



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

29th Sunday of the Year – Sunday 18 October 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.*



Many congratulations to Yvonne Speedman, who will be received into the Catholic Church and confirmed, and will make her First Communion, at the 11.15 Mass this Sunday at St Mary Magdalene's. Our other RCIA candidates will be baptised/received and confirmed in the coming weeks.

Congratulations, also, to the seven Do This In Memory candidates – now all Primary 5! – who will make their First Communion next Saturday morning at St John's: Kate Douglas, Oliwia Swat, John Williams, Isabella Pacitti, Hania Karbowska, Payton Chalmers and Sara Vickers.

This Sunday is MISSION SUNDAY/THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONS – Fr Vincent Lockhart writes: 'World Mission Sunday marks a tradition which goes all the way back to the earliest days of the Church where one community helps a Church community in need somewhere else....It is the one Sunday in the year when Pope Francis asks the whole church to help mission parishes and to reach out with Jesus' message of love and hope.' There will be a second collection.

Missio - October is the month of Missions. Parishioners can donate at missioscotland.com/donate. Our Archdiocese is posting a Missio story each week throughout October on its website and social media to raise awareness. Here's the link to the first story: <https://www.missioscotland.com/single-post/we-have-to-make-mission-count>.

This Monday evening between 7 and 8pm, we are restarting our Gospel Reflection and Sharing on Zoom for the autumn – it is very much open to everyone – just click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81806892411?pwd=WEhjZEI1aUs0ZUQzNHpEYnZuaHJjZz09>
Meeting ID: 818 0689 2411 Passcode: 410209

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....

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** (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 very 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.

Children’s Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes:



‘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 10 October.

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 17 October

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

Sunday 18 October

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)

Monday 19 October

10.00am - Prayer Room – **Mass**

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP meeting**

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

To join Zoom Meeting click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81806892411?pwd=WEhjZE11aUs0ZUQzNHpEYnZuaHJjZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 0689 2411

Passcode: 410209

7pm - **Getting to Know St Mark** - A Zoom event on the gospels of St Mark for Year B with **Fr Andrew Garden**. ‘Details on registration for this free event will be shared soon on the Archdiocese’s Facebook page and website: archedinburgh.org/new-events.’

Tuesday 20 October

10am – St John's - **Requiem Mass for Catherine Graham** (Maximum 20 – taken up by family)

7.30pm - Zoom – **Tower Group Planning Meeting**

Wednesday 21 October

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

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** (No booking required)

Thursday 22 October

10.00am – St John's - **Requiem Mass for Sheila Alexander** (Maximum 20 – taken up by family)

Friday 23 October

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

10.00 am – Prayer Room – **Mass**

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

Saturday 24 October

10am – St John's - **The first of our 6 First Communion Masses**

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

Sunday 25 October

2am – The Clocks Go Back...

12.30pm – St John's – **Baptism of Lilianne Fitzpatrick**

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Friday 30 October

12 midday – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Agnes Harvey**

6pm – St John's – **The Second of our First Communion Masses**

Sunday 1 November

9.30am – St John's – **Children's and Family Mass (by invitation)**

5pm – St John's - **Extra Sunday Mass**

NOTICEBOARD

Jennifer Morris, the most faithful, generous-hearted and hardworking of Pastoral Assistants at St Mary Magdalene's for the last six years, has decided to take a step back from the parish. She will, however, remain a valued member of our community's Pastoral Team. We thank her and promise our prayers as she adjusts to what she and we hope will be a rather gentler and less pressured lifestyle....

Online Zoom Meetings – organised by ACTA

Wednesday 21 October 2020 - Dr Philip McCarthy (Chief Executive, Caritas Social Action Network) – **Hearing the Cry of the Poor and Disadvantaged**

Wednesday 4 November 2020 - Dr Clare Watkins (Reader, Roehampton Institute) - **A Vision for the Church of the Future**

Registration is essential and the form is available at : <https://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Click on the session you want to register for and complete Individual Registration

If you need further assistance contact Alex Walker on 07947 675405 or Frank Callus on 07956 005459.

