Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: '... Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge..' (Matthew 10:2-8)

Today is Father's Day....we remember in prayer and, often, deep gratitude all fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, stepfathers and fathers in law.....

This Sunday marks the Day for Life in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland... with this newsletter is a pastoral letter from Bishop John Keenan, the Scottish Bishops' President for Marriage, Family and Life. There is also a Leaving Collection to help the Church fund its prolife work and mission.

We also welcome Donna Cameron to speak at both our Sunday Masses. Donna is the Executive Director of SHE Pregnancy Support. She writes: 'SHE Pregnancy Support are doing great work in our Archdiocese offering support to many pregnant women and their families. There are SHE Newsletters & cards available at the back of the church, you're welcome to take them today.

Pregnancy Help: Do you know anyone who may need help during pregnancy? SHE gives support and confidence to expectant mothers. Baby materials & equipment are available. Text/WhatsApp Donna: 0752 648 0578 or email: office@stantonscoltand.org

You can support SHE through prayer, volunteering & donations. You can donate to SHE, support Donna and her team who are walking 21 miles on 17 September as part of the Edinburgh Kiltwalk. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/she-pregnancy-support-donna>

You are also welcome to take part in the SHE Kiltwalk with other parishioners.

Register with Kiltwalk and start your own Just Giving for SHE Pregnancy. If you are interested in taking part please message Donna and she can help you.

Voting Rights For Church Representatives to be Removed?

Archbishop Leo writes: ‘Edinburgh City Council is to vote on a motion which proposes the removal of voting rights of Church Representatives on its Education, Children and Families Committee. If this motion is carried it will pose a serious threat to the capacity of the Church to influence decisions regarding Catholic education and Catholic schools. Postcards are available at the back of the church so you can send to your councillor(s) to make your feelings known. Template letters are also available (an editable Word version of the letter is available at bit.ly/edinletterdownload). Find out who your councillor is at: bit.ly/edinburghcouncillors. **Please act quickly to ensure councillors know your viewpoint before they vote this Thursday 22 June.**’ Readers of this newsletter are liable to have councillors in either ward 14 (Craigentinny / Duddingston) or ward 17 (Portobello / Craigmillar)

On Monday evening at 7.00pm in St John’s Hall, there will be **the last of three evenings for those training to be Eucharistic Ministers...** many thanks to all those who have shown a willingness to serve in this way....

The next **Baptismal Preparation Course** will take place at 7.00pm (Nb Amended time) on **Monday 26 June** and **3 July** in the Parish House. Please make contact with Fr Jock if you would like to have a child baptised.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 17 June – Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 18 June - 11th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.30am - St John’s - **Mass** - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** - livestreamed

Monday 19 June

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

2.00pm – St John’s Primary School – **Confirmation Celebration with P7**

7.00pm – St John’s Hall – **Eucharistic Ministers’ Training Course – Evening 3**

8.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing** – click [HERE](#), or type <https://bit.ly/3NtsoJM> into your browser

Tuesday 20 June - 10.00am – St John’s – Mass - livestreamed

Wednesday 21 June - 10.00am – St John’s – Mass – livestreamed

Thursday 22 June

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

2.15pm – Holy Rood HS – **Mass with the P7’s (Fr Jock)**

5.15pm – St John’s – Wedding Rehearsal for Juan Ignacio de Vicente Oseda and Fatima Villanueva Villarnovo

Friday 23 June – 10.00am – St John’s – Mass - livestreamed

Saturday 24 June - FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

1.30pm – St John’s – **Wedding of Juan Ignacio de Vicente Oseda and Fatima Villanueva Villarnovo**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 25 June - 12th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.30am - St John’s - **Mass** - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass for all First Communicants**

(and meeting with Prayer Partners) - livestreamed

View the **links for the Masses** by visiting our webpage:

<http://bit.ly/2023Mass> - or by scanning the QR code → → → →



From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

Job Vacancy - The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is seeking to appoint a Director of Property (full-time). For full job details and how to apply visit bit.ly/propertydirector2023. Closing date for applications is Thursday 29 June. Interviews scheduled for Thursday 6 July.

