



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



32nd Sunday of the Year – Sunday 8 November 2020



WELCOME.... *If you're visiting, are new to the area, or just live here, you are most welcome in our sister parishes. If you are new to the parish or area, please make yourself known to Fr Jock by email or on the phone and ask for details of how to register on the parishes' roll.*

The St John's Church Tower Repairs – An Important Communication

Donald Scott, Chair of St John's Pastoral Council, writes: 'Parishioners may be aware that in response to a request from the Archdiocese, earlier this year we commissioned a survey of our church building – now well over a century old. As we communicated in the newsletter and from the altar two months ago, the survey revealed the need for considerable work – especially to the church tower. This must take place soon in order to avoid further costly deterioration and for safety reasons.

Gary Zoltie, chair of the St John's Finance Council, will make a brief presentation at the Vigil and the Sunday morning Mass this weekend outlining what this means for us as a parish, including the financial implications – which, as was mentioned in the newsletter and from the altar a couple of months ago, are significant. We will include a more detailed account in next week's newsletter.

At this stage it would be helpful if everyone who has the means to do so would take 10 minutes to watch a video about how we are approaching this project. The video has been prepared by Paul Macpherson who has been leading the planning on behalf of the parish; it is excellent and is worth watching even to gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty of our building. Paul has uploaded this so that it can be watched using the following link:

Video file and a copy of the presentation: press [here](#) or type in shorturl.at/kmwOU

We also hope to make DVDs available for those without access to the Internet.

It seems inevitable that St John's will be involved in fundraising for a number of years in order to pay back the loan we will need to take out from the Archdiocese. Current circumstances will make this challenging – and we are also very conscious of so many people enduring hardships caused by the pandemic who will require financial support. However, we need to keep in mind that we have the stewardship of a very beautiful building that supports our parish life and is a much-appreciated landmark in Portobello. As chair of the Pastoral Council, I am very grateful for the energetic and very able parishioners who are helping to guide us as we begin to approach this challenge.'

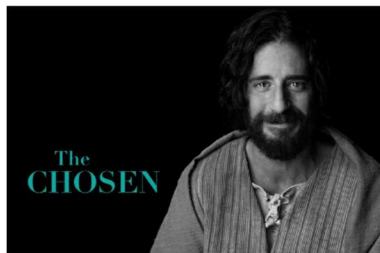
Scottish Interfaith Week - November 8 – November 15

'Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.'

Bishop Brian McGee writes: 'Today is the beginning of Scottish Interfaith week. It is an opportunity for Catholics to follow the example set by our Holy Father Pope Francis to reach out to our neighbours and to recognise all people of faith as our brothers and sisters. Take the opportunity this week to pray that people of faith might work together for peace in our world and in our country. Interfaith Scotland's website www.interfaithscotland.org gives notification of the many interfaith events happening throughout the country this week if you would like to get involved.'

Congratulations to the five Do This In Memory candidates – now all Primary 5! – who make their **First Communion next Friday evening, at 6pm in St John's: Rian Henderson, Evan Allan, Rebecca Crolla, Macy Harper and Vhari McLeish.**

AN AUTUMN AND ADVENT INITIATIVE FOR OUR TWO PARISHES



a chance to watch and reflect on a superb new series about the life and ministry of Jesus

THE CHOSEN

based on the Gospels and remaining true to their spirit, but with great creativity imagining life at that time and what might have been the background to the events we know so well

<https://youtu.be/K1-FoFj8Jbo> (the official trailer)

NB The first couple of episodes can seem to be rather confusing at a first viewing but it becomes much clearer as you get into it and watch the other episodes....ie Persevere! It's more than worth it...

Deacon Eddie and Fr Jock write: 'Both of us had friends enthusing us about how powerful the initial 8 part crowd funded series was and having watched them ourselves we were equally impressed....in the final two months of the year, in near lockdown and with the nights getting longer, we'd like to suggest that between the middle of November and the middle of December, we commit ourselves to watching the first 4 (45 minutes long) parts individually and then reflect on questions that will be provided for each part.

We also hope to set up one or two small groups that will meet on Zoom.....IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WATCHING THE EPISODES (BY DVD OR A YOUTUBE LINK) – and in receiving the questions that accompany each episodes – **please email us ewhite@outlook.com; jockdalrymple@postmaster.co.uk or ring the Parish House – 0131 669 5447**

HOW ARE WE GOING TO KEEP WARM IN OUR CHURCHES THIS WINTER?



