

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

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Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Pauline Connarty

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Fourth Sunday of the Year (Cycle B)

1st February 2015

WELCOME! If you're visiting, are new to the area, or just live here, you are most **welcome** in our sister parishes. We are delighted you have joined us. If you are new to the parish please make yourself known to Fr Jock or Pauline, our Parish Administrator, and ask for details of how to register on the parish roll.

An Important letter from Archbishop Cushley concerning the future of the diocese – and, especially, the future provision of Parishes within it:

Fr Jock writes: 'Archbishop Leo Cushley has initiated a review of the provision of parishes in the Archdiocese and the infrastructure required to support them. Over the coming months, through our open parish meetings and other fora, we will be gathering your views so that we can actively contribute to this ongoing discussion. Copies of the letter from Archbishop Cushley to the Deans initiating this process were given out with last week's newsletter for your information. And are still available at the back of both churches. Please do take one and read it.'

A request for Hosts and Leaders for Lenten House Groups

After the success of the house groups during Lent last year, it is planned to have similar groups this year. The groups will run once a week for six weeks from the week beginning 16th February to the week beginning 23rd March. **If you are willing to host and/or lead a group, please put your name on the lists at the back of either Church.**

Sacramental Initiation Programme: Letters have now been sent out to parents of candidates in P3 & P4 who are preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. If you have not received a letter (via schoolbag post or otherwise) by Monday 9th February please contact Arlene Lauder (Sacramental Co-ordinator) on 0131 669 0041 or by email at lauder.82@btinternet.com, or contact Pauline in the Parish Office.

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: There will be a Special Collection at all Masses next weekend 7th & 8th February on behalf of Catholic Education.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 1st February:

11.15am: St Mary Magdalene's Church: Mass with invited members from Faith & Light.

2-4pm: St John's Church Hall: Faith & Light Candlemas Celebration.

7.30pm: Portobello and Joppa Parish Church: Meeting of PACT (Portobello & Area Churches Together)

Tuesday 3rd February:

7pm: St Patrick's Church, Cowgate: Monthly Mass to pray for the Beatification of Venerable Margaret Sinclair.

7.30-9pm: Parish House: St Mary Magdalene's Parish Council Meeting

Saturday 7th February: 11am: St John's Church: Requiem Mass for Paul Bainbridge. [Bereavement Mass postponed]

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 8th February: 9.30am: St John's Church: Children's Mass with a focus on Primary 3 children preparing for First Reconciliation and **Baptism of Amelia Glodek.**

11.15am: St Mary Magdalene's Church: Mass with a focus on Primary 4 children as part of the 'Do This In Memory of Me' programme.

Monday 9th February: 7pm: St Patrick's Church, Cowgate: Rite of Election Music Rehearsal.

Patricia Carroll writes: 'Parishioners are invited to join the Inter Parish Archdiocesan Choir for the first of a series of rehearsals beginning on the 9th Feb at 7pm in St Patricks Cowgate. This is the only one for the Rite of Election.

There will also be two rehearsals for the Chrism Mass during Lent. New members are very welcome, especially those who sing in existing parish choirs.'

DIARY

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday 22nd February: 5pm: St John the Baptist's Church, St Ninian's Rd, Corstorphine: Remembering Service. 'The service is for those who have suffered the death of a child from the beginning of pregnancy onwards, whether recently or at an earlier time. It provides an opportunity to participate in a formal acknowledgement of their grief. Those who wish to come in love and support are also most welcome. It is hoped that representatives from organisations that provide counselling for stillbirths, miscarriages, and abortions will be present and available after the service.'

A visit to the Noe Tibetan Children's Home in Northern India: 9-17 February

Fr Jock writes: '*When I was teaching for a year in India in 1979 -80, I made friends with a remarkable Tibetan refugee couple, Pema, a Christian, and Mega, a Buddhist. Soon after I returned to the UK, Pema wrote asking for help with the Children's Home she had started and so in 1982 a friend and I formed 'The Friends of the Noe Tibetan Children's Home', and with a group of other friends committed ourselves to supporting Pema's initiative. Since then over 250 children have passed through the Home, and Pema, a woman of remarkable energy and exuberance, has also founded a school (now 1,000 strong) for the local Indian children. I have gone out every 4 years or so ensure the personal link of friendship, central to the whole project, is nurtured with Pema and Mega – and I would have visited them last February, except that I had only just arrived here in Portobello. So on Monday 9 February, I fly out to India for a short visit – returning on Tuesday 17 February, in time for Ash Wednesday! While I'm away, Fr John Robinson will cover Monday to Wednesday, and then Fr Tabone will be in residence from Thursday 11 February for a week ...*'. **For more information on Pema and her remarkable story, go to 'The Friends of the Noe Tibetan Children's Home'.**

NOTICEBOARD

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.

Volunteering Opportunity: The Just World Shop, 54 Portobello High Street.

An appeal from Morag Baird: 'Do you have two hours to spare on a Saturday morning from 10 – 12noon? Due to sickness we are requiring two volunteers to work in the shop to cover for the time our staff are off. If you can help please phone Morag or Jim on 669 8819 or at home (665 9962) or pop into the shop for a chat to see what is involved.'