St Margaret’s Pilgrimage - St Margaret’s Pilgrimage returns to Dunfermline **today, 18 June**. Mass is at 2:30pm in St Margaret’s Memorial Church in East Port, with Archbishop Cushley as principal celebrant. Ecumenical service at 12:30pm in Dunfermline Abbey, followed by prayers at the tomb of St Margaret. Join people from across the Archdiocese and beyond to give thanks to God for St Margaret’s example of faith, charity and leadership.

Compassion to Hope - An event to celebrate the lives of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland, with ‘music, poetry, silence and celebration’. This event takes place on **Tuesday 20 June** at 4:30pm in the hall of Sacred Heart Church, 28 Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ.

Vocations Mass - the next Mass to pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life is at 7.00pm **this Friday 23 June** at St Margaret’s, Hope View, Loch Road, South Queensferry, EH30 9LS.

Special Talk Series at Cathedral - St Mary’s Cathedral in Edinburgh is hosting a series of talks in October with US theologian **Professor James Edwards**. Tickets and details at bit.ly/Jesus-in-GospelofMark. **There will be a live preview of this event online on Monday 19 June at 7:30pm-8:00pm** with Canon Patrick Burke from the Cathedral in conversation with Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. The link to join this preview is event bit.ly/cathedralpreview (Zoom).

St Dominic and His Preachers of Grace - You are welcome to join the Dominican Community for a conference taking place in the Assembly Hall in New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2 LX, on **Saturday 24 June**. Booking for refreshments and meals has closed, but the talks are open to everyone. Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist will be celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley in the Cathedral, with Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP as preacher and all are welcome to attend. See the full programme at <https://scotland.op.org/preachersofgrace/>

Study Theology in Edinburgh - The MA in Applied Catholic Theology is offered by St Mary’s University in Scotland begins in September 2023. The course provides a thorough grounding in key aspects of Catholic theology and develops the skills to apply that theology to the challenges and opportunities of the contemporary world. To register/enquire visit <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/applied-catholic-theology>

NOTICEBOARD

Holy Cross Academy FP Reunion: If you or your friends would like a reunion with other FPs then please send your name and the years when you started and left Holy Cross Academy to Michael Balfour at mjbgcn19@gmail.com or telephone 07484 620 635 by 30 June 2023. We aim to reply by 31 July 2023.

Date		St John’s Eucharistic Ministers		
June	17	Matt Gorrie	Patrick Shannon	John Lawler
	18		Eliza Veitch	Tanya White
	24	Chris Vinestock	Pauline MacInnes	Pat Whyte
	25		Theresa Spence	Gena Gallagher

'SAINT' OF THE WEEK – Père VINCENT LEBBE

Apostle to the Chinese (1877-1940) – Feast Day: 24 June

I believe that we owe it to the Christians here, and even to the non-Christians, to be to them what the Church is wherever it exists - the last refuge of what is right and proper, where justice need never fear to make its voice heard."



Vincent Lebbe was born in Belgium in 1877. At the age of eleven he resolved that his vocation was to be a missionary priest, to go to China, and there to lay down his life. From this plan he never deviated, and his ambitions were ultimately fulfilled.

Lebbe first arrived in China in 1901. He was twenty-three and a priest of the Congregation of the Missions (the Vincentians). Even before his arrival in China, Lebbe was fired by a passionate love for the Chinese and a desire to be one with them. His fellow missionaries, however, quickly sought to erase such notions. *"What are you doing?"* one of them asked him when he tried to carry his suitcase off the boat. *"In China no missionary ever carries his own case."*

Lebbe quickly observed among his fellow missionaries a strong sense of superiority toward the Chinese. Many French priests and even bishops remained ignorant of the Chinese language, culture, and history. Although a good number of Chinese priests had been ordained, they served only as assistants to their European counterparts. The church, meanwhile, existed under the "protection" of the French government. Many missionaries could scarcely distinguish between their loyalty to Christ and their loyalty

to the French tricolour. Nor could they perceive how such attitudes alienated them from the hearts of most Chinese. Because of them, Christianity was widely perceived as a foreign religion and the church in China as no more than a spiritual colony of France. To Lebbe this approach to mission was incomprehensible. *"I myself am a Chinese with all my heart and soul and strength,"* he wrote. *"China is my destiny, my country, and the people here are my brothers and children."*