Once you have registered you will receive joining instructions for the Zoom session on the Sunday evening preceding the talk: The Zoom ID and Pass Code will be unique to each event

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Sheila Alexander, Agnes Harvey, Marie White, Catriona Mackinnon and George Gandy

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:, Michael Connolly, Bill Oldershaw, Frances Smith, Michael Richards, Anne Gaughan and Jackie Cairns

St John's Oct.17:- Michael Connolly (2018); Cathie Bloomfield (2008); Mina Hanlon (1987); **Oct.18:-** Michael Richards (2017); Nan McCreadie (1995); Frances Smith (1991); John Young; **Oct.19:-** Joseph Gracie (2010); Mrs Kelly; **Oct.20:-** Roseanne Sangster (2006); Gerald A Strong (1998); Hamilton Scott (1995); Isabella Duffy (1990); Mary Breen (1973); **Oct.21:-** Francis Fusco (2013); John Rae Jun. (2013); Arthur Patterson (2012); Mary T Kimber (2003); John Donnelly (1983); Arthur Scott (1983); **Oct.22:-** James Scott (1991); John Walsh (1991); John O'Brien (1987); Jim McMartin (1941); Francis J Sweeney; **Oct.23:-** Franco Cupo (2004); Vera Headspeath (1997); Peter Ferrier (1993); **Oct.24:-** Irene Haston (2015); Kevin Simpson (2015); Jackie Cairns (2004); John Ginnelly (1956); Sarah O'Connor (1930);

St Mary Magdalene's Oct.13:- Oct.20 :- Hamilton Scott (1995); **Oct.21 :-** Alex. McKenzie (1996); **Oct.23 :-** Sadie Craig (1994); **Oct.24 :-** Anne Gaughan (2017);

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Susan Cammack, 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: Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Denis Davidson, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Prior, Sheila and George Service, John Newell, Michael McPhillips, 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: 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, John Kellagher, Albi Stanley, 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, Gerry Mulvenna, 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, Margaret Lee, Joan Bonnar, Mekala Osborne, Jean Nelson, Felicity McCluskey, Stephen Fernie, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Sr Veronica Marshall, Martin Doherty, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jordan and young Ray Donovan Syme,



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
11 October 2020	£95.50 (including Gift Aid of £255.00) ie £350.50	£391.15 (including Gift Aid of £224.80) and £625.00 Direct Debits – ie £1240.95

Care Shelter upgraded to Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre

Bethany Christian Trust has operated a Care Shelter in Edinburgh every winter since 1996, providing emergency shelter and care to people who would otherwise be sleeping rough.

Spurred on by the success of operating the Care Shelter in a hotel during lockdown, and in recognition that for a number of years the provision has far outstripped the traditional shelter model, Bethany's Care Shelter has been modified to become the new Rapid Re-Accommodation Welcome Centre from 5 October 2020 until 3 May 2021.

We are taking all the very best from what we have learned from operating the Care Shelter over the last 24 years into this new service; the professional staff team, the expert visiting agencies and organisations, the hundreds of church volunteers providing excellent food and the care, love and dignity given to each and every person attending, but the context and set up is new and exciting.

We are going to be operating in our new base for 30 weeks, the Haymarket Hub Hotel in Edinburgh. This allows everyone to get their own, Covid-Safe ensuite bedroom as we are not operating in a congregant sleeping space.

We will also be open 24 hours, removing the need for people to vacate the premises during the day. In the daylight hours we will have staffing support from the City of Edinburgh Council continuing the excellent partnership at the Old Waverley Hotel during lockdown. The day time aspect also allows for even more effective referrals to housing and interventions from health and other visiting partners as offices are open more during the day. The Scottish Government are also supporting the initiative as part of the new programme for government.

The Welcome Centre has been designed to have maximum positive impact for each person requiring support and is in line with the recommendations from the Route Map created by Bethany and others in the Everyone Home Collective.

