

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

27th Sunday of the Year – Sunday 4 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.*



A warm welcome and our thanks to Fr Willy Slavin, with us for this weekend, 3-4 Octoberand to **Fr Jim Smith**, covering our other Masses until Fr Jock's return on Tuesday.

The Caritas, Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese invites you to a short retreat today, St Francis' feastday, the conclusion of the Season of Creation, within "Laudato Si' year" which opened last May
- 2:30 to 4:40 - by Zoom - Looking to the Future with Hope, Faith and Vision.

'The retreat is a response to the Pope and our Bishops, who challenge us to act in hope to prepare the future: a revitalised post-COVID, ecologically sustainable world. We will explore how Laudato Si, Pope Francis' letter to the world, is steeped in warmth and love for the earth and its people. Pope Francis talks to us about our common home, gently but firmly and uncompromisingly telling us that we are destroying our abode. Pope Francis calls us to cherish and renew our relationship with the earth, and to hear the cry of the earth caused by the damage humans are doing and the connected cry of the poor. Join us on October 4th as we learn more about St Francis and the teaching of Pope Francis and the Vatican. We will focus upon how we can renew our lives, personally, in parishes, and in community, and influence the behaviour of our government and business. We will commit to work in partnership with the Holy Spirit through prayer and other action.

We invite you to register at <https://tinyurl.com/Retreat4Oct>

Living Faith
Daily Catholic Devotions

Copies of **Living Faith**, the three monthly booklet of daily reflections (covering October, November and December 2020), as well as hard copies of this newsletter, are always available from the Parish

House. This edition of Living Faith comes with the theme: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35)



**"I was a stranger,
and you welcomed
me."**
Matthew 25:35

Masses This Week – and How/If to Book

To help us to manage the numbers, **if you wish to come to one of the ‘live’ Sunday Masses, please contact the parish house between 10am and 12 noon between Wednesday and Fridays only by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) or by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) to book**



your place when there will be someone there to take your call, or respond to your email. **We will not take any bookings by email or phone before 10am on Wednesday** (We will also be asking for – and keeping – your name and telephone number for ‘track and trace’ requirements). Bookings will be on the basis of ‘first come, first served’ but we will make sure that all those who wish to attend Mass in either Church will have their turn

the following week, if a place is not available this week.

Please be aware also that you will need to utilize hand sanitisers as you come into and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service. You will also need to be escorted to your seat which you will not be able to choose.



For the moment, 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, ‘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.)

We will also be streaming Elizabeth Mackaill’s Requiem Mass on Tuesday at 10am at St Mary Magdalene’s.

Children’s Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes:



‘Zoom Children’s Liturgy sessions are continuing. Why not join us this Sunday 27 September 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 26 September. 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

Our Monday Gospel Sharing by Zoom will recommence Monday 19 October.

Monday 5 October – 10.00am – Prayer Room - Mass

Tuesday 6 October –

10am – St Mary Magdalene’s - **Requiem Mass for Elizabeth MacKaill**

(‘Private’ Mass – Maximum 20)

7:30pm - on Zoom/Lauriston Jesuit Centre - ‘The Amazon Synod 1 Year

On - Progress & Procrastination’ with Maurice Lopez.

Zoom Login Information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814> Or Meeting ID: 236 509 2814

View on Facebook live by typing Lauriston Jesuit Centre into Facebook.

For more information contact lauristonjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.



Wednesday 7 October

9.20am – St John’s – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.00am – St John’s - Mass (No booking required)

5pm – Parish House – PEP meeting

Thursday 8 October –

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

7.00 – 8.30 pm - **Open Zoom Conversation with Tina Beattie - Women in the Church (organised by the Scottish Laity Network)**

‘Tina is joining us for an evening of informal discussion and theological exploration about the roles, participation and representation of women in the Church today. She will help us to reflect on questions such as:

- What place is there for women in today's Church?
- How has the closure of churches and restricted access to the sacraments affected women's faith?
- What are the main issues concerning women in the worldwide Church, and how effective is the hierarchy in addressing these?

