

# Update from Cluster Parishes Together



February 2018

St John's,  
St Mary Magdalene's,  
St Mary's, Leith,  
St Ninian's, and  
St Teresa's

*'If two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, He will be there'*

It is two years since Archbishop Cushley set out his vision at the gathering in St Mary Magdalene's for our Cluster Parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St Ninian's, St Mary's, Leith, St John the Evangelist and St Teresa's working together. During the last two years our congregations have journeyed together in faith and in getting to know one another.

The initial goal was delivering the report in April 2017 from the three '*Parish Cluster Process*' workshops. We await an update from Archbishop Cushley as to the outcome of the reports – apparently now imminent after his pastoral letter this week.

Meantime the Cluster Parishes continue to work together. Over the past year we have forged new partnerships, focused on the key themes of supporting Children and Young People, Faith Formation and sharing resources. Highlights from the 2017 joint events (both spiritual and social) include the Cluster Picnic at Nunraw and the Cluster Retreat in December.

The Cluster planning group – made up of the parish priests and pastoral council chairs - continue to meet regularly to continue strengthening relationships, in addition to sharing information and expertise across the Cluster. Key events and joint activities are already in the diary for 2018. These include:-

- Sharing of information in weekly newsletters including activities for Lent 2018.
- There are now 32 people signed up for the Cluster Parishes Trip to the Battlefields in April 2018. Those attending the Battlefields trip are warmly invited to a preparatory meeting in St Ninian's Church on **Monday 26 February** at 7pm.
- A meeting of Youth leaders from across the five Parishes on Thursday 15 March @ 7.30pm.
- Lent Retreats (at St Mary's, Leith, and St Ninian's, Restalrig).
- Cluster Picnic at Nunraw on 27 May.
- Leadership event 1-2 June.
- Harvest Social event in October.
- Possible Remembrance event in November (at St Ninian's).
- Advent Retreat (hosted by a Cluster church).

# Some Activities for Lent 2018 in the other Cluster Parishes

## St Mary's, Leith, <http://www.stmarysstarofthesea.org/>

- **Lenten Online Retreat** at [www.lentretreat.org](http://www.lentretreat.org) with weekly meetings to reflect on the material:-
  - Wednesday morning at 7.30am.
  - Wednesday evening at 7pm.
  - Friday afternoon at 1pm.
- There will be **Taize evening** every Tuesday in the church starting at 7pm.
- **Stations of the Cross**, Friday mornings prior to Mass at noon.
- A community come and sing day, songs of sisterhood and solidarity for **International Women's Day** on Saturday 10 March.

## St Ninian's <https://stninianandtriduanarcedinburgh.com/newsletter/>

'**Online Lenten Ignatian Retreat** which aims to help you get to know and love Jesus Christ better, in order to live a deeper and more authentic Christian life of service <http://www.lentretreat.uk> with weekly meeting to reflect on the material: Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.00pm. For who are interested but do not have access to the internet, we will provide the material.'

### **A Morning Lenten Retreat this Saturday 3 March with Fr Peter Griffiths SJ.**

Rob Burnett writes: 'Fr Peter will invite us to reflect on two areas:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation – he will give a brief presentation and then a Question and Answer session. It is a great opportunity to reflect on our attitude to this Sacrament and share any questions we may have.
- 'Laudato Si' - Lent provides an ideal opportunity to reflect on how we are caring for our 'common home'.

The Retreat starts at 10.00am, we celebrate Mass at 12 noon and then enjoy a shared lunch together. Please bring something to share.'

## St Teresa of Lisieux, Craigmillar [stteresa.craigmillar@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.craigmillar@gmail.com)

**Stations of the Cross and Lenten Soup** – Stations each Friday of Lent at 11.30am followed by soup in the Parish rooms. All proceeds to SCIAF.

**Food parcel service** – Wednesdays from 6.15pm-7.30pm – 'URGENT - our cupboard is bare and we urgently need: tinned soup, spaghetti, macaroni and tuna. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past and are still contributing to our food parcel service this is very much appreciated.'