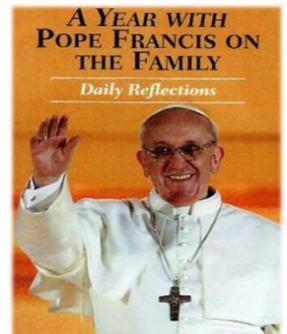
Alasdair Bennett, Chief Executive at Bethany Christian Trust, said: *“We have a vision of ending homelessness in Scotland and over the years we have supported and prevented thousands of people from sleeping rough in Edinburgh with multi-agency support, health interventions, accommodation options and practical support, whilst also providing overnight shelter. ‘Shelter’ no longer adequately describes all that we provide through this service, so we have proactively modified plans in order to launch the new Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre for a 30 week duration. Our hope is that this life saving safety net will in time no longer be necessary. The service will continue to rapidly re-accommodate people safely from the streets with multi-disciplinary interventions on-site, and we will still provide bed spaces for anyone that cannot access any alternative that night and for whom the Welcome Centre is a last resort.”*

(Our parishes have volunteered to provide the evening meal for Welcome Centre users on 12 occasions during this winter season. Anyone wishing to become part of our volunteer team should contact Jim Roarty - jimroarty4@gmail.com)

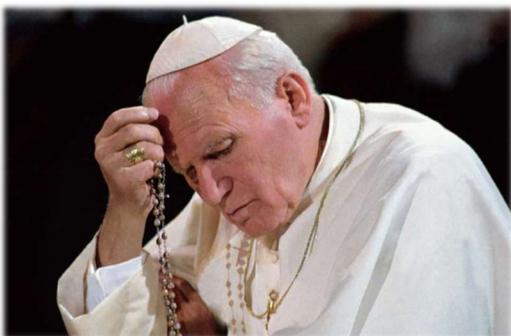
A Year with Pope Francis on the Family

“Are we ready to be there for children, to “waste time” with them? Are we ready to listen to them, to care for them, to pray for them and with them? Or do we ignore them because we are too caught up in our own affairs?”

“When a family loses the capacity to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life loses energy and dies out.”