Tina Beattie has recently left her post as Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton in London, but she is continuing in her role as Director of Catherine of Siena College - an online college based at Roehampton which specialises in theology, gender and social justice with a particular focus on the higher educational needs of women in the Global South. Tina has researched and written widely in the areas of sacramental theology, gender theory, Mariology and the role of women in the Church. She is also the founder of Catholic Women Speak - a worldwide network of Catholic women with over a thousand members - and she is connected with numerous other networks and groups.

To book please email: slaitynetwork@gmail.com

Friday 9 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 10 October

11.30am – St John’s – Baptism of Cartner Turnbull

2pm – St John’s – Wedding of Rebecca Zoltie and Reggie McMahon

.....AND IN THE COMING WEEKS

40 Days for Life is back for Autumn.

Paul Atkins, the Diocesan Pro-Life co-Ordinator writes: ‘I am delighted to say that 40 Days for Life are running an Autumn campaign in Edinburgh from **23 September to 1 November**. It’s going to be a full 8am to 8pm campaign.

PRAYING FOR LIFE:

You’re invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You’re also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Chalmers Sexual Health Centre, Chalmers Street, Edinburgh. For more information – and especially if you’d like to volunteer to help, please contact edinburgh40days@gmail.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/edinburgh

NOTICEBOARD

THE SEASON OF CREATION ENDS TODAY 4 OCTOBER

Our Use of Water – A Reflection by John Norman of St Ninian’s

‘Some years ago, back in the 1980’s, I took part in an ecumenical justice and peace group and we set ourselves a self-awareness task over the season of Lent to measure our use of water. The idea was to record each time we used water during the day. There was a practical aspect too, as we were to impose a ‘self-tax’ of 5p for each use of water and donate this to a suitable charity. The extent of use was surprising as we realised how we took for granted the turning on of the tap on numerous occasions during each day. Pope Francis comments on ‘the issue of water’ in Chapter One of his encyclical, ‘Laudato Si’ – paragraphs 27-31.

In paragraph 30 he states:

“...access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival....Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity. This debt can be paid partly by an increase in funding to provide clean water and sanitary services among the poor.”

So perhaps a self-tax on water use could contribute in a small way towards that goal by logging water use and donating the proceeds to a relevant charity such as ‘Water Aid’. That could be done for the next 2 weeks – in the light of Creation Time coming to an end - and it would be interesting to collate results and comments and publish that in the newsletter (e-mail below). Suggested rates could be 5p for a minor use and 10p for a major use. The results might be quite surprising and a good awareness raising exercise. You could even save up towards a target of £60 to twin your toilet with one in a poor community – includes a certificate to hang in your loo, showing a photograph of your overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so that you can look up your twin’s location on Google Maps!’ John.Norman46@btinternet.com’

Water Aid: www.wateraid.org/uk Toilet twinning www.toilettwinning.org

THE SCOTTISH LAITY NETWORK RECENTLY ORGANISED A RETREAT FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION WITH DIARMID O’MURCHU AROUND ‘GOSPEL DISCIPLESHIP AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY’ – and have made available the links for the talk and discussion:

Session Ia: https://youtu.be/3hC_SnlWdNQ

Session Ib: <https://youtu.be/d7VCoPoZZvw>

Session II: <https://youtu.be/Sy37RNbCUAw>

Session III: <https://youtu.be/-1kI8AOhL38>

**The Post Pandemic Church - Business as Usual?
Online Zoom Meetings – organised by ACTA**

Wednesday 7 October - Fr Gerry Proctor MBE (Archdiocese of Liverpool) - Ministering in the Field Hospital

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

Words to encourage us in tough times.

May we be helped each day to do here what is most right - words from the Native American tradition.

It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world. (Mary Oliver)

*Go and open the door ... may be outside there’s...a tree, or a wood...a garden, or a magic city. Go and open the door...may be the dog’s rummaging...may be you’ll see a face... or an eye...or a picture, of a picture. Go and open the door...if there’s a fog...it will clear. Go and open the door... even if there’s only...the darkness ticking...even if there’s only the hollow wind...even if nothing is there... go and open the door. At least...there will be...a draught. *Miroslav Holub - (Prague) - from his ‘Poems Before and After’.*

I am an old man now and have had a great many problems. Most of them never happened. (Mark Twain).

