

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

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Enrico Fertini

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

*The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day – Friday 25 December and
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Sunday 27 December 2020*



Lay down his sweet
head

*May the simple beauty of Jesus' birth
summon us always to love what is most deeply human,
and to see your Word made flesh
reflected in those whose lives we touch*

Fr Jock and Deacon Eddie and the parishioners of our two parishes would like to welcome all visitors to our sister parishes here for the festive season, and to wish everybody a very Happy Christmas and A New Year full of Hope.

We would like to say a special thank you to all those who have so generously given of themselves and their gifts in these difficult and strange times – whether it has been helping prepare the churches or the liturgies, or livestreaming them, or assisting at them in many different ways, or sanitising after the Masses.....



Fr Jock and Deacon Eddie and the Parish House Team would also personally like to express their gratitude for the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes they have received.

This Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family, St John's will have **the annual Leaving Collection in aid of the parish in Legho in Tanzania**, and especially the Young Christian Communities there.

A warm welcome and our thanks to Fr Jim Smith, concelebrating our Christmas Morning Masses, **continuing to** celebrate our 4.30pm Sunday Mass, and very kindly celebrating our 7pm Hogmanay Mass in St Mary Magdalene's - while Fr Jock conducts the (postponed) wedding of his niece, Phania and her fiancé, Piers, in Our Lady, Star of the Sea, North Berwick.

CHRISTMAS MASSES (fully booked apart from – at the time of printing - two or three places at St Mary Magdalene's at 11.15)

Christmas Eve – 5.30pm – St John's - Christmas Vigil Mass for Children and Family Bubble
8.30pm – St John's - Christmas 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day: 9.30am – St John's - Christmas Morning Mass.
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Christmas Children's Mass.

26/7 December – Feast of the Holy Family
26 December – 6.30pm – St John's - Vigil Mass
27 December
9.30am – St John's – Mass
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass
4.30pm – St John's – Mass

NEW YEAR MASSES

31 December - 7pm – St Mary Magdalene's (20 places – booking required)
1 January - 11.30am – St John's (20 places – booking required)

Fr Jock writes: 'Sadly, the new restrictions that kick in on Boxing Day/St Stephen's Day/Saturday mean that **no Mass is allowed to have more than twenty participants.....**which means that **all Masses will now require booking** - please see later in the newsletter - and probably require our Sunday regulars to book on for alternate Sundays if at all possible...'

Welcome to
Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes: 'There is no Children's Liturgy this Sunday – 27 December – but why not join us next Sunday, 3 January, the great feast of the Epiphany where we will be starting around 11:15 am? To be included, please send your email address to Arlene at Lauder.82@btinternet.com by 4pm on Saturday 2 January. Please tell us your full name, your child/children's names and which Mass you would normally attend - this information is for our register to keep all involved safe. **Please note that we will automatically send the Zoom link by email to everyone who has joined us before'.**

THIS WEEK

Thursday 24 December

5.30pm – St John's - **Children and Family Mass** (livestreamed – fully booked)

8.30pm – St John's – **Christmas Vigil Mass** (livestreamed - fully booked)

Friday 25 December

9.30am – St John's – **Christmas Morning Mass** (livestreamed - fully booked)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Christmas Morning Children's Mass** (livestreamed – nearly fully booked)

Saturday 26 December

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass (booking required)**

Sunday 27 December

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** (livestreamed - **booking required**)

11.00am – **Full length Sunday Mass** (streamed on YouTube, pre-recorded from the Prayer Room)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass (booking required)**

4.30pm – St John's - **Mass (booking required)**

Monday 28 December - 10.00am – Prayer Room – Mass (livestreamed)

Tuesday 29 December - 7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass (livestreamed)

Wednesday 30 December - 10.00am – St John's - Mass (livestreamed, booking required)

Thursday 31 December - 7pm – St Mary Magdalene's - Mass (livestreamed – booking required)

Friday 1 January 2021 - 11.30am – St John's – Mass (livestreamed – booking required)

Saturday 2 January - 6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass (booking required)

Sunday 3 January

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** (livestreamed - **booking required**)

11.00am – **Full length Sunday Mass** (streamed on YouTube, pre-recorded from the Prayer Room)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass (booking required)**

4.30pm – St John's - **Mass (booking required)**



From Archbishop Leo's Weekly Ad Clerum

Holy Innocents Mass

The Feast of the Holy Innocents Pro-Life Mass takes place at 12 noon on Monday 28 December at St Columba's, Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SN. Archbishop Cushley will be the celebrant. To book a space: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/30753214066>

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis has proclaimed a year of St Joseph which runs until 08 Dec 2021. He has issued a new Apostolic Letter, which is available online. Just type *Patris Corde* into your web browser. The letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

With renewed good wishes for a holy, safe and happy Christmas for you and yours.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+Leo Cushley

Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

NOTICEBOARD

RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

These are the lucky winners of our fundraising Christmas raffle for our Tower Appeal; please contact the Parish House to collect your wonderful prizes: Veronica Ferguson, Jordan Wright, John Pettigrew, Amilya Gillhooley, Marie MacKie, Pat Hunter, John Braby, Mike & Margaret Reilly, Gillian Ramage, Maria Roberts, Neil Enterkin, c/o Brian Tracy and Anna Read.

A CHANGE IN BOOKING SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

To help us to manage the numbers, if you wish to come to **ANY** of our Masses, please contact the parish house by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) only on

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Wednesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 10am to 1pm

Or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) until Thursday 1pm.



PLEASE DO NOT BOOK BY EMAIL BEFORE TUESDAY – since it means that those who aren't on email and/or who book by phone are at a disadvantage in gaining places a place at Mass.

We are continuing to livestream some of our **Weekday Masses from the Prayer Room** in the Parish House (This is partly because after every Mass in one of our Churches, 'deep cleaning' has to take place – something that takes a considerable length of time and effort. We are so incredibly grateful to our welcomers, stewards and cleaners who are making it possible for us to have our churches open – **and always open to new volunteers.**) Please also be aware that you will need to utilize hand sanitisers as you come into and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service.

Due to the new COVID regulations we now have only 20 seats available at each Mass and therefore we advise early booking.

We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.

Messages from the Justice & Peace Group

St Teresa's Foodbank

The parish of St Teresa of Lisieux sends their prayers and love to our two parishes for all the acts of kindness that have been given them - 'We thank you for all your donations to our parish. It has helped us to give to so many others in this very difficult year.'

St Teresa's operates a foodbank for the needy in their area which our two parishes have supported for a while. Obviously, they would like to be a little more generous during this Christmas season so, if you would like to donate any non-perishable foodstuffs – or any games/toys for the children – please leave it at the back of the church (St John's), the foyer (St Mary Magdalene's) or at the parish house. The J & P Group will arrange to deliver it to St Teresa's.

...and a reminder of ways you double the value of your Christmas giving

Mary's Meals. For just £15.90 you can set a place at our virtual Christmas dinner table and feed a hungry child for a whole school year. And it gets even better! Thanks to Double The Love, your donation will now feed two children with Mary's Meals.

Give until 31 January 2021 and your donation will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million – meaning we can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals.

<https://bigfamilychristmas.marysmeals.org.uk/big-family-christmas-table/#set-a-place>

Water Aid If you'd like to help poor communities dependent on polluted water to gain access to the clean water that will help secure their future you can donate to our Future on Tap appeal. Until 4 February 2021, the UK government will match your donations, up to £2 million, making double the difference.

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/donate>

Safe Passage Social distancing, online festivities, nationwide lockdowns. Christmas 2020 is going to be different to previous years. Unfortunately, for many of the child refugees living in Europe, festive periods separated from loved ones are a reality they face every year. We believe every child deserves to be with their families, and not just at Christmas. If you agree, this December you can Double Your Donation thanks to an aid-matching scheme

<https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001fGxwSAAS>

A Reminder for those who do not have the Internet but would like to 'access' Mass....

Maria Igoe writes: 'Dial-a-Mass offers those who are unable at this time to get to Mass and who do not have the Internet, the opportunity to hear a short Mass daily on the phone. This was started by Fr Stephen Baillie, who will now share this service with 4 other Priests, including Bishop John Keenan. It is greatly appreciated by those who have no other way to partake in the prayers of the Mass and the scripture readings.

Access this by phoning 0141 473 4869.'

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

 0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Nan Rostant, Peter Sheridan, Maureen Smith, Harry Diamond, Giuliano Rizzon, Claudine H Smith, John Rennie, Gerry Treit and John Wallace

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Pat Marin, Isabella O'Neil, Terry Delaney, Agnes Prior, Hew Dalrymple, Helen Reid, Palmina Crolla, Iva Krupa, Margita Turcekova and Fay Dignan

St John's Dec.26:- Iris Murphy (2015); Marjory Graham (2007); Ian Holligan (1997); James Moran (1981); Mary Fusco (1948); David Headspeath; **Dec.27:-** Palmina Crolla (2018); Alexandrina Bell (2000); Joseph Mullan (1978); James O'Brien Sen.(1960); Joseph Mullan Sen. (1936); **Dec.28:-** Margaret McGuire (1970); Maria Rossi; **Dec.29:-** Isobel O'Neill (2016); Dennis Sistrom (2003); Agnes O'Donnell (1975); Annie Kirk (1962); Jackie Flynn; Marion Napier; **Dec.30:-** Helen Reid (2016); James Fettes (1995); **Dec.31:-** Fay Dignan (2016); Philip McMicken (1995); Bertie Demarco; Thomas Rooney; **Jan.1:-** James Malone (1989), Catherine McElroy; **St Mary Magdalene's Dec.26:-** Loretta Cannon (1996); James Smith (1982); **Dec.29:-** Mark Cunningham (2009); **Dec.30:-** Pat Marin (2018); **Dec.31:-** Annie Henderson (1999); John Moohan (1975);

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Bill Laidlaw, Ian Thompson, Nora Bruce, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Chloe Sutherland, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Molly Lugton, Sheila Tansey, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Giulio Crolla, Alf MacNamara, Stan McKay, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Jim Gallagher, Chris and Louise English, Jacqueline Marinello, Sheila and George Service, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Denis Davidson, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Prior, John Newell, Michael McPhilipps, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary & James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Evonne Taylor, Sr May Lewis, Sarah Horsley, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Anne Harty, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Martin Carr, Michael Igoe, baby

Josh Simpson, Katie McAnenny, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, baby Francesca Horwood, Peter Von Schenk, Anthony Finnerty, John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Hazel Yeoman, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Max Middleton (aged 9), Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Jan Meise, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Carla Zanetti, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Janie Low, Ranier Carpo, William Young, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Celine Diniz, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden and young Ray Donovan Syme



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
20 December 2020	£80 offertory and £258.00 Gift Aid - £338.00 total	£443.87 (including Gift Aid of £172.80) and £600.00 Standing Orders – £1216.67 total
Tower Fund Collection	See below...	

St Mary Magdalene 200 Club Prize Draw Fund Raiser

Jean McInally, Chair of the St MM Finance Council, writes: ‘People will be aware that we have run a 200 Club in the Parish for many years as a way of raising some additional funds for the church. The basic rule with such a fund raiser is that monies raised have to be split, with half going to the church and the other half being paid out as prizes. We normally hold a large draw in June and another in December for £200 each and in addition have 12 small draws, one each month, the value dependent on prize funds available.

With the enforced closure of our church buildings back in March 2020, due to COVID19, our prize draws were suspended. However, as many of the club participants pay their full annual dues at the beginning of each year we have much of the money in our funds and are therefore obliged to pay out the half share of said funds in prizes. In view of this, the Parish Finance Council have agreed that a draw will take place on Sunday 24 January 2021 with a total of six tokens being drawn to determine the winners of 2 X £200 and 4 X £50 prizes. In doing this we will have fulfilled the rule of paying out half of funds received, even if the method is a little different from the norm. Good luck to all concerned.

SIGN UP FOR 2021

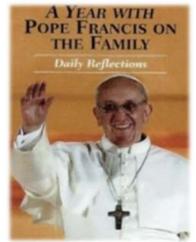
As they say “you’ve got to be in it to win it”! If you would like to continue your subscription for another year or if you would like to join for the first time we would be very glad of your support. Every participant has a unique number allocated to them at the very reasonable cost of £1 per month (£12 for the year). This payment entitles you to be included in each draw for prize money. You can own as many numbers as you wish as long as you pay for each - this obviously raises your chance of winning as all your allocated numbers will be included for each draw. We recognise that due to COVID restrictions not everybody is able to attend church on a Sunday and therefore may find it difficult to pay their subscription up front. We are happy to consider various options on how we collect the funds so don’t be put off from participating. Please contact Madge Moyes on 0131 657 2744 to confirm your continuation for 2021 or to become a new member and agree how payments will be made. You can still commit even if you cannot pay on the day, we trust you to get the funds to us at some point in 2021. To alleviate the pressure of time constraints in launching the 2021 Draw we propose to extend the sign up period to late February and draw the January and February prizes both at the end of February so nobody need miss out on being included in the January draw.

Thanking you all for the support you have shown in the past and look forward in anticipation of your continued support for the future.’

St John’s Tower Appeal

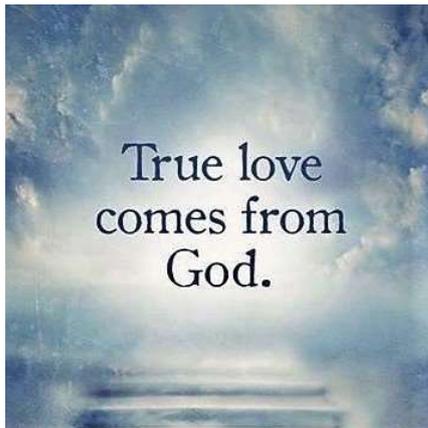
We have been very blessed by several very generous donors making anonymous but sizable contributions to the St John’s Tower Appeal...we will be writing individually to thank them and will also in the New Year be communicating how much we have raised overall so far...the next monthly leaving Collection will take place on the first Sunday of January (ie giving people an extra week’s rest/grace !)

“When Jesus came to the world, his very life was threatened by a corrupt king. Jesus himself needed to be protected. He had an earthly protector: Saint Joseph. He had an earthly family: The Holy Family of Nazareth. So, he reminds us of the importance of protecting our families, and those larger families which are the Church, God’s family, and the world, our human family”



‘WHERE I FIND GOD’ – Sr Mary Bonaventure Green

Sr Mary Bonaventure Green was born in Ennis on 5 June 1959. She was educated at Holy Family Primary School and Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis. She entered the Poor Clare Monastery in Galway city following one year’s study in NUIG. She spent ten years in a Poor Clare Monastery in Nigeria, returning to the Galway monastery in July 2009.



In Jesus! I find God in the words and action of Jesus: in His personal approach towards others, His gentleness, His compassion. I find God when I walk the Way of the Cross, witnessing the love that gave everything; the love of Jesus who forgave even those who crucified Him.

I believe Jesus is alive today as truly as He was two thousand years ago. I encounter Him every time I witness or experience kindness, forgiveness, genuine friendship, human togetherness. I discover Him in those who suffer; in those who accompany a suffering sister or brother. I encounter the Spirit of God when true peace takes hold of the heart; when those who have hurt one another embrace and continue the journey of life together. I find God when I join together with others to do good. Joy wells up within. I experience God when, faced with my own weakness over and over again, I pray: *“Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you”*

Jesus is the most faithful friend you or I will ever find.



The Holy Family as refugees on the way to Egypt

10 Points to Ponder as 2020 draws to a close

- 1. The most foolish thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner/diary.*
- 2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.*
- 3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!*
- 4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house & told my dog....We had a good laugh.*
- 5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.*
- 6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?*
- 7. I never thought the comment: “I wouldn’t touch him/her with a 6-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!*
- 8. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.*
- 9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I’m getting tired of the Living Room.*
- 10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller with a mask on and ask for money.*

St John's TOWER RAFFLE: A Big Thank You to all who helped to make the raffle such a success – and especially to the co-ordinators, and to those who contributed so generously with prizes and with buying and selling tickets...The result is a wonderful kickstart to our community fundraising efforts – with over £5000 raised.

St John's and its Tower lauded in a new book on Edinburgh.

Architect - James Thomas Walford (1906)

'Soaring out of the douce 19th century neighbourhood that is Brighton Park are the fantastic neo-gothic pinnacles of St John's Church, like nothing else in Edinburgh.

The nave, a conventional plan with arcaded aisles, is a powerful space – octagonal pillars with carved angels holding scrolls support the arches: light is beamed in from Gothic clerestories: the timber roof is a boat-shaped barrel vault. The chancel glows with stained glass windows (Edward Frampton artist) illustrating the Nativity, Crucifixion and Resurrection. The altar, with a painting of the Last Supper, was designed by the architect who, being a member of the Church and nearing the end of his career, waived his fee.'