Instead of traditional parish work, Lebbe propagated the gospel by every means he could devise. He organized public lectures and preached on street corners. He reached out to civic leaders and prominent non-Christians, working hard for their friendship and respect. He organized charitable organizations, schools, and associations of lay Catholics. He even established the first Catholic press in China. The response was extraordinary. Within a few years he had become one of the most visible and highly respected foreigners in China. His devotion to the Chinese was obvious, not only in his mastery of their language, but in his dress. Instead of a traditional soutane he dressed like a poor Chinese labourer, even down to his traditional pigtail. Though he was mocked by fellow missionaries, to whom such conduct was unbecoming a priest, he answered that St. Paul had become a Greek to the Greeks. *"If I tried to go on being a European I should be no better than a corpse. We get to know people only by becoming one with them; we win them only by giving ourselves."*

Despite his success, Lebbe's methods were a source of increasing irritation to his superiors. The heart of the problem was Lebbe's conviction that the future of the church in China required the development of a truly Chinese church. The church must overcome its identification with European culture and its dependence on foreign personnel. Among the most important first steps, he believed, would be the consecration of native-born Chinese bishops. This flew directly against the wisdom of his superiors. It would be a hundred years, they claimed, before there would be suitable candidates among the Chinese clergy. In the meantime, they began to see Lebbe as a troublemaker.

Henceforth Lebbe was subjected to incredible harassment. Despite his effectiveness and popularity as a missionary, he was treated by his own superiors as a pariah, stripped of responsibility, and shunted from one backwater assignment to another. He submitted to these humiliations with obedience and dignity, though it cost him much suffering. Indeed, he wondered if this was not the martyrdom he had envisioned as a child.

It became clear to Lebbe that the future of the Chinese church lay in Rome. And so, he returned to Europe. There he worked as an unofficial chaplain to Chinese university students, all the while pressuring the Vatican to look into the situation in China. He finally won an audience with Pope Pius XI and handed him a list of Chinese priests who would make suitable bishops. The French bishops now regarded him as an open traitor. Not a single bishop would allow him to return to China.

But this was to change. In 1926 Pope Pius XI personally consecrated six Chinese bishops, all of them recommended by Lebbe. He himself was present in the front row at St. Peter's, blinded by tears of happiness as he witnessed the realization of his long dream. Now he had at least six sponsors eager for his services. Upon returning he immediately became a naturalized Chinese citizen. No one could ever force him to leave China again. Lebbe continued his old apostolates. But he took up new ones as well. He organized a community of Chinese priests into a monastic community, the Little Brothers of St. John the Baptist. In 1929 he resigned from the Vincentians to become the superior of this new congregation. But even this was not the end of his activities. With the outbreak of war with Japan Lebbe organized a team of stretcher-bearers that went into the heat of battle to rescue lives. His courageous actions sealed his place of honour in the hearts of all Chinese. While many other missionaries adopted an attitude of neutrality, Lebbe, as always, was passionate in his loyalties. *"I would rather die than go on living as a neutral, not daring to call good and evil by their proper names, not daring to give my last ounce of blood for the oppressed."*

Under the stress of his exhausting duties his body finally gave out. He died on June 24, 1940. In declaring a day of mourning, the Chinese government honoured him both as a great Christian and as a Chinese patriot. They called him only by his Chinese name: Lei-Ming-Yuan ("**the thunder that sings in the distance**").

See: Jacques Leclercq, Thunder in the Distance: The Life of Père Lebbe (New York: Sheed & Ward, 1958).

*God in our thinking, God in our speaking
God in our acting, God in our stillness
God in our waking, God in our sleeping
God in our meeting, God in our parting.*

(Adapted from the Sarum Primer, 1514)

An Appeal from the Justice and Peace Group for Volunteers for the Bethany Rapid Re-Accommodation Centre

Jim Roarty writes: 'The Overnight Welcome Centre for homeless people who would otherwise have been sleeping rough was renamed as the **Rapid Re-accommodation Centre**, with Bethany working with the City Council to try to find longer term accommodation for homeless persons – ideally within 24 hours, although that is not always practicable. The Centre is based in the **Haymarket Hub Hotel**. As many of you will know, our two parishes, along with other churches in and around Edinburgh, provide a hot meal for the users of the Centre, which is opened during the winter months from October to the end of April. During this period, we volunteered to do the catering on 20 evenings and, to help out, finished up doing another two.