Medjugorje: Maria Igoe invites anyone interested in going to Medjugorje to contact her on 0131 669 0247. A small group is going in July and there are also a few rooms still available for the trip in May.

Teacher Job Vacancies in Catholic Schools: Details of latest vacancies have been posted on noticeboards at the back of each Church.

Looking for Volunteers! Madaleine Sweeney-Baird, a young parishioner from Our Lady of Loretto in Musselburgh, is coming to the end of a degree at Napier University and is writing her dissertation on '**Catholic Attitudes to Sex and Sexuality**'. This is a serious (and well-intentioned) work: Madaleine is looking for volunteers ('*of people, over the age of 18, who consider themselves to be Catholic by choice*') willing to participate in a short interview lasting 40 minutes...for more information see Fr Jock – or contact Madaleine directly on 40058687@live.napier.ac.uk

REFLECTION: Speaking with authority

Ideally, words should always be preceded by deeds.
When people who have done something begin to speak, people listen.
Their words carry enormous weight. They have real authority.
The weakness of a lot of words arises from the fact
that they are not preceded, or accompanied, or even followed by deeds.
At the root of innumerable wrongs in our world
is the discrepancy between word and deed.
It is the weakness of Churches, parties, and individuals.
It gives people and institutions split personalities.
Lord, grant that what we have said with our lips,
we may practise with our hearts,
and practice with our lives.'
Flor McCarthy, SDB, New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies. (B)

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 31st January <i>MEMORIAL OF ST JOHN BOSCO</i>	10.00am Mass: Special Intention 6.30pm Vigil: from last week's newsletter.....	
Sunday 1st February 4TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (CYCLE B)	9.30am Mass:	11.15am Mass:
Monday 2nd February <i>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	10.00am Mass: Alec Linton 7pm to 8pm: <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Tuesday 3rd February <i>Memorial of St Blaise with Blessing of throats.</i> <i>Memorial of St Ansgar</i>	10.00am Eucharistic Service	7.00pm Mass: Thanksgiving [but celebrated in the parish house before the Pastoral Council meeting]
Wednesday 4th February	10.00am Mass: Catherine McRoberts	
Thursday 5th February <i>MEMORIAL OF ST AGATHA</i>	10.00am Mass: Bill D'Agostino	
Friday 6th February <i>MEMORIAL OF ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS</i>	10am Eucharistic Service 3pm to 4pm: <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	10am Mass: Special Intention
Saturday 7th February	11am Requiem Mass for Paul Bainbridge 6.30pm Vigil: People of the Parish	
Sunday 8th February 5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (CYCLE B)	9.30am Mass: Fr Thomas Flynn	11.15am Mass: Canon Michael Milton

PEACE

Jean Vanier, Community & Growth, p177.

'So many in our world today are suffering from isolation, war and oppression. So much money is spent on the construction of armaments. Many, many young people are in despair ... today as never before, we need communities of welcome; communities that are a sign of peace in a world of war. There is no point in praying for peace in the Middle East, for example, if we are not peace-makers in our own community. Young people, as well as those who are older, are sensitive to this vision of peace. It must continually be announced so that hearts and minds are nourished.'

A MEDITATION ON THE MEANING OF THE EUCHARIST

BY DONAL HARRINGTON

This meditation is one of a series, each of which takes a different theme, to explore the meaning from a different angle. Each meditation concludes with a question for reflection. This in turn may be experienced as an invitation to prayer.

EXPLORING EUCHARIST

Eucharist is ... Body of Christ

Sometime around the year 44, Saint Augustine gave a remarkable homily on the Eucharist. His audience was a group of newly baptised adults and he was telling them about the inner meaning of this mystery. He began with the question: 'How can this bread be Christ's body and what the chalice contains, his blood?'

He continued by quoting the words of Saint Paul, 'You are the body of Christ and his members.' He went on 'If, therefore, you are the body of Christ and his members, *it is your own mystery that has been placed on the table of the Lord. It is your own mystery that you receive.*'

Then: 'To this which you are you respond "Amen" and, in responding, you accept it. What you hear is "the Body of Christ" and to this you respond "Amen". So, be a member of Christ's body, that your Amen may be true.' Later he says, '*Be what you see and accept what you are.*'

This is a great enrichment. When we hear 'body of Christ' we are used to thinking of the consecrated host, or of the physical body of Jesus when he walked the earth. We are less used to thinking of *ourselves!* And yet, this is what Paul and Augustine, two towering figures in our tradition, wanted to communicate to us – that we are Christ's body, that (in Augustine's words) '*It is the mystery of our peace and unity which he consecrates on his table.*'

When we return from receiving communion we pray quietly. Maybe there is something here to add to our meditation. Maybe we might think: 'Not only have I received communion – I have also entered into communion, as a member of the communion that is Christ's body.' Besides closing our eyes in prayer, we might also look up, at the body of Christ around us, and say, 'Amen'.

For reflection

Think about the meaning of the phrases from Augustine in italics.