

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Parish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple:

Deacon – Revd Eddie White:

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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

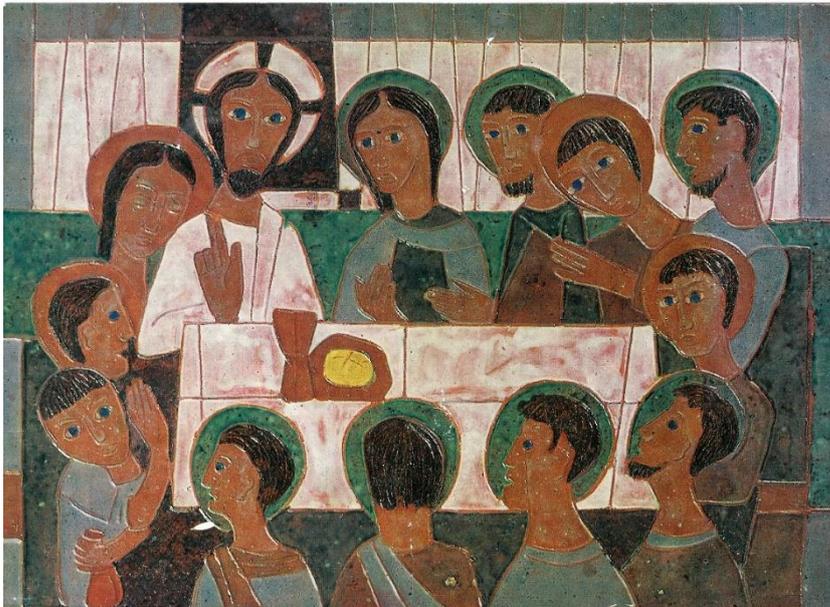
Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

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

WELCOME!

If you are 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.



*Eighteenth Sunday of the Year
1 August 2021*

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst."

(John 6:35)



View from the dizzy heights of the St John's Tower, as work progresses

...

More pictures are regularly uploaded here:

<https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk/home>



THE NEXT HEALING MASS - THE FIRST FOR 18 MONTHS - WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16 AUGUST AT 2.30pm - VENUE TBC

Important Developments in Attending Mass In Our Parishes



Following the recent Government guidelines, and input from the Bishops' Conference Covid Working Group (see below), we are seeking to increase the capacity within both churches with 1 metre distancing for most of our seating. **At St John's**, that will be the case for all the seats in the main aisle. However, the seating in part of the side aisles and the two side altars will remain at 2 metre distance, allowing parishioners to have a choice of increased distance if desired. **At St Mary Magdalene's**, we have also changed the seat numbers, and will have a similar balance between 1 and 2

metre seating.

In our efforts to encourage more people to return to attending Mass, we are hoping gradually to suspend the necessity to book in advance, although in keeping with Health and Safety regulations, we are still required to

- collect names and telephone numbers for Track and Trace
- use hand sanitisers and sanitise seating

Many thanks for your patience and support during this time of transition....

.....SO THIS SATURDAY EVENING – 31 July - at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass, **prior booking will not be required** – however, a seat can be booked if preferred.

To help us with Test & Protect, the check-in Scotland app can be scanned at the door with your mobile phone camera. Extra helpers will be available to assist and explain the use of this app, or you can simply have your name recorded on the paper forms

We are hoping that our walk in system will prove welcoming and successful and that gradually this will be extended to all our Masses in both churches.

NHS TEST & PROTECT
Check In Scotland
Stopping the spread starts with all of us

Scan the code:

Scan the QR code on the left with your phone camera to check in or out
Unable to scan the code?
Visit:
checkin.scot/52765774C

This location:
St John the Evangelist Church, Portobello
35 BRIGHTON PLACE, EDINBURGH, EH15 1LL

PRIVACY POLICY:
mygov.scot/your-data #wearescotland

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

BOOKING PLACES AT