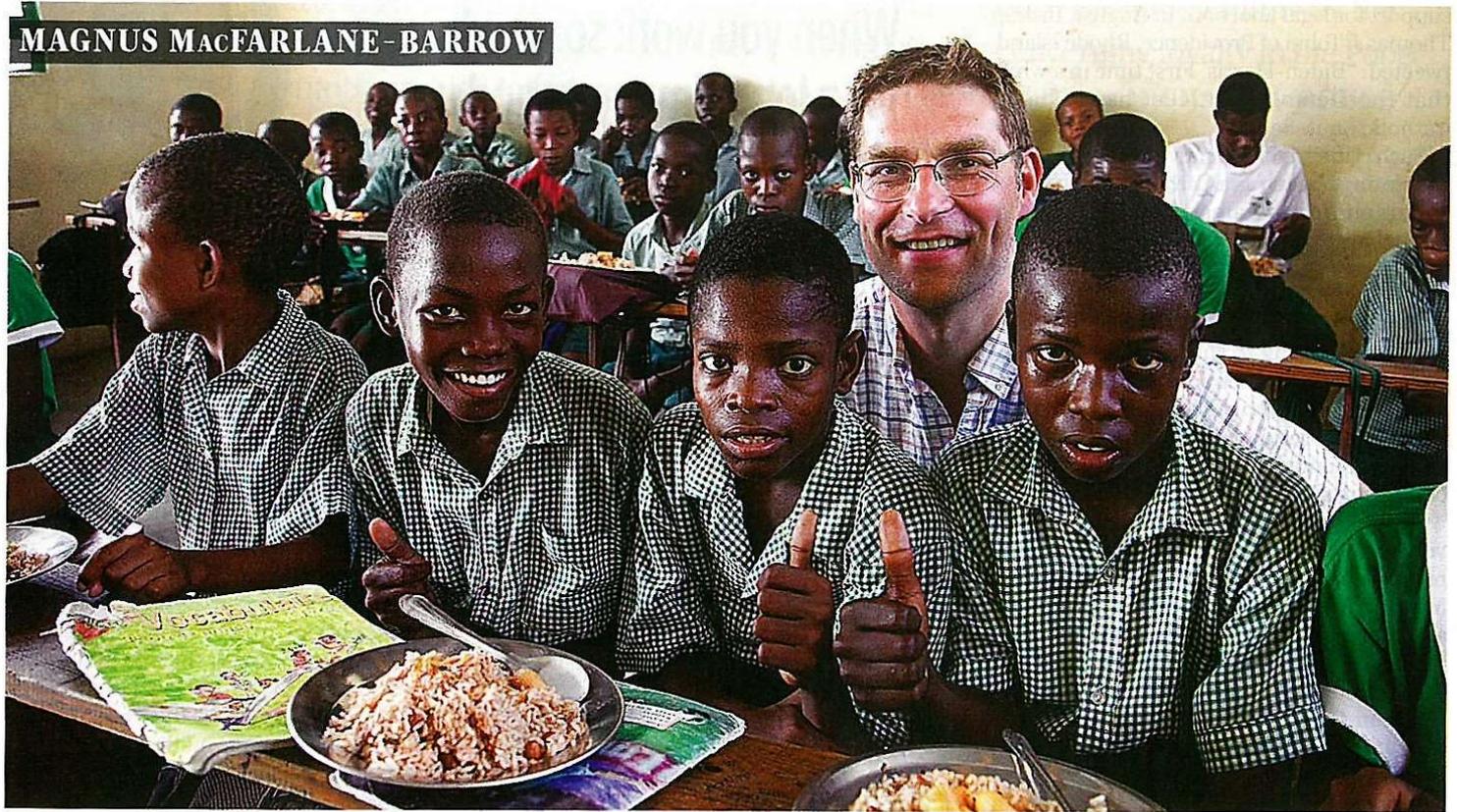


Since we celebrate the anniversary of St John Paul II this week, here is a reflection from him on how we must let Jesus look at us through our prayers:



“Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart toward the Lord. If we look only at ourselves, with our own limitations and sins, we quickly give way to sadness and discouragement. But if we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope, our minds are washed in the light of truth, and we come to know the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life.

In order to see Jesus, we first need to let him look at us! So, do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.”



The food of love

The founder of Mary's Meals talks to **Peter Stanford** about the roots of the organisation and explains why charity is an act of love

MAGNUS MacFarlane-Barrow is in his shed in the garden of his family home in Dalmally in the Scottish Highlands, just off the road to Oban. Or, to be more precise, he is in *The Shed That Fed a Million Children*, as his bestselling 2016 account of the birth of the charity, *Mary's Meals*, describes it in its title.

I had had in my mind's eye that there would be a lawnmower, old deckchairs and tins of paint on wonky shelves all around him, but it is looking remarkably businesslike – wood panelling where I had been expecting corrugated iron. There's some of that outside, he explains, while inside, "it's very old and rotten at the bottom, but it does the job".

And what a job! Mary's Meals, founded by 52-year-old MacFarlane-Barrow in 2002, is currently providing children in 19 countries around the world with one nutritious meal a day in a place of education, and has an annual turnover of £24 million globally. As corporate headquarters go – they do, to be fair, also have "proper" offices in Glasgow – this shed nevertheless signals something about the radicalism of the charity and the man at the heart of it.

"One of the reasons I stay in this shed in the middle of nowhere," he reflects, "is because it is easier to take a different view, to be coun-

tercultural, when you are out in the wilderness." It is where he wrote his new book, *Give: Charity and the Art of Living Generously*, and it certainly offers an alternative view to that espoused by many other organisations working in the same field of tackling world poverty. Why do people do charity, he asks in the opening chapter? His answer brought me up short: "Each act is a little act of love".

HE WANTED to write the book, he says, "because sometimes people do shy away from that sort of language, or see it as difficult, especially as organisations grow, and we need to spend more time on processes and systems and all the things that are required to be more effective and professional".

These are, this enviably fresh-faced father of seven stresses, "all good necessary things". You don't grow to be as big as Mary's Meals has become by being do-gooding amateurs. "But as we become more and more focused on those, we can lose where it all begins, which is in the heart. And as far as I am concerned, it has to remain a work of love if we are to retain the use of the name 'charity', because that is what charity is – an expression of love."

You won't find such a definition in charity law, and you certainly don't often hear the heads of secular development agencies speak-

ing in such terms, but, as its name suggests, Mary's Meals – as in Mary, the mother of God – has never been afraid to be different.