Both of our churches have circulating warm air central heating systems.

Current Government regulations recommend that the system can be used provided we switch it off 30 minutes before people arrive at the Church.

In practice that means one hour before Mass as our welcomers, organist and audio-visual team are in attendance earlier.

It is our intention to purchase additional electric heaters in order to endeavour to keep the churches as comfortable as possible.

We encourage everyone to dress as warmly as they can and perhaps bring their own knee blanket ... remembering to take it home again!

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Weekend Masses – and How/If to Book

To help us to manage the numbers, if you wish to come to one of the 'live' Saturday and Sunday Masses, please contact the parish house

by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) only on

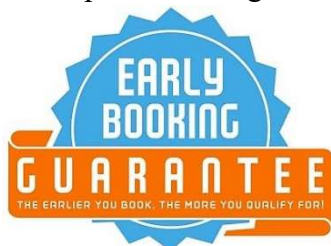
Wednesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 10am to 1pm

Friday 11am to 1pm

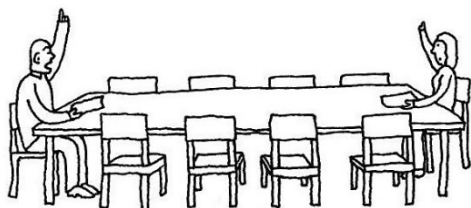
Or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) until Friday 1pm. We are continuing to livestream some of our **Weekday Masses**

from the Prayer Room in the Parish House - **this week on Monday and Friday at 10am and Tuesday at 7.00pm** (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 COVID regulations we have limited seatings available and therefore **we advise early booking.** We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.



... and remember ...



Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes:

Welcome to
Children's Liturgy



'Zoom Children's Liturgy sessions are continuing. Why not join us this Sunday 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 7 November. 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

Saturday 7 November

6.30pm – St John's - **Vigil Mass** (fully booked)

Sunday 8 November

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** (fully booked)

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** (fully booked)

Monday 9 November

10am – St John's – **Mass** (livestreamed)

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

7-8pm – Zoom/Google Meeting – **Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

To join by Zoom, click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85237794952?pwd=Ky9WV2U5eTNLRmdyWjcxcWcrOWNIUT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3779 4952

Passcode: 791993

The format is very simple and unthreatening – listening to the Sunday readings, and to a precis of Fr Jock or Deacon Eddie's homily, and then – for those who wish (but absolutely no pressure, it's more than ok to remain silent) – a chance to share one's own personal perspective, and finally, concluding with some very gentle prayer....Do give it a try....

Tuesday 10 November

11am - Mt Vernon – **Burial of the Ashes of Pat Cullen**

7.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

Wednesday 11 November

9.20am – St John's – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

10.00am – St John's - **Mass** (livestreamed, no booking required)

11am – Seafeld Crematorium - **Funeral Service for Maria Maltman.**

Thursday 12 November

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** (livestreamed, no booking required)

7pm – Zoom – **A Follow-up to last Thursday's James Alison evening – with Gerard Swan, Chair of Quest. Rab Burnet of the Scottish LaityNetwork writes: 'At the end of last night's conversation Gerard**

Swan, Chair of Quest - <https://questlgbti.uk/> - gave a brief introduction to the follow-up session we are holding next Thursday, 12th November. Gerald will facilitate the session and will share his own story and then address whatever areas we wish to explore further. We will not record the session to enable a more secure environment and if there is anyone you know that you think may be interested please invite them to register.

If you wish to attend this session then please register with slaitynetwork@gmail.com and, if you wish, share any areas you would like to explore further or questions you wish to raise. If you would rather share areas and/or questions directly with Gerard you can email him at chair@questlgbti.uk

Friday 13 November

9.20am – Prayer Room – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

10.00 am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

11am - **Rosary** - Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp and also on the phone (contact Maria Igoe, 07981 333219)

6pm – St John's – **First Communion Mass**

Saturday 14 November

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

Sunday 15 November

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** (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)

NOTICEBOARD

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Geoff Dobson writes: 'A big thank you from your joint parish Saint Vincent de Paul Conference. On Thursday 5 November I banked a further £872 from our generous parishioners into the SVP account. This brings the donations from the parishes to the SVP since 1 April 2020 to £1926. In the same time frame we have given out £2388 in relief to those in need. Of this £2050 was directly related to needs generated by or exacerbated by the Covid crisis. Well done everyone. You should be very proud....'