Knock and the door will be opened. Matthew chapter 7, verse 7.

Enter eagerly into the treasure house that is within you and you will see the things that are in heaven. (Saint Isaac the Syrian)

100 years of Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)

On 4 October 1920, the Apostleship of the Sea was founded in the Jesuit Parish in Glasgow.

Now it operates in 300 ports and 41 countries. Plans to mark the centenary with a World Congress in Glasgow have had to be cancelled but the everyday work continues. Chaplains have been delivering care packages and phone cards to seafarers in Glasgow unable to get home because of travel restrictions. This is possible because of the generosity of our parish and others. Please pray for the chaplains and seafarers. For more information visit

www.apostleofthesea.org.uk

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎ 0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Elizabeth Mackaill

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Jerry Kinane, Mary Laurie and Lindsay Thomson

St John's

Oct.4:- Andrew Callachan (2015); Peter Carr (2001); Gerard Watters (1995); George Calder (1988); John Coyne (1988); Michael Murphy (1955); Margaret Crawford; **Oct.5:-** Margaret A Wilson (2005); Jerry Kinane (1994); Leonard Stovin; **Oct.6:-** Mary Laurie (2007); Lindsay Thomson (2003); Minnie McMullan (1984); Vincenza Leone (1982); Martha Flynn (1966); Joan Cullen ; Mark Cunningham; **Oct.7:-** David Brown (2007); Catherine Lamara (2004); Thomas Sharp (1989); John Loftus (1929); **Oct.8:-** Katherine Wills (2010); Eva M Berry (1980); Donald O'Kane (1960); **Oct.9:-** Begg family; **Oct.10:-** John Davies (2009); Alice Moran (1973); Kathleen Sharkey (1963); Ralph Osmond (1961);

St Mary Magdalene's

Oct.10 :- Isobel Banks (2005); Joseph Muir (1998);

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: 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, Sheila Alexander, 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, Guilio 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: Agnes Harvey, 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, Ray Donnelly, 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: Anthony Finnerty, Helen Liddell, John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, John Kellagher, Albi Stanley, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Lesley Barker, Hazel Yeoman, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Catriona MacKinnon, 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 Jorden and young Ray Donovan Syme,

| Offertory Collections | St Mary Magdalene | St John the Evangelist |
|---|---|--|
| 27 September 2020 | £104.85 (including Gift Aid of £189.50) ie £294.35) | £410.50 (including Gift Aid of £485.00) and £625.00 Direct Debits – ie £1520.50 |
| Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund Special Collection | £40.00 | £244.20 |

 Thank you!

*Prayer is not overcoming
God's reluctance.
It is laying hold
of God's willingness.*

Julian of Norwich, a 14th female hermit

Posture and Prayer:

Though not especially well developed, there is an ancient Christian awareness that physical stillness facilitates interior stillness. Saint Gregory of Sinai and Saint Gregory of Palamas both thought that sitting still and close to the floor could be of great assistance. Gregory of Sinai recommended sitting on a small stool close to the ground. Today we call this a prayer bench. Many of the old monks spoke of a rather odd posture that involved sitting on a low stool and bending the head down towards the navel (this is the likely origin of the term 'navel gazers').

Today we see things differently. Largely through a sustained dialogue with Hindu and Buddhist monasticism begun in earnest by Pope Paul VI, many Christian contemplatives have seen the benefit of the classic lotus or half lotus position. All things being equal, they are well worth learning, and can be found in any good book on yoga or Zen. Most Western Christian contemplatives, however, sit on a chair or a prayer bench. In any case there is nothing magical or esoteric about learning proper posture.

If you sit in a chair, better to use a simple flat-seated desk or kitchen chair rather than an arm chair more suited to reading, watching TV or nodding off! The idea is that the knees and the buttock form a tripod that serves as a solid support for the body. Because most of us are accustomed to slouching this takes some attention. Sit on the front portion of the seat. Don't lean back. Instead, keep the back straight; shoulders back but not rigid. Depending on your height, a lot of desk chairs leave your knees about even with your hips.