We are very blessed in having the support of a company called *Apetito* who produce ready-made meals which just require heating; *Apetito* donated all the meals for the 22 nights we did, and their rep, *Seton Steele*, volunteered not only to do the cooking but also to come along and assist with serving the meals at the Centre (along, usually with two parish volunteers) as he has done in previous years; because of the increasing demands of his own job, however, he was only able to do 11 of the 22 nights, with parish volunteers covering the other 11 evenings. The support of *Apetito* saves the J&P Group (who finance the project) a lot of money and *Seton's* involvement also takes a lot of the strain off our volunteers.

Our parishes have been involved in providing a hot meal for the homeless in the Bethany Centre in its various guises since 2016. It has become a much simpler task compared to our original involvement, but it is still one of the important and valuable strands of our outreach activities.

We will be volunteering again for the 2023/24 season which will begin in the autumn. If anyone would like to join us, there are several activities with which you can help (note: it would only be for two or three occasions during the season):

Serving food at the Rapid Re-Accommodation Centre at the Haymark: This is normally a team of two along with whoever does the food preparation – generally around 7.30pm – 10pm.

Heating the food (this has to be done at a separate kitchen at Gorgie and then conveyed to the Haymarket). This involves being at the Gorgie kitchen around 6pm.

Picking up the food sometime during the day from the Royal Infirmary (it is stored in the freezers there – thanks also to the catering staff there for their support) and dropping it off at the kitchen in Gorgie.

We would only be looking for volunteers for these last two at short notice on the occasions that *Seton's* work commitments prevent him from doing them. If you would like to join with our other parish volunteers, please let me know (jimroarty4@gmail.com, tel.07719952472). Thank you.'

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - MATTHEW 9:36 -10:8

‘What is in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.’ Depending on my mood this is my favourite line from Shakespeare. On another day: ‘Oh pardon me thou bleeding piece of earth, that I am meek and gentle with these butchers.’ That’s the beauty of Shakespeare – a quotation for every mood! I remember particularly one of my many cardiac procedures. The anaesthetist had my permission to use a fairly new type of anaesthetic. One hour before the full dose I was to be given a smaller dose of a different drug to help with relaxation. I found myself enjoying a marvellously woozy sensation better than any alcoholic trip. I was at peace with everyone and everything around me. Eventually I found myself in the theatre-prep area. Unattractive cap and even less attractive gown could not disguise my feeling of euphoria. My reverie was disturbed by a gentle looking face and voice: ‘Hello my name’s Susan and I’m your theatre nurse. I’ll be looking after you. Can you just confirm your name and date of birth’. She held the wrist containing my Hospital ID bracelet. I like to think it was the drugs, rather than my childish humour that prompted the answer: Yes! Paul Newman and my date of birth is 26th January 1935. (In those days, there wasn’t anything I didn’t know about Paul Newman!!!) Bad move on my part. I thought I was being ‘funny’ and that my attempt at humour would be received in good faith. Hospital protocol said otherwise. A whole rigmarole of cross checking, cross referencing, and sampling, taking some twenty-five minutes or so, saw me eventually cleared for take-off. The flea in the ear would come later! What is in a name? Try giving a false name to a policeman, or a theatre nurse.

This weekend’s Gospel sees the early part of Matthew’s narrative. First, we see the humanity of Jesus. *When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.* That phrase – ‘to feel sorry for someone’ is such a simple statement but so rich in meaning. Feelings of sorrow for another come from the very core of who we are, they come from the pit of our stomach, they trigger the tears that well in our eyes, even as our eyelids struggle to stem their flow – lest we embarrass ourselves and appear weak. This is what Jesus feels. I wonder what he would ‘feel’ if he were to stand in the middle of some of the run-down parts that are never far from where we live. It is said that we are never more than five metres from a rat, and that they outnumber the UK population by 4 to 1 – and we’re never far from those who are feeling low, those who are depressed or mentally ill, those who struggle to feed or clothe their children. As Jesus looked at the crowd he saw a multitude – each with a story to tell, dreams to fulfil, a history to recount – and each with a name.

