

; 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

25th Sunday of the Year – Sunday 20 September 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 Fond Farewell and our Gratitude and Prayers to Karen Blair,
administrator of our two parishes for the last four years, and now sadly moving away from the area with her husband, Andrew. Her cheery 'hello' has reverberated down the phone and through the Parish House in such a resounding way during these years that she will be much missed and her absence keenly felt. We thank her not just for her secretarial and administrative skills but also for her creativity and sense of fun – evident, as but one example, in the *Children's Letters to God* and Mel Calman *My God* cartoons in the last few weeks' newsletters! We hope she will be very happy in the exciting time that lies ahead – and that she will keep in touch with her many friends from the last few years....

....and the warmest of welcomes to our new administrator, Enrico Fertini, appointed after the rigorous interviews of five candidates last Monday! Enrico moved here from Genoa with his wife Corinna, and children, Carlotta, Filippo and Tommaso four years ago. In that time, he has already made a considerable contribution to our community, and especially as a recorder of Masses on cd and dvd for the housebound (not least during lockdown) and a Fire Team member and Welcomer at St John's. He has started work immediately and indeed, this newsletter (though masterminded by Karen) will be his first (and the first of many, we hope!) Moreover, as has been noted, his presence will certainly shake up the dynamic in the Parish House (finally, some masculine support for Fr Jock...)

Today Sunday 20 September there will be a Special Collection for the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund

Archbishop Cushley wrote in his recent 'Ad Clerum' (Letter to the Clergy) this week: 'A special collection for the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund was scheduled to take place at Masses this weekend...those who want to give parishioners the opportunity to support their retired priests can leave a marked basket at the back of the church to let people contribute (please also make the appropriate Gift Aid envelopes available). The Archdiocese is currently supporting 25 retired priests. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.'

PS It is also possible to give to the AICF online at any time by clicking the 'donate' button on the home page of www.archedinburgh.org

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.)

This week, there will be a Mass in St Mary Magdalene's on Wednesday at 10am, and St John's at 10am on Thursday (No booking required for any of them). There will also be a Requiem Mass on Tuesday at 12.30pm for Lucia Valente (maximum number – 20).

Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes:



'Zoom **Children's Liturgy sessions are continuing.** Why not join us this Sunday 20 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 19 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 AND THE COMING WEEKS

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

Tuesday 22 September

12.30pm – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Lucia Valente**

Wednesday 23 September – 9.20am – St John's – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 25 September

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

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

Sunday 27 September – 2pm – 'Doors Open Day Concert at St John's with Frances McDevitt, our organist'.

Deacon Eddie writes: 'Frances will bring us a concert at 2pm on Sunday 27 September, live-streamed from St John's to celebrate Door (not quite) Open Day 2020...Door Open Day is not, this year, operating with physical open doors but instead Frances will bring us some music which would have been cutting edge in 1906, the year St John's building was opened.

The concert will be available on the Parishes' Facebook page and also on the YouTube link....'

NOTICEBOARD

A warm welcome and our thanks to Fr Jim Smith, covering next weekend and midweek for the next fortnight for Fr Jock who sets off on Tuesday for a delayed summer staycation in rural cottages in Wales and Dorset, with the bike on top of the car, and 'the book' in its boot.....

...and to Fr Willy Slavin, with us for the weekend after next, October 3rd – 4th

The warmest of welcomes also, and the promise of our prayers, to our two new neighbouring priests in our Cluster, both from Nigeria...

...in St Ninian's, Restalrig, Fr Ephraim Ezulike.

Fr Ephraim was born in Nigeria on 1 July, 1978, and ordained a priest on 23 August 2008 for the diocese of Awka. He then studied Canon Law in Rome at the Lateran University and obtained a doctorate (JCL). He came to Scotland on 4 May 2019, and as well as looking after St Ninian's, he has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the archdiocese and Defender of the Bond at the Scottish National Tribunal in Glasgow.

