

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

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle B) 7th December 2014

'Prepare a way for the Lord.'

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) rite for entry into the Catechumenate (the second stage in the RCIA process, the first being the Enquiry Stage) will take place at the **9.30am Mass on Sunday at St John's**. Our catechumens are **Angie Mcgreavy, Dionne Harper, Chelsea Foley, and Stephen Finlayson**, and our candidates, **Albert Caballero and Sharleena Asiatico**. (Catechumens are those who haven't been baptised; candidates are those who were baptised into another tradition, or are Catholics who have yet to receive all the sacraments of initiation – baptism, confirmation and eucharist.) Please pray for them and their sponsors and catechists.

Next Sunday, 14 December, the Third Sunday of Advent, is our Reconciliation Sunday. Several priests will be available to celebrate the sacrament during the first half of Mass. On the back of the Sunday Plus in this newsletter is an **Advent 'Examination of Conscience'** – please take time to prepare....

THANK YOU ... to **The Edinburgh Telephone Choir** and special guests, **St John's School Children's Choir**, for a wonderful evening of carols last Wednesday ... and to all who came along and supported this memorable event, which raised just over £800 towards SCIAF's fundraising efforts in aid of the Ebola crisis. Your presence and your generosity were very much appreciated. (If others unable to be present wish to make a donation, it's not too late....just hand or drop an envelope into the parish house.)

... **AND OUR WARMEST BIRTHDAY WISHES** to Monsignor Rae who celebrated his 88th birthday on Friday 5th December!

ADVENT HOUSE GROUPS (reflecting on the Advent Sunday Gospels and Pope Francis' 'Joy of the Gospel'). There will be five house groups in our two parishes meeting twice in the next fortnight. Three of the groups are in St John's, two in St Mary Magdalene's, though people are encouraged to sign up for whichever time and venue suits them, irrespective of parish boundaries!

DATE	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT	LED BY
TUESDAY 9 & 16 December	2.30pm	35 Morton Street.	669 0896 Jim/Evlynne Roarty	Sheelagh/Geoff Dobson
WEDNESDAY 10 & 17 December	7.30pm	Duddingston Park South	657 2831 Una Gallagher	Tessa Haring
THURSDAY 11 & 18 December	10.30am	90 Bingham Broadway	657 2831 Una Gallagher	Kate Neilson
THURSDAY 11 & 18 December	7.00pm	4 Goff Avenue	629 0270 Laura/Keith Young	Laura Young
THURSDAY 11 & 18 December	8.00pm	23 Baronscourt Terrace	652 0413 Laurie Blyth	Siobhan Sellar

Sheets for each group will be at the back of both churches for people to sign up this weekend for a particular group. Alternatively, would-be participants can ring the named contact person to join a group. Ideally, each group will contain 8 - 10 members.

Carols in the Car Park ... a reminder that St Mary Magdalene's car park is the venue for a 'pop-up' choir on the three Fridays leading up to Christmas (5th, 12th & 19th December). Una Gallagher writes: 'Come and join us for 15 minutes of fun carols' ... not to be missed.

St John's Church Open Doors The hope is to have the Church open and warm all day on Monday and Tuesday 22nd & 23rd December - with music playing quietly and Advent & Christmas reading on offer - for people to pop in for a time of quiet on the busiest of pre-Christmas days. Please contact Fr Jock or Pauline Connarty, the parishes' administrator, if you would like to help organise this.

Summarised Archdiocesan Accounts for 2013: We have received a summary report of the 2013 Accounts from the Director of Finance of the Diocese, Derek Buglass. Enclosed with his letter dated 27 November 2014, is a message from Archbishop Leo Cushley and an executive summary from the Trustees. A copy of this report is displayed on both parish noticeboards. Alternatively, please contact Pauline Connarty in the parish office (669 5447) if you would like a copy.

Greetings from Tanzania: Mike Knox writes (27 November 2014): 'I am adjusting to the pleasant 30 degree dry heat and enjoying meeting up with everyone here. I had lunch with the teachers who were here recently and who send their best wishes. I am staying with Sr Conjestra and the Community at St Ursula's for the next 2 weeks until the school here closes and then after the Diocesan Youth Seminar I will move up to Legho.

