

*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

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, Chris Vinestock & Pauline Connarty
Administrator: Pauline Connarty (OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 11am to 5pm)
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

27 DECEMBER 2015

WELCOME! ... Fr Jock and the pastoral team would like to welcome most warmly all visitors to our sister parishes for the festive season, to wish everybody a Happy and Holy Christmas, and particularly to thank all who work so generously for their Lord and our Parishes – especially in this festive season but also throughout the year. You are warmly invited to see out the old year at our ‘Hogmanay Mass’ – at 7pm on Thursday 31st December at St Mary Magdalene’s ... and to celebrate the New Year at our 11.30am Mass at St John’s on New Years Day.

... and why not visit our parishes’ new Facebook page where there is a welcome message from Archbishop Leo to be viewed www.facebook.com/StJohnsAndStMaryMagdalenes

There will be a **Special Collection at all Masses next weekend for the Justice & Peace Commission.**

We have received a letter from **Sr Ursula, Little Sisters of the Poor,** thanking everyone for the generous gift of £736.09 which was collected at Mgr. Rae’s Requiem Mass. Sr Ursula writes: ‘Your very generous donations will help us so much in our Apostolate of caring for the elderly here at St Joseph’s House. I know how well loved Mgr. Rae was in your parishes and we also have very fond memories of him at St Joseph’s House – God rest his gentle soul. As we await the birth of Our Lord, all the Sisters join me in praying that you and all the parishioners will be filled with God’s peace and love. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and every Blessing in the New Year.’

DVDs of Mgr Rae’s Requiem Mass will be available in the New Year, price £5. If you would like to order a copy please sign the list at the back of either church or ring Fr Jock.

... and thank you too to all who attended the **Christian Aid Carol Service** in St Mary Magdalene’s on Sunday 6th December. Siobhan Sellar writes: ‘A total of £413.40 was raised with an additional £67.50 from gift aid. We hope that this money raised will be included in the UK Government matched funding scheme for Christmas 2015.’

NEW YEAR SERVICES

	<u>St John the Evangelist</u>	<u>St Mary Magdalene</u>
Thursday 31 st December		7.00pm: Hogmanay Mass
Friday 1 st January	11.30am: Mass on the Feast of Mary, Mother of God	

CHRISTMASTIDE ... Remember the Christmas season continues right through the Feast of the Epiphany - which we celebrate next Sunday 3rd January - and ends on Sunday 10th January with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

LEGHO. Mike Knox writes: *'Christmas Greetings from Legho. Everyone is now busy preparing for Christmas. Out here it is a little different and sunny. I had an interesting conversation with a group of young people trying to explain who Santa was, where he lived, how he travelled about and what he did.*



Fr Sangawe sends many greetings on behalf of himself and the Small Christian Communities. They will pray for St John's and St Mary Magdalene's at the Christmas Masses. He also wishes to thank both communities for their generous Christmas Gift. They are in the process of renewing the Church doors and the Notice Board (coincidences!). The cost of the iron frames and doors had used up all the money they had raised. So the Christmas gift will provide the glasses for the doors and a new Notice Board!

We had 40 young adults last weekend with 'Peace on Earth' as the theme. At the end of the weekend they committed themselves to be Peace Makers and to work for Justice with a spirit of Mercy. It was quite a special weekend filled with great energy and often a palpable sense of the presence of God. And so thank you all again for your prayers! They do work! The logo shown here is in English and Swahili and the dove is the universal symbol for Peace, the Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Arabic lettering for Peace which the Muslims in the group were very happy about.

You can see more and hear their Christmas Greeting on their Facebook Page (Makutano ScoTz) or the St JMM Facebook Page or on the Blog: www.twendepamojatrust.blogspot.com

THIS WEEK

Sunday 27 December: (Feast of St John): After 9.30am Mass: **Blessing of the new Notice-Board.**

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Tuesday 5th January: 7.30pm: Parish House: RCIA resumes.

Sunday 10th January: 7pm: St Mary Magdalene's Church: **St Mary Magdalene's Parish Open Meeting.**

Monday 11th January: 7.30 to 9.30pm: St John's Church Hall: **Training course for new Eucharistic ministers.** This course will take place on three consecutive Mondays, commencing 11th January. If you think someone would make a good eucharistic minister, please propose their name to Fr Jock, Jim Roarty, Jennifer Morris or another member of the pastoral team...

Wednesday 13th January: 7.30pm: Parish House: St John's Pastoral Council Meeting.

NOTICEBOARD

THE CHRISTIAN AID BURNS SUPPER will take place in the Portobello and Joppa Church hall, Brunstane Road north, on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 7pm. Along with the traditional meal there is a range of well respected local speakers including Morag Mylne, Jean Thompson, local performer and writer Gavin Booth and Sheila Hay. Tickets priced £15 can be booked with Siobhán Sellar [sasellar@gmail.com T: 0131 6573805] before 8th January 2016.

A Poem at Christmas

We cannot but weep when we see it all –
the violence; the betrayals; the bomb-blasted streets;
the broken lives; the myriad cries of pain of a world in shadow.
Yet it's good we cry,
for these are tears of connection,
of awareness,
knowing their sorrows are also ours
though different.
So let's look in at ourselves if our minds are not troubled,
for Christmas reminds us of our shared heart-beat
and of God's tears encircling the world,
ever calling us to new depths of love-filled involvement
near and far.

Peter Miller, Edinburgh. December 2015.