...and in St Teresa's, Craigmillar, to Father Emmanuel Chorbe

Fr Emmanuel was born in Nigeria as the last of the seven children of Francis and Cecilia Chorbe on 5 December 1978. He was brought up in the Catholic faith as his father was the parish catechist. After his schooling he entered St Thomas Aquinas seminary and completed the studies at St Augustine's seminary. On completion of his priestly training he was ordained on 12 April, 2008 as a priest of Bauchi diocese, Nigeria. He comes to St Teresa's with the experience of working as the assistant priest as well as parish priest at different parishes for 12 years. Although it is less than one year since he arrived in Scotland he has had a spiritual connection with the Church in Scotland from early childhood. Interestingly he was baptised by a priest of this diocese, the late Mgr Danny Simpson.

Both **Fr Syriac** and **Fr Mathew** will remain in residence at St Theresa's for some time yet, awaiting the resumption of flights to India.

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Hugh Shannon, Sr Immacolata (St Catherine's Convent), Casimierz Chiccochi, Josephine White, Simone Margion, Mike Roddam and Manus Ward

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Sheila Cammach, Brian Carr, Pat Hay-Will, Nuala Scott, Maimie Richards, and Gerry Wynne

St John's

Sept.20 :- Charles Doherty (2008); Thomas Walker (2000); Robert Forbes (1997); Greta Davies (1996); Sam Cunningham (1993); Thomas D'Arcy (1985); Joe Davies (1974); Sophia Gollogly (1968); **Sept.21 :-** Helen Parry (1992); Eileen McCarthy (1989); James Tunley (1943); Roseanna & Patrick Lynch (1917); Mary Phair; James Syme; **Sept.22 :-** Joseph Phair (2010); Rena Quigley (1992); John P Laydon (1988); Josephine Kempton (1984); Rena Fusco (1982); **Sept.23 :-** Katie Randall (2017); John McCue (2012); James & Mary Boyle; **Sept.24 :-** Peter McDonald (2012); Robert Munro (2000); Annie K O'Neill (2000); Josephine Ross (1991); Molly Tracy; **Sept.25 :-** Maimie Richards (2019); Robert McArthur (2008); Elizabeth Hoy (1993); Colin Kemp (1992); **Sept.26 :-** Bridget Allen (1978)

St Mary Magdalene's

Sept.21 :- Margaret Gray (2005); Barbara Greenan (1969); **Sept.25 :-** James Lang (2008)

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: 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, Elizabeth Mackail, 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 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: John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, John Kellagher, Albi Stanley, Casimierz Cichocki, 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, Anthony Finnerty, 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
13 September 2020	£176.30 (including Gift Aid of £105.00 and £124.00 Direct Debits – ie £300.30)	£575.90 (including Gift Aid of £275.00) and £625.00 Direct Debits – ie £1200.90

Many Congratulations to Tanya and Eddie White, who celebrate their 20th Wedding Anniversary, next Wednesday, 23 September.



10 Spiritual Activities for people with Alzheimer's Disease

<https://www.goldencarers.com/10-spiritual-activities-for-people-with-alzheimers-disease/4271/>

Religious & Spiritual Needs

Spiritual support for people living with Alzheimer's Disease in nursing homes and other long term care facilities is vital to their well-being and a requisite for the holistic care we strive to achieve. Spiritual and religious activities for people with Alzheimer's Disease can profoundly influence their sense of well-being. Activities may include attending Mass, praying or singing together, creating a shrine, or receiving faith counsel from a Minister of religion.

1. Sacred Music

Music touches us all. Many people with dementia will have memories of hymns they sang as children or at a younger age. Play religious songs and hymns from their era for comfort and spiritual well being. Encourage residents to sing or hum familiar songs.

2. Create an alter or shrine

Buddhists and Hindus need a personal space to pray and make offerings. Talk to the person and make a list of what they would like to create or add to their shrine. Sometimes your required assistance may be bringing fresh flowers from the garden or changing the water on a daily basis.

3. Story-telling

Story-telling encourages positive rapport between staff and residents/families. Show a nice picture (or pictures) to the client and encourage them to make up a story about it. You may use pictures from calendars or coffee-table books. Ask questions to help them along. One of the many advantages of this activity is it that it does not require the person to remember anything.

4. Radio broadcasts or TV Devotions/Mass

Some people are accustomed to hearing religious services on the radio or seeing them on TV. Facilitate access to these services by reminding them of services and assisting with radio tuning or escorting them to the TV set.