It began when MacFarlane-Barrow was 14 and went on a "life-changing" family visit to the Marian shrine at Medjugorje. His parents were inspired, as a result, to turn the family hotel in Dalmally into a retreat centre and house of prayer. In 1992, now a salmon farmer after dropping out of university, their son was inspired, along with his brother, Fergus, to drive a load of aid supplies to Medjugorje, then engulfed in the former Yugoslavia's civil war.

It was intended as a one-off, but more trips followed, then a fledgling charitable organisation in Eastern Europe, and finally a visit to Malawi in 2002 where Mary's Meals was born. As it has grown, he explains in the book, he has sought never to allow that original inspiration to be diluted. "At one level we can think about monetary donations, and any good cause needs to raise money. We can leave it at that level, but we risk almost diminishing what charity is, or at least missing an opportunity to elevate the place of charity, or the wonder of human beings, that people choose to do that, freely, over and over again."

The recent drop in the public's trust in charities – down to 48 per cent in a survey by the Charities Aid Foundation, conducted in the aftermath of controversies over fundraising techniques, poor accounting and safeguarding scandals – sounded an alarm for him. "Those of us who run charities can, if we aren't careful, tarnish charities or at least make it less beau-

tiful than it actually is. Because when it is at its most beautiful and pure is when people are freely giving out of love, sharing and not looking for anything back whatever. We all encounter that purity every day and so easily we can mask it with all that other language we put around it."

THERE IS AN uncomplicated sincerity radiating from MacFarlane-Barrow that makes him an almost irresistible man of principle, both on the page and in conversation. But is what he is demanding too idealistic in a capitalist, consumerist, globalised world? "Don't get me wrong," he replies. "It is a balance. It's not one or the other. I have tried to write about the place of the head and the heart. For love to become real, we need to put in place all the structures that make it effective."

And the Covid-19 pandemic has certainly tested to the limit the charity's structures. "We have survived this whole situation remarkably well," he reports. "As it unfolded, there was a moment when all the schools started closing in the programme countries, and we were thinking, what on earth? Will the funding keep coming in?"

But it has, and the charity has adapted, feeding children at home in Malawi, where the schools began returning recently. Is he worried that the economic downturn that has come with Covid will see all charities fighting for a smaller pot of money?

"Where we can go wrong when we are thinking about fundraising," he muses, resolutely calm, "is to see it as taking something away from people. When we restore this in our mind as a work of love, we are not taking something away from anybody when we ask them to participate in a good mission. We are giving them something. We have seen over and over again that when people choose to do something charitable, they so often become enriched by that."

His own lockdown, in Dalmally, may end up stretching to the end of the year because of the current restrictions on travel. It has been quite a change from his usual globe-trotting itinerary. And, he confesses, almost embarrassed, a welcome one, being at home with his growing family (whose ages range from 22 to eight) and with his wife, Julie, whom he met when she was a nurse in Inverness and had volunteered to help out on one of the early convoys to Yugoslavia. "I've been able to do some things I've been wanting to do for years – like get my polytunnel up and running and growing things."

IN OUR CONVERSATION, alongside love, the word that keeps cropping up is charity. For many, though, it is often taken as old-fashioned. They prefer instead to speak of justice, but in MacFarlane-Barrow charity has found a twenty-first-century champion.

"It's not one or the other. It's back to the head-and-heart thing. But I would challenge those who see the word charity as something nice and quaint that you have to move beyond. Of course, if we do truly love the

person we are serving, we do want to set them free so they are not reliant on charity. But it doesn't mean charity of itself, that immediate charity about wanting to respond to needs, is to be belittled."

He would, he says, always challenge the thinking that emphasises justice over charity. "We always have to seek justice. We wouldn't be acting out of love if we weren't interested in justice, but charity can go beyond justice, beyond people's rights. You can love gratuitously, purely because you love the person in front of you."