FROM ARCHBISHOP CUSHLEY IN THIS WEEK'S 'AD CLERUM' (Letter 'to the Clergy')

Parish Catechists: Launch New Sacramental Resources

Are you involved in the sacramental preparation (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) of children in your parish? You are most welcome to attend an event to launch the new sacramental workbooks and materials. The zoom event takes place on Saturday 28 November at 2pm. A link for the event will be sent to you upon registration. To register, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at SrMirjam.Hugens@staned.org.uk

Scottish Interfaith Week 2020

Ask Me Anything - Young people from eight different faiths have been answering questions about their faith sent in by school pupils from across Scotland. The shows will be premiered during Scottish Interfaith Week on our Scottish Interfaith Week YouTube channel at the following link: <https://bit.ly/367l5k4> The shows will be available to view from 9am on each of the days as outlined below and will remain on the channel to watch any time.

9th November - Jewish and Sikh

10th November - Buddhist and Hindu

11th November - Baha'i and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

12th November - Muslim

13th November - Catholic and Protestant

Christmas is coming!!! *Some Christmas ideas from the Justice and Peace Group:*



Christmas Cards:

Mary's Meals. Help the work of feeding hungry children by buying Mary's Meals cards - go to marysmeals.org.uk/christmas-shop

Fairtrade: Go to traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas



Christmas Gifts

Bethany Christian Trust's "Buy a Bed" offer is on again this year – see separate article in the newsletter. For £21, it will make a nice present for someone. Go to bethanychristiantrust.com

SCIAF Real Gifts: your chance to give someone you love some chickens or a pig! There's a new item in the catalogue this year, a water filter at £37. 10% of the world's population do not have access to clean water. When the only water you can give your children is dirty and full of disease, and you know it, but still have to give it to your children because there is nothing else, a water filter is the gift of a lifetime. Go to sciaf.org

..... and finally, let's not forget our **Just World shop in Portobello**, with a range of cards and quality gifts, all Fairtrade certified.

A MARY'S MEAL MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE: ONLINE

'Mary's Meals is a fruit of prayer and, because of its roots and some of the amazing ways it has grown, it is often described as a fruit of Medjugorje.

In recent years, Mary's Meals' founder Magnus and his wife Julie have hosted an annual pilgrimage to Medjugorje as a time to reflect and pray and give thanks for this mission. This year, since we can't travel to Medjugorje, we will be hosting the first online Mary's Meals pilgrimage to Medjugorje – and everyone is invited!

From Friday 13 November – Sunday 15 November, we will gather together virtually to pray together, give thanks, and join in many other wonderful pilgrimage activities. For more information click below

[JOIN US ON OUR ONLINE PILGRIMAGE](#)

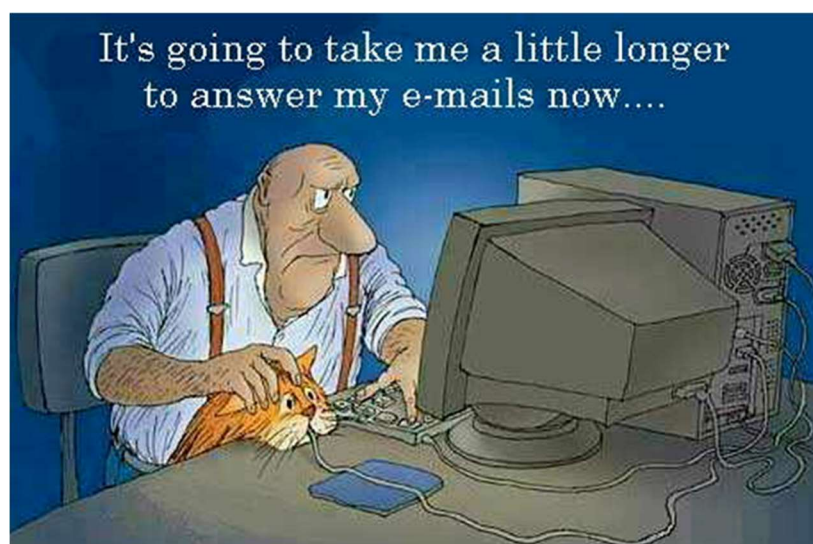
Highlights of the pilgrimage programme

The Rosary is always a significant part of the Mary's Meals Medjugorje Pilgrimage and this year offers a unique opportunity for us to pray the Rosary across the Mary's Meals family and beyond. Voices will come together in prayer from all corners of the globe and in many different languages. We plan to include The Joyful, The Sorrowful, The Glorious and The Luminous Mysteries – in total, 20 decades of the Rosary.