5. Nature related Spiritual Care

Nourish the spirit with nature. Take client to:

- Listen & watch birds outdoors
- Visit farm animals
- Pet baby animals
- Sit under a majestic tree
- Visit the shore to watch and listen to the waves
- Watch the stars under the night sky

6. Rest related Spiritual Care

- Slow walk or wheelchair stroll around the garden
- Sitting in silence
- Holding hands

7. Reading poems or passages from the Bible or other books of faith

Rhyming poems may bring happy memories and assist with the recall of important life events. Poetry reading is said to improve mood and concentration in people with Alzheimer's Disease. Print some poems in large fonts and encourage residents to read to others.

8. Massaging hands/feet/shoulders

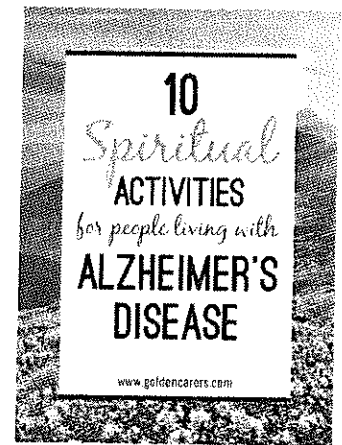
The therapeutic benefits of massage for the elderly are well documented. Massage for the elderly involves gentle strokes and kneading. Place a few drops of essential oils such as lavender or geranium in an ounce or 30 mls of carrier oil such as almond or jojoba. Mix and gently apply. It brings pleasure and relieves tension.

9. Retrieval of positive memories

Reminiscing about happy memories encourages the client to resort to long-term memory which may still be remembered with clarity. Use props like: music, photos, gifts, and other keepsakes.

10. Listening to music

The Mayo Clinic suggests that music can have many beneficial effects ranging from reducing feelings of physical pain to enhancing memory. Music genre depends on the individual, as taste varies widely. You may try introducing residents to some classical music that may bring comfort and calm such as Bach's 'Goldberg Variations' or Mozart's 'Clarinet Concerto in A'.



The Stranger's Gift

There was once a village that had fallen on very hard times. The villagers had once been very happy, and their community had been famous for its hospitality and friendliness, and the warmth with which it welcomed strangers.

But something had gone wrong in the village. People had begun to bicker with one another. Quarrels broke out for no apparent reason. Rivalry sprang up where once there had been friendship and trust. The chief of the village was very sad about this. He knew that the people would never be happy like this, but he could do nothing to restore the old tunes of harmony and peace. Strangers no longer wanted to visit the village. The people stopped caring for it. The village was falling into ruin.

But it happened that one day a stranger came by. He approached the village like one with a mission, as though he already knew what he would find there. And very soon, he met the village chief. He recognized the sad expression in his eyes, and the two were soon engaged in a serious conversation.

The village chief told the stranger about his feelings of despair, and his fears that soon the village would disintegrate. The stranger told the village chief that he might know of a way to redeem the lost village and restore it to a real community again.

'Please tell me the secret' the village chief begged the stranger.

'The secret is very simple' the stranger said by way of reply. 'The fact is, one of the villagers is actually the Messiah!'

The village chief could hardly believe what he was hearing, yet the stranger had an air of authority about him that was irrefutable.

The stranger left, but the village chief couldn't resist telling his closest friend what the stranger had told him. Soon the rumour ran through the village like wildfire. 'One of us is the Messiah! Can you believe it somewhere, hidden among our number, the Messiah is living!'

Now, deep down, the villagers were a godly folk who wanted things to be right in their community. The thought that the Messiah himself might be living among them, incognito, made them see things very differently. Could it be the baker? they wondered. Or the postman? Or the old lady who breeds the chickens and sells the eggs? Perhaps it was old Granny Riley, whom the children were in the habit of taunting because of her scarred old face. The speculation went on and on.

But the funny thing was that after the stranger's visit, things were never the same again. People began to treat each other with reverence. They lived like people who had a common purpose, and who were seeking something together, never quite knowing whether the treasure was actually in front of them.

Before long, visitors began to come to the village just to be part of the happy, holy atmosphere that prevailed there. The stranger never came back. He didn't need to.