A word of thanks to Fr Jock, Monsignor Rae and Lewis for their kind words last Sunday. It is true that I find myself belonging to two worlds and at home in both (and feel welcome whenever I go to St Mary Magdalene's!). I look forward to seeing everyone again in March, (especially at the Two Parishes Open Meeting about Children, Young People and Young Adults on Tuesday 10 March.) I will keep the blog going while I am here so you can see what is happening in Legho and around. See: www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com. As I write this the sun is setting, the Sisters are saying drum accompanied evening prayer in the Chapel and the children are out on the field saying rosary. With best wishes, Mike.'

An appreciation of former St John's parishioner, Colin O'Brien (who recently moved to Ireland with his wife Brid, and children Kayleigh & Ryan) - from one of the St John's housebound parishioners, Michael Richards:

"What follows is both a farewell and a word of best wishes to one of those whose labours in the Parish are known about but of course go on quietly and scarcely noticed: Colin O'Brien, one of the St John's team of Eucharistic Ministers who bring Holy Communion to the sick.

To be ministered to by Colin each month during a long period of treatment was a joy. Somehow I had never met Colin before. He turned out to possess deep pastoral gifts of a kind that no parish could ever have too much. They include a listening ear and a listening heart. It came to Maimie and me as no surprise that Colin turned out to have been the attentive neighbour of a friend of ours from our Episcopalian days, an elderly and chronically ill woman to whom he had been for years and years unsparing with practical kindnesses.

Colin's quiet and expert work on Parish finances will have been appreciated even more by those who can grasp such matters than by the rest of us. All can appreciate two of his particular habits in conversation. One is a willingness to accept change in the Church once it has happened. The other is to make sure that anyone whose name cropped up in our talk received some word of praise. I was lucky to meet Brid and Kayleigh and Ryan in the nick of time, on the very eve of their departure for Ireland. I do hope that those who have known Colin ever since he was an altar-boy will not find it a bit impertinent for a late-comer to be writing an appreciation. *Michael Richards* "

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY: Thursday 11th December 12.45 to 4.15pm: St John's Church Hall

Please add your name to the list at the back of St John's Church if you would like to come along, or phone Gena or Tom Gallagher on 661 1311. Please indicate if you require transport.

Volunteer drivers are needed to provide transport to and from the Seniors' Christmas Party. Phone Tom Gallagher (661 1311) if you can offer your support to this unmissable annual event.

AND ... LAST CHANCE TO SEE!

THE MONDAY ART GROUP'S EXHIBITION. Call in at Piershill Library to catch the last two days of this exhibition of work by members of Mike Kinane's Monday Art Group.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT ... Hospitality is at the heart of the Advent season. Caryll Houselander describes the Annunciation as the Spirit tapping on the door of Mary's heart: "It was as if the human race were a little dark house, without light or air, locked and latched ... But one day a girl opened the door. Seas of light swept through it, and the light remained in it; and in that little house a Child was born."

Offertory Collection - 29th & 30th November 2014
St Mary Magdalene's - £230.35 St John's - £ 759.80
MANY THANKS.

Please pray for those who have died recently, including:

Margaret O'Byrne, Mrs Sneddon, William Smith, Meryl Paterson, James Edington and Esther Thomas.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Margaret O'Brien, Thomas Holt, Joseph Dykes, John Tweedie, Peter Brown, John Wight, Charlie DiCarlo, Kathleen Mary Codling, James Waldie, Robert Taylor, Agnes O'Donnell, S.M. Nelson, Frank McGuire, Bridget Lawrie, Mary (May) Maclean, Michael Keogh, Maggie Bonner, James Anderson, Mary McLauchlan, Margaret Theresa Ward, Vincent Kelegher, Mary Rafferty, Agnes Fotheringham, Annie Shrivener, James Daly, Michael & Bridget Meldrum, Mary Meehan, Margaret Riach, Myles Durkin, Ann Cassidy, Valerie Messent, Agnes Stone, James Quinn, and Joseph Patrick Gannon.

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

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Mike Iannarelli, Eddie Clark, Sarah Clark, Baby Ailsa Fitzgerald, Jimmy Duke, Jane McGuire, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Mona Scoular, Jenny Wormald, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Betty Diponio, Erin Corbett, Sheila Alexander, Fay Dignan, Roz Byers, Michael & Mamie Richards, Pat Kershaw, Joan Howie, Helen Harrison, Cathy McGravie, Alf Macnamara, Marie Angela Crolla, Dolores Jones, Malachy Meehan, Jane Murray, Paul Bainbridge, Ann Ward, Gerry Houston, Lorraine Syme and Monsignor James Rae.