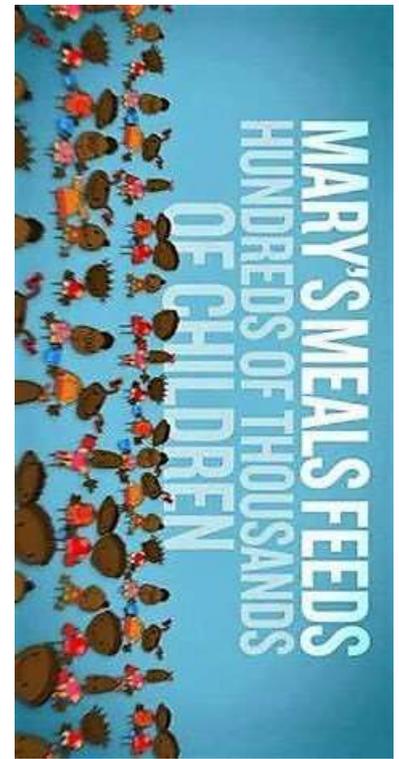
The central place of faith in his life shines through in what he says and does. Yet Mary's Meals has never been officially a Catholic charity. "We are not an agency of the Catholic Church. My experience is sometimes people get a bit uneasy if they can't put you in a particular box. We use Catholic language, so are we a Catholic organisation? We are an organisation that isn't ashamed to say that our values have been greatly informed by Catholic Social Teaching, that our story is a story of faith. But the same Catholic Social Teaching tells us that charity is for everyone. There are no boundaries in this."

Those who benefit from its programmes, and those who work on its programmes, he stresses, are from all faiths and none, but can the close association, not least in its name, between the charity and the Catholic Church ever come at a cost in our secular, sceptical world? "I think it does and do you know what – I think we would be doing something wrong if it didn't. If we are very clear about our identity and values, there are some people out there who are going to say, 'That's not for me', and choose another organisation. And that's OK."

WHATEVER question you have, it seems, he has thought it through already. Which is what is so compelling about him, and why in 2015 he found himself on *Time's* list of the 100 most influential people in the world. In an age where radicalism can often be code for embracing divisive ideologies and upsetting apple carts for the sake of it, he is radical in the best sense. He blushes when I say as much. "I've never thought of it that way, that I am making a really radical choice here. It was never dramatic and doesn't represent a huge sacrifice. It kind of evolved."

But it is, nonetheless, a choice? "Yes. It is still a choice. I do try to live my life thinking about what is right, rather than what is popular or normal. I do see, at this age I am now, that my parents made radical choices in their lives and that that was a blessing. They did much crazier things than me, all informed by their faith. I grew up thinking that was normal."

So, ignore the shed. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is really a conformist because he is following in his parents' footsteps.



Words to encourage us in tough times

A Notice seen recently in a bookshop: The Post-apocalyptic section has been moved to Current Affairs.

You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the whole ocean in a drop. (Rumi)

**** When the pot breaks, the soup goes with it. (An African village saying.)*

Centuries ago we were reminded that the first Bible was not the written Bible but CREATION itself – the cosmos. (Romans chapter I verse 20 – “ since earliest times people have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power.”) This is surely true: but you have to sit still for a while, observe it, love it without trying to rearrange it by thinking you can fully understand it. You simply participate in what one person described as a – Long Loving Look At The Real.

Richard Rohr.

Circle me O God - Keep hope within - Despair without.

Circle me O God - Keep peace within - Keep hatred out.

Circle me O God - Keep love within - Keep evil out.

Circle me O God - Keep light within - Keep darkness out.

Christ - stand in the circle with us... today and every day.

May the God of Peace inspire us.

May the God of Justice empower us.

May the God of Hope encourage us.....

To live the Good News.

Hope means more than just hanging on. It is the conscious decision to see the world in a different way than most others see it. To hope is to look through the eyes of faith to a future not determined by the oppressive circumstances of the present. To hope is to know that the present reality will not have the last word. It is to know, despite the pretensions and cruelties of idolatrous authorities, that God rules. It is God who will have the last word. We need more than resistance; we need hope and a positive vision of where we are going. We begin to live out new possibilities in our daily living.

(Jim Wallis, theologian, writer and campaigner for justice for many years.)

**Make Humanity your Journey
and you will arrive at God**

(St Augustine)