Retelling of a traditional story

*From One Hundred Wisdom Stories
from around the world by Margaret Silf*

(Published by Lion)



A Reflection on the Readings for the 25th Sunday of the Year

by Bernard Traynor

Psalm 144

Matthew 20: 1-16

'...so those who were hired at about the eleventh hour received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each.'

One can often hear the following sentiment: "I don't think we should send money abroad or support foreign governments. We have plenty of poor people here to look after." The second sentence is certainly true. We do have far too many poor people in our midst. Depending on the measure used, the UK is either the 6th or 7th richest economy in the world, and yet we still see huge levels of child poverty. Before we get caught up in semantics, we should remember that, as far as Jesus is concerned, one poor person is one too many. I think our problem is possibly rooted in the bizarre notion that only the British know how to play fair. Sometimes the mantra that charity begins at home, really means charity ends at home. It is, perhaps, one of life's supreme ironies that we object to immigrants finding a job here and paying taxes but don't mind the influx of the very wealthy buying up London properties and country estates whilst hiding their money offshore well away from the Taxman.

All of us are prone to inconsistencies, we can easily fall into the trap of "Do as I say, not as I do" I like to think that I am easy-going and relaxed but, in reality, can be quite different. This probably goes some way to explaining how it is that this weekend's Gospel leaves us feeling so disquieted. It deals with God's generosity. *Why be envious because I am generous?* We counter with the argument that we believe in 'fair play' which can sometimes be code for vindictiveness and revenge. The reality in my own life is that God loves me despite all my character defects, my selfishness, my sinfulness. There is nothing I can do that would stop Him from loving me. In contrast, I may not be so generous in my dealings with others and this is why the Parable today leaves me feeling so uncomfortable. The awesome truth of God's generosity is both humbling and enabling. There is no need to be fearful of anything at all. God's love for us reigns supreme. We are the recipients of his love, so who are we to begrudge it to others? Today's Psalm intones: *The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.* The important word here is 'all' and the yardstick against we must measure our lifestyle and actions. We find it easy to love and be generous with some, it's much more difficult to love and be generous with everyone. My heart urges me to be generous, anticipating the warm glow that walks hand in hand with giving, my head nags away about fairness and justice and seduces me with the promise that others will view me as someone of principle.

The parable recounted by Jesus is familiar enough. A landowner needs labourers and hires them at an agreed rate of one denarius each. Half-way through the day he realises he needs more labourers and hires more at the same rate, and again towards the eleventh hour he does the same. At the end of the day he pays everyone beginning with those who joined the task force last and ending with those who had done a full day in the blazing heat. Each receives the same amount, the rate that had been agreed. Handicapped by an all-consuming sense of fair-play, those who had worked all day complain. Matthew tells us that they took their wage but grumbled. It's an easy scene to picture. Which one of us has not arrived at the buffet table to find next to nothing left and then found ourselves staring incredulously at the plates of others piled high with food that we know will probably go uneaten? We share the sense of injustice experienced by those who had worked all day – and mentally, (at least in the days before COVID) plotted a detour on the way home to take in a visit to our favourite takeaway, or anticipated a bowl of breakfast cereal on our way to bed. It's the difference between being ruled by the heart and being ruled by the head. Our head says this is grossly unfair, our heart rejoices in the generosity of the host, even though we did not benefit directly. It is enough that others did. Those who struggle with the Christian Gospel become caught up in the intellectual aspect of faith. When we allow our heart to reign supreme, we take to the teaching of Jesus like ducks to water. So, when we give money to the homeless person bedding down in the doorway, we don't fret about what they might spend the money on as if we have merely loaned the cash. No, we give freely, recklessly and generously, because we have taken to heart the words of Jesus: *Why be envious because I am generous?*



Love one another
or I'll come down there
and thump you...

I wish people would
stop saying I don't
exist - it makes me
feel so insecure...



No - you can't have
your old job back



Don't you think
it was more fun
in the old days?



Sometimes I feel
like saying - don't
call me, I'll call you...



I may not be
perfect but I'm
better than nothing...



I do think
it's a shame that
miracles have gone
out of fashion



They love me,
they love me not -
they love me...



Being God isn't
all nectar and
thunderbolts, you know...