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

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Anne-Louise Dalrymple, Anne Gallagher, Margaret Davis, Christine Wilson, Dorothy Jamal, John Allan, Jane Morton, Christian Parham, Alfred Baird, Conor Kerrigan, Rupert Ridge, Jerzy Gladziuk, Vera Hawkes, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, Maria St. Denis, and baby Ray Donovan Syme.

Readers for this Sunday: John Cunningham & Anne Jabir
... and for next Sunday Sam Henry & Tessa Haring

Bidding Prayers: Jim Gallagher
Bidding Prayers: Jean Douglas

**ST MARY
MAGDALENE'S**

Sending our best wishes to Pat Kershaw who is moving from the parish to St Joseph's
in Gilmour Place. Our love and prayers go with you.

St. John's

DIARY

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 7th December: 9.30am: St John's Church: Mass with RCIA Rite of Entry to the Catechumenate.

2pm to 4.30pm: St Mark's Episcopal Church, Portobello High Street. CHRISTMAS CRIB EXHIBITION & AFTERNOON TEA.

MONDAY 8th December: 7.30pm: 3 Sandford Gardens: BEREAVEMENT TEAM: An invitation to anyone interested in being part of a team within the parishes of St John's & St Mary Magdalene's, supporting the bereaved in a variety of different ways. This is an exploratory meeting for those interested in being part of this team to look at resources and ideas. (And do feel free to let Fr Jock know at any time that you are interested in becoming involved in this area ...).

THURSDAY 11th December: 12.45pm to 4.15pm: St John's Church Hall: SENIORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 12th December: 5pm: St Mary Magdalene's Car Park. 'CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK.' An unmissable opportunity to enjoy 15 minutes of fun carols, and a chance to witness in the Bingham Rush Hour!

St Joseph's, Whitburn: Legion of Mary Reunion. Maria Igoe writes: 'A minibus will leave St John's Church at 4.45pm (cost £7). There will be Legion Prayers, Mass and entertainment. The cost of the meal is £10.' Please let Maria know if you wish to go (669 2960).

IN THE COMING WEEKS

SUNDAY 14th December: RECONCILIATION SUNDAY (with several priests available to celebrate the sacrament during our Sunday Masses).

5pm: Portobello Baptist Church, 269 Portobello High St: CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SERVICE.

MONDAY 15th December: 2.30pm: St John's: ADVENT MASS OF HEALING.

BITS 'N PIECES

FRENCH EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY

Through Fr Jock's connection with the founding L'Arche community at Trosly, near Compiègne in Northern France, we have been asked by a family to enquire whether any parishioner(s) would be interested in participating in a French exchange programme. They are seeking a host family for 2 twelve year old girls planning a visit in May/June 2015. Both speak English well and would be happy to host in return. Please speak to Fr Jock for further details.

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 6th December <i>Memorial of St Nicholas</i>	10.00am Mass: Margaret Risi <i>Morning Mass followed by the sacrament of Reconciliation</i> 6.30pm Vigil: Michael Murphy	
Sunday 7th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am Mass: People of the Parish	11.15am Mass: Ellen Landels
Monday 8th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</i>	10.00am Mass: SI (Moirá McDiarmid) 7pm to 8pm: <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Tuesday 9th December <i>Memorial of St Francis Xavier</i>	10.00am Communion Service	10.00am Mass: Catherine Kelly
Wednesday 10th December <i>Memorial of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	10.00am Mass: Bill Pollock	
Thursday 11th December <i>Memorial of St Damasus I</i>	10.00am Communion Service	7.00pm Mass: Madge Meekle
Friday 12th December <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	10.00am Mass: Special Intention 3pm to 4pm: <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	
Saturday 13th December <i>Memorial of St Lucy</i>	10.00am Mass: Sam Kershaw <i>Morning Mass followed by the sacrament of Reconciliation</i> 6.30pm Vigil: Michael Murphy	
Sunday 14th Decem THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am Mass: People of the Parish	11.15am Mass: Special Intention (Christmas Bouquet)

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF. ‘You will discover how fragile and vulnerable your life, your body and your heart really are. You cannot do just anything. You have to look after yourself and treat yourself gently, enjoying relaxation, relationships, peace and prayer which will help you stay in the light.’ *Jean Vanier*