Matthew moves on to share the account of the calling of the apostles. He names them all. Biographical detail is scarce. Fathers are mentioned and one is identified by profession. It is their names that marks their importance. - just as it does ours. We are named by our parents – even if we are adopted. With the same joy that anticipates our birth, much thought and planning go into our ‘naming’. A name is our first ever gift. Sometimes events and sensitivities take over. Grand-parent names are added, then there’s the maiden aunt or uncle who never met the right person so never had their own family. They’ll be thrilled if you added their name. Then as an afterthought grandma Elspeth who was never really a grandma but was always there at family gatherings, though no-one could quite remember why. Before we know what is happening, this small bundle of giggling, dimple-ridden joy is the bearer of a telephone-directory of names. And then there’s the godparents..... but that’s another tale fraught with danger and offence. Best not go there.

Most of us are conceived in love when parents joined with the Creator God. And we are named in love. Having been made and named in love we are invited to love. We are invited to love others as God loves us. Jesus could only feel for the crowd because his heart was open. My name is Bernard. If my name was Basil, my responsibilities remain the same. For What is in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” ‘Our calling is the same, regardless of our name.

Our name adds uniqueness to our identity, it ensures the right person receives the artificial knee, but it’s our existence that adds to God’s message because it’s our existence that is rooted in love. We were made in love, named in love and are called to love. Nothing more, nothing less. We do well to spend time reflecting on our own Christian name. It is ours. It was given by our parents, natural or adoptive. It marks who we are. But we do better to reflect on the reason for our existence. We live to love, because God is Love...And we live to feel for others, because He does.

(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock who lives in Northumberland)

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Bishop Maurice Taylor
(aged 97 - former Bishop of Galloway)*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*David Robertson
Mary Durkin
Thomas McNama
Tom Brown*

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

Kim O'Neill, Ann O'Brien, Maureen Brogan, Kathie Gallagher, Diane McCarthy, Violet Paterson, Raymond Walker, Margaret Duffy, Valentino Raviele, Una Laing, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Harry Allan, May Thomson, Carol Simpson, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, Kenny O'Connor, Gerry Gallagher, John Cregan, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Fiona Connel, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Sarah McManus, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Norman Telfer, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Monica Gorman, Allan Guthrie, John McLaughlin, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and Mary and James Muir.

THANK YOU!

Offertory 11 June 2023

St Mary Magdalene's, £310.00 total, including £163.00 Offertory and £147.00 Gift Aid.

St John's, £1448.20 total, including £605.20 Offertory, £115.00 Gift Aid and £728.00 online donations.

Anniversaries:

St John's:

June 17: Roland Ogilvie (2013);

June 18: Thomas Quinn (2004); Mary Eardley (1999);

Betty McLean (1997); Thomas McNama (1966); **June 19:** Rose Ann Rooney (2011); Norah Gallagher (2001); Mario Boni (1997);

June 20: Mary Corwell (2022); Catherine Conway (2005);

Euphemia Dickson (1997); **June 21:** Sien Loocia Tait (2007); Mary Durkin (1998); Joseph Fusco (1970); **June 22:** Rose Mary Gorrie (2009); Anne Maureen Jamieson (2005); Margaret Sweeney;

June 23: David Robertson (2019); Patrick Knowles (1916);

St Mary Magdalene's:

June 22: John Joe Callaghan (2018);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Veronica Telfer, Saramma Samuel, Margaret Troupe, John Wynn, Caitlin Mair, Barry Thomson, Robert Clark, Peter Robinson, Stuart Goddard, Win Veitch, Bridget O'Brien Twohig, Alison St Clair Ford, Peter Hanley, Margaret Williams, Lydia Reid, Kate Titterington, Ann Currie, Sandy Ferguson, Chris White, Douglas Edington, Helen Robertson baby Josh Simpson, Desire Bascon, Janet Haring, Shona Killin, Tom Heaney, Mary Whyte, Jim Gray, Mgr Gerry Hand, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, Andrew Muldoon, John Havard, Mary Wallace, Allan Crombie, Ellen Green, Sophie Robinson, Louise Young, Emma Blackman, Tricia Scott, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 9), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Grace Stuart, Stephen Norwood, Bill and Audrey Jones, John Miller, Agnes Clarke, David Fenwick, Maurice McAllister, Rita Noonan, baby Lucas McCourt, Ellen Dow, members of the McGrath Family, Maureen Hutchinson, Hans Zaunbrecher, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Keiran Smart (aged 15), Michael Doherty, Carol Turnbull, Jean Wylie, Angela Khan, George and Ann McDermott, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Jessica Haggerty, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Jennifer Kay, Seval and Kazim Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Mary Taygarth, Roger Bromley, Tony Rigg, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Ann Thorp, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Michael Igoe, Clare Richardson, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

Heavenly Father,

*You are with us at all times,
in sorrow, in sickness and in poverty;
hold us in Your loving arms though
the world seems full of sorrow and pain,
and cradle us as we struggle
toward our home with You.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

(Revd Andrew Martlew)

From Loneliness to Solitude:

(by the late Fr Roland Walls)

I am suggesting that loneliness is a basic human condition, indeed the fundamental sign of what we are, people made for someone, made for God. Men and women seem to be made in such a way that they are more like vessels, containers. They are not quite the solid three-dimensional animals their bodies make them seem. They have a thirst to be filled, to be completed.

Most people manage to satisfy temporarily the urgent need by work, amusement, friendship, marriage. I am convinced, however, that the centre-piece is incapable of being filled completely except by God who made us in his own image. He keeps us from being satisfied with anything or anybody except himself. To discover this is to turn loneliness into solitude, to turn a curse into a blessing, to turn from death to life. I believe, from experience, that this change can happen to the most complaining, self-preoccupied, frustrated person. I believe that if anyone faces up to the negativity that forced isolation can bring, he or she can make the discovery that the 'Kingdom of God is within', that God's own solitude can be met, in fact, just where the pain is, in the empty aching. As a Christian, I believe God in the person of Jesus Christ has entered on loneliness in his own loneliness of rejection and death, in order to find us where we are lonely.

Sometimes it seems as if he has taken up, unbeknown to us, the only vacant spot there is, and he waits for me to find him there. Some people make this joyful discovery all at once. It may be through a word of Scripture: *'I will not leave you alone, I will come to you.'* *'See, I stand at the door and knock. If any person opens the door, I will come in and sit down with him and share his meal.'*

Others make a journey from loneliness to solitude. I found that my first step in coming to terms with my loneliness was when I discovered that I had a freedom, when alone, to be myself. There was no one to impress or play up to or react to. I was just myself. Of course, there is always the temptation to live with dreams of what I might have been, with memories which make me live in the past, or with resentments and self-pity. I had time to look at what really went on inside on me, however much I disliked what I saw. On my own, I could begin to know myself, and not wish to deceive myself.

Or again, at moments you find you can really notice things. When you are alone, books, food, music, weather, the odd sparrow, take on a sharper edge, a quality, a presence that goes unnoticed when company is there. I am able to live more intensely in the middle of the miracle of the existence of things. A new gratitude for little things is released, a gratitude that has an echo and a home in the hollow of my life, a song of thanksgiving to the Lord.

These words are taken from a small booklet 'From Loneliness to Solitude' written by the late Roland Walls, founder, many years ago, of the former ecumenical Christian Community in the small town of Roslin, near Edinburgh. Roland himself was an Anglican priest for 40 years, before becoming a Catholic, and then a Catholic priest for the last 25 years of his life. This community at Roslin gave hope to many people who were struggling with life, with poverty, and with homelessness, as well as to many others. Its last surviving member, Brother John Halsey, joins us at our Vigil Mass once a month. John Miller, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, wrote about Roland and the Community in his wonderful book A Simple Life: Roland Walls & The Community of The Transfiguration, St Andrew Press 2014.- Still available. (Roland was also Fr Jock's spiritual guide for 13 years from 1988 to 2001, and one of the major influences on his life.)



'I think we've spoilt it'