If possible place a cushion under you so that the hips are slightly above the knees. Good breathing is then possible – with feet flat on the floor. Many people don't know what to do with their hands.

Just lay them palms down on the knees or gently cupped in the lap. Some people feel they cope better with distractions if they keep their eyes closed. With time you will discover what is best for you.



*(Words taken from Martin Laird's book: Into the Silent Land-The Practice of Contemplation.
(Latest reprint 2016) ISBN - 973-0-232*

A REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

BY BERNARD TRAYNOR

Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43

When Charles Dickens wrote the opening lines of "A Tale of Two Cities", he could have been writing of any country in the world this year: *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the , of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us....."*

These first nine months of 2020 have been deeply troubling. Uncertainty and fear hang in the air like some huge pall, blocking the sun from view, preventing the penetration of its heat and warmth, choking us from the light. Just as the virus attacks our respiratory system, so too this new way of living attacks all that we hold dear. We are enveloped by a heavy stillness. COVID has brought us face to face with vulnerability and mortality and we are not comfortable. We much prefer escapism in all of its forms: we enjoy buying things we don't need not for the joy of the product itself but for the thrill to be had in self-indulgence; we enjoy throwing lavish parties or treating the lonely neighbour to afternoon tea; we enjoy being generous. It gives us reassurance. This is the way we are meant to live – outgoing and generous rather than turned in and fearful. We look mistrustingly at the person coughing in the supermarket queue. Masks obscure our smile and eye contact without a smile is much less satisfying. Life is so different.

Fortunately, there is a lavish richness in our readings this weekend. In the second from Philippians, Paul encourages his readers: *There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving...* promising that if we are faithful *Then the God of Peace will be with you (us)*. In contrast, today's Gospel carries a sombre warning: *"The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."* We have been warned. We are blessed with a great treasure, a pearl of great value, a jewel beyond compare. The God of peace is within our grasp, and we must always remember that all we have is 'gift'. If the COVID pandemic has taught us nothing else, then surely it has taught us this inescapable truth. We view life differently now. Gift speaks of indebtedness – but it also speaks of lavish generosity. The least we can do is to value and cherish that gift, and to do all that we can to remove all those things in life that prevent us from appreciating its full value. Just as the COVID crisis has caused us to re-evaluate, so too, in today's Gospel Jesus asks us to re-focus on the extent of our appreciation of all that he has done for and given to us - and to renew our commitment to his cause. Life is precious, family is precious, friendship is precious but more precious than all of these is the gift of God's Kingdom and the seat reserved in our name. We do everything we can to ensure that that seat retains our name-plate – that it is not given to someone else. God has blessed us and with that blessing comes responsibilities. We cannot be anonymous in our following of him. Sometimes we will have to speak out, sometimes we will roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty, sometimes dig deeper than our loose change. There is always something to do to demonstrate our worthiness, our entitlement to that seat at the heavenly banquet.

I own nothing. All I have is gift. It has all been loaned to me. My gifts are different to yours. It's a waste of my time to envy you your gifts or for you to envy mine. Every second wasted is lost forever. Life is precious and we handle it with care and with prayer. If we can practice both care and prayer in all of our affairs, then the God of Peace will truly be with us and the embrace that will greet us as we take our seat will more than compensate for any amount of elbow-touching, fist-bumping and awkward nods!!

Angels Explained By Children

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.
Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why,
but scientists are working on it
Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die.
Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through.
And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.
Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God
has to go do something else.
Mitchell, age 7

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science.
Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!!
Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up
to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead.
Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten.
And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado.
Reagan, age 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy.
If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money
under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.
Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.
Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they got to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.
Antonio, age 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year.
She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.
Ashley ~ age 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets.
And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it.
Vicki, age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone
is in love, they shoot arrows at them.
Joan, aged 7

(After a week in which we celebrated the Feast of both the 3 Archangels and the Guardian Angels)