There will also be a chance to join a virtual hill climb of Mount Krezivac while following the Way of the Cross. We believe this will be a wonderful experience for many people all over the world and we are delighted that – because this year's pilgrimage is being hosted online – lots of others who might never have been able to visit Medjugorje and climb Mount Krezivac for many different reasons will also be blessed by this opportunity.

We are delighted to be able to include a talk from one of the Parish Guides who would usually lead pilgrims on their visit to Medjugorje, sharing background information and stories about this incredibly special place. As part of the online pilgrimage, some people have chosen to fast for our work on Friday 13 November.

The pilgrimage programme will also include live intercessory prayer sessions and a chance to interact with fellow pilgrims, as well as screenings of some beautiful Mary's Meals films.'



PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Kathleen Martin, Maria Maltman, Charlotte Claveirole, Margaret McFadyen and Lily Mulholland

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frances Allan, Benny McLeish, Billie Turnbull, Tom Plews, Michael Delaney, Helen Roller, Mary Herschan, Con McConville, Stella and Ferdinand McDevitt, George Hancock and Michael Reynolds

St John's Nov. 7:- Clare Hannavy (1988); Lorna Demarco (1980); James Neilson (1976); **Nov. 8:-** Benny McLeish (2017); Frances Allen (2016); Nino Nicora (1987); Grace Gallagher (1980); George Pennycook; Andrew Smart; **Nov. 9:-** Mary Cook (2007); Francis McNulty (2000); Marjorie Thom (1993); Catherine Anderson (1990); Bridget Carrol (1987); Mrs Brennan (1985); Canon Peter Donati (1983); **Nov. 10:-** Simon Curran (2019); Harry Hughes (1991); Edward Cubitt (1990); Senga McAlinden (1987); Robert McGuire (1943); **Nov. 11:-** Dorina Hadden (2010); Peter Swinney (1998); Thomas Bassi (1992); Terry Callaghan (1992); Catherine Keegan (1985); Annie Lord **Nov. 12:-** Thomas McGravie (1991); John Cregan (1985); Charles Anderson (1982); Stella McDevitt (1975); Ann Hartnett (1968); **Nov. 13:-** Tom Plews (2014); Anne Platt (1999); Rose Fox (1998); Martin Black (1997); Christina Service; **Nov. 14:-** James Pyper (2013); Kitty McDonald (2000); Mario Marcantonio (1998); Maisie McGrory (1997); Isabella Cheape (1982); Anthony Gallagher; Margaret Ward; **Nov. 15:-** Michael Reynolds (2018); Hugh O'Rourke (2006); Helen Shanley (1991); Agnes Loftus (1988); Agnes Rafferty (1987); Ferdinand McDevitt (1973); George Cordery (1948); William Henery; James Ward;

St Mary Magdalene's Nov. 7:- Henry Price (1996); **Nov. 8:-** Agnes O'Hara (1970); **Nov. 10:-** John Wallace (2000); **Nov. 11:-** George Hancock (2018); Terence Callaghan (1992); **Nov. 15:-** Charles Balfour (2003);

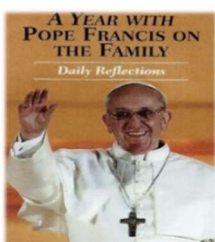
Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Pauli Walker, Susan Cammach, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Chloe Sutherland, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Molly Lugton, Sheila Tansey, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Marie White, Anna Butler, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, 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: 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, Chris English, 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: Colin Bauld, baby Josh Simpson, Katie McAnenny, Piotr and Daniela Przekop, Jack Gibson, Robert Shaw, Hugh Campbell, baby Kinsley McMillan, baby Francesca Horwood, Peter Von Schenk, Anthony Finnerty, Helen Liddell, 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, Emilia Iheji, Jan Meise, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Carla Zanetti, Peter Hanley, Fr Christopher Delaney, 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, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, 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
1 November 2020	£159.60 offertory and £85.00 Gift Aid - £244.60 total	£397.99 (including Gift Aid of £157.40) and £600.00 Standing Orders – £997.99 total
Special Collections	All Saints £20	



“In the light of God’s Word, I would like to ask you, dear families, do you pray together from time to time as a family? Some of you do, I know. But so many people say to me, but how can we?”