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those whose have died recently, including: Ann Gilhooley

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Annie McKaill Watson, Fr. William John Clyne, James O'Brien Sen., Joseph Mullan (Snr), Joseph Mullan (Jnr), Alexandrina Bell, Margaret McGuire, Maria Rossi, Agnes O'Donnell, Annie Kirk, Jackie Flynn, Marion Napier, Dennis Sstrom, James Fettes, Thomas Rooney, Philip McMicken, Bertie Demarco, James Malone, Catherine McElroy, Annie Graham (O'Brien), Elizabeth Stone, Alexander Donnelly, Thomas Mackay, Anne Marie Phillips, Thomas Greig, Isabella Igoe, Joseph & Isobel Simpson, Catherine Kelly, and Monica Cubitt.

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

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Jane Wright, Alf Macnamara, Gerry Wynne, Mary Phillips, Liz Saddler, Lorna Dickson, Etta Dewar, Francis Ginnelly, John Ritchie, Patrick McCafferty, Terry Delaney, Tricia Davies, Stan McKay, Hugh Shannon, Isobel O'Neill, Ina McNama, Josie Martin, David Thom, John Cregan, Tom Brown, Maureen Lawrie, Mona Scoular, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Mary Grady, Jane McGuire, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Fay Dignan, Roz Byers, Sheila Alexander, Pat Kershaw, Michael & Mamie Richards, Joan Howie, Helen Harrison, Cathy McGravie, Jane Murray, Marie Angela Crolla, Dolores Jones, Malachy Meehan, Ann Ward, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

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

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Dympna Clifford, Simon Benson, Austen Tod, Fr Tony McDonald, Edward Martin, Cameron Hall, baby Marnie Josie-Sophia Cree, Roy McGillivray, Hugh McGeady, Peter Kent, Isabel Bolus, John Allan, Valentino and Paloma Rivera, Isabel McInrue, Anne Gallagher, Denise O'Donnell, Margaret Davis, Dorothy Jamal, Jane Morton, Christopher Browne, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, Vera Hawkes, Christian and John Parham, Conor Kerrigan, Maria St. Denis, baby Ray Donovan Syme, and Rupert Ridge.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. **Una Gallagher writes:** 'Ben and Luis, 2 of the boys from Holy Rood who did their Caritas Award with us last year have been in touch and send Best Wishes to all in St Mary Magdalene's.'

Aileen Hall writes on behalf of the Ad Hoc Fabric Committee: 'We need a team to help with fire safety. Fire safety involves for example knowing where the main fire exits are, putting down the ramp at the back door should the alarm go off, and testing the alarm system. If you are willing to join the team or want further information before deciding please speak to any member of the Parish Council or add your name to the list in the porch.'

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

Bidding Prayers: Kate Neilson
Bidding Prayers: Anne Jabir

Fr Jock will be with his parents from Monday to Thursday. **Many thanks to Fr John Robinson** for saying the weekday Masses between Monday & Wednesday. Pauline Connarty, our administrator, will be on annual leave for a fortnight from Christmas Day. The Parish Office will re-open on Tuesday 12th January.

St. John's

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING. **Maria Igoe writes:** 'The January Charity Coffee Morning will be on Monday 4th January after Mass in the Parish Hall. Donations will be given to the children's charity, 'Chance for Childhood'. December's Coffee Morning raised £110 for SPUC Scotland. Thank you all very much. You are amazing!'

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION This is a special Envelope Collection. Over the years it has become an integral part of our Annual Parish Revenue on which we depend to balance our Budget. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church if you wish to make a Christmas Offering.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR MASSES NEXT WEEKEND: VIGIL: G Sellar, M Spencer, B Tansey.

SUNDAY: E Buckley, E Clark, P Connarty, C Dempsey, F Dick.

... and a reminder that **St John's Pastoral Council meeting will take place in the parish house on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30pm.** If you have any items you would like on the agenda, please let Jim Roarty know by Monday 4th January.

Masses, Devotions and Services		
	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 26th December <i>FEAST OF ST STEPHEN</i>	6.30pm Vigil Mass: Deceased Legionaries	
Sunday 27th December <i>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH</i>	9.30am Mass: Fr William John Clyne	11.15am Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 28th December <i>FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i>	10.00am Mass: SI – Christmas 7.00pm to 8.00pm: <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Tuesday 29th December <i>Memorial of St Thomas Becket</i>	10.00am Mass: SI – Christmas	
Wednesday 30th December	10.00am Mass: SI – Sick Person	
Thursday 31st December <i>HOGMANAY</i> <i>Memorial of St Sylvester</i>	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	7.00pm Mass: SI – Xmas Mass
Friday 1st January <i>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</i>	11.30am Mass: SI – Xmas Mass (PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME OF MASS)	
Saturday 2nd January <i>MEMORIAL OF ST BASIL AND ST GREGORY NAZIANZEN</i>	10.00am: Eucharistic Service 6.30pm Vigil Mass: SI – Sick Person	
Sunday 3rd January <i>SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</i>	9.30am Mass: People of the Parish	11.15am Mass: SI – Sick Person

Offertory Collection on 19th & 20th December 2015

St Mary Magdalene's
£417.39 (inc Gift Aided: £265.50)

St John the Evangelist
£1,110.11 (inc Gift Aided: £660.52)

Collection for Legho Christmas Gift

£118.69

£448.05

Many thanks

‘Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey. To those who suffer, God does not provide arguments which explain everything; rather, his response is that of an accompanying presence, a history of goodness which touches every story of suffering and opens up a ray of light.’

‘Lumen Fidei’ – Pope Francis’ First Encyclical