Buy a Bed Christmas Appeal – a message from Bethany Christian Trust

‘For the fourth year running, we are launching our Buy a Bed campaign where supporters have the opportunity to help provide one person, who would otherwise be sleeping rough this Christmas or winter, access to the support of the new Welcome Centre.

For every £21 you donate through this campaign, the Welcome Centre* will provide a person with the following assistance:

A warm and safe place to sleep

Safety from the elements

Their own room with ensuite facilities

24 hour care and support from professional staff

Three meals a day including a freshly prepared, hot two course meal in the evening

A range of professional on-site support services

Tailored support to help the individual to move rapidly out of the crisis of homelessness

In return, you will receive your choice of a physical or e-voucher that you can gift to your friends or family members as an ethical Christmas present or as a keepsake for yourself.

Following on from the success of last year’s campaign, the traditional Care Shelter model has been modified into an even more inclusive service with the emphasis on re-accommodation. Running from 5 October 2020 until 2 May 2021 we are taking the very best from what we have learned from the running of the Care Shelter and combined it with a now, 24 hour service and a COVID safe space, operating in the Haymarket Hub Hotel.

The new Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre ensures that everyone has their own room with ensuite facilities and daytime as well as night-time access to professional services and tailored support to move rapidly out of the crisis of homelessness.**

Will you consider helping someone today who is homeless in Scotland? Your gift could mean the difference between someone having to sleep rough and sleeping overnight in a warm and safe space.

Thank you sincerely for your generous support.

*Please note Individuals do not require this voucher to access the service. Room hire is separately funded by local and national government.**When you support Buy a Bed you’re making a vital donation to help keep individuals off the streets and providing tailored support for rapid re-accommodation. Your gift is spent wherever the need is greatest across Scotland. Due to current restrictions, gifts may take longer to reach you and we cannot guarantee delivery times.’

To buy a bed, go online to bethanychristiantrust.com and select “Buy a Bed” or give a donation to Jennifer Morris, Jim Roarty or any member of the Justice & Peace Group or hand them in to the parish house.

‘Francesco the film: ‘The path is opened by walking’

It is not a triumphant vision, rather more human

For such well loved and equally reviled figures, it is no surprise that popes, real and imagined, continue to fascinate film makers and provide fertile ground for their creativities. The results vary from the saucy intrigue of *The Borgias* to the quasi comic *We have a Pope*. More recently there has been a swing to more realistic portrayals, with Fernando Meirelles’ *The Two Popes* succeeding best in bringing reality and fiction together into an enjoyable entertainment package.

Evgeny Afineevsky’s documentary, *Francesco*, comprises a different kind of entertainment altogether.

The result of a more personal search by the agnostic and Jewish Afineevsky, it successfully depicts the extraordinary activity and breadth of a modern-day pontificate. But light, feelgood entertainment it is not.

The immediacy of the cinematography, parallel presentation of major themes with commentary provided by interviews and stills of tweets, combine to make the viewer feel in the middle of the events portrayed, at once engaging and unsettling. Indeed, the film’s power lies in its ability to get past papal theatre, through the persona to the human connection and engagement that drives Pope Francis’ pontificate. Afineevsky is known best internationally for a series of documentaries culminating in 2013’s Academy Award nominated, visceral *Winter of Fire* — the story of the Ukrainian revolution — and 2017’s harrowing *Cries from Syria* about the Syrian war.

At the viewing I attended, the director spoke of his personal struggle in the making of, particularly, *Cries* and his desire to link his next project with something more humane and hopeful. Insofar as there is hope in *Francesco*, it emerges gradually through an intimate viewing of the Pope’s engagement with the ‘hot button’ issues of our day, the environment and climate change, refugees and immigration, violence and conflict, disparity of wealth and poverty, women’s place in society and Church, family and sexuality, and sexual abuse within the Church.

Among these are some extraordinarily poignant moments as Pope Francis, who, a cardinal informs us incredulously, made no armoured protection a condition of his visit, attends a mosque and meets its congregation in the poor KM5

Muslim quarter of Central African Republic's capital, Bangui. On the other side of town, he is welcomed by poor school children carrying messages of peace and welcome drawn on pieces of cloth.

In another, he angrily orders his minders to leave a group of Rohingya refugees on stage with him, begging the refugees' forgiveness for not uttering the word 'Rohingya' — following requested protocol — during the preceding visit to neighbouring Myanmar. The longest act of the film — and arguably its most interesting — recounts the Pope's engagement with the survivors of abuse on a visit to Santiago, Chile and his subsequent personal 'journey,' leading to the initiation of a process of ecclesial reform.

It begins with the shocking dismissal as 'calumny', the allegations of some protesters concerning the notorious Father Fernando Kadima and his protector bishops during the Pope's visit to Santiago Chile. Narrated by Juan Carlos Cruz, one of the survivors, we witness the transition through Francis' reflection and realisation of his own error, the misinformation that in part had led him there, and his admission, during a three hour long personal interview with Cruz, that he, Pope Francis, was part of the problem, leading to an apology. Before this interview though, he dispatched Charles Scicluna, the chief Vatican investigator, to Chile to review the cases and receive testimonies.

The resultant report led to Francis' summons of the Chilean bishops to the Vatican, where he immediately asked for their collective resignation, allowing him to reinstate only a few — all this happening in a matter of months. Cruz's testimony is powerful and honest — he was not one to accept an invitation to the Vatican at face value, knowing how it could be manipulated for PR purposes. He also knows the institutional process is unfinished with many other victims yet to receive justice. We view the Pope getting it wrong, then immersing himself with the people affected and their suffering in a manner that generates a process of discernment and a path forward. It is a spiritual journey at once personal, social and institutional and we see it repeated throughout the film.

This produces a more universal tone; the plot is as much about us and the world we have created than the biography of a man, no matter how admirable, and the position he currently occupies. It is not a triumphant vision, rather more human. *Francesco* forms a major antidote both to the paucity of reporting of this pontificate in the Western media generally and the single point in time, uni-dimensional and overly negative nature of the reporting there is. The timing is serendipitous as the COVID-19 pandemic sharply limits further papal travel.

Francesco presents the evolution of a church and pontificate in a series of highs and lows, successes, mistakes and renewal, as it immerses itself in the lives of the most vulnerable and poor, forging new paths. Paths that open by walking.

Australian Jesuit Father David Holdcroft is higher education specialist for Jesuit Refugee Service International.

‘WHERE I FIND GOD’

Recently, a book was published in Ireland under that name (see below), put together by 2 secondary school teachers/chaplains from Co. Clare, Cora Guinnane & Joanne O'Brien. They obtained personal reflections from many different people on where they experienced God in their life. We intend to offer one each week.

Friar Liam Kelly

is a native of Glin in Co. Galway, Liam Kelly OFM entered the Franciscan Order in 1995. Since ordination to the priesthood in 2005, he has worked in pastoral ministry in Killarney, Ennis and Athlone, and in Secondary school chaplaincy in Killarney, Ennis, Ennistymon, Gormanston College and recently in Athlone. He feels blessed in recent years to work with other friars in leading parish missions in Ireland and to be involved in retreat work. He is currently Assistant Director of Formation in Athlone.

‘In a wooden frame placed inside the door of the Franciscan Novitiate House in Chilworth, near Guildford in England, was a quaint, hand painted image of a field mouse almost buried amidst leaves and ferns and moss. The little mouse peeks through the woodland floor and circling the image, in beautiful calligraphy, are the words: “To Seek God, you must first of all allow yourself to be found by Him.”

Where do I find God? I don't really seek God like an explorer or a scientist. Rather, God finds me, surprises me and searches me; that is the dynamic of faith. It is God who invites and God who seeks. I can identify with the field mouse, who emerges from the camouflage of the woodland floor, so as to be found, to be known and ultimately to be in presence of God.

My Christian faith, based on the incarnation of the Word of God, Jesus, helps me to seek God in the world around me and the people whose path I cross each day. I must expect to find God there. I find God in the lives of others, in the sacraments, in prayer and in the scriptures. But mostly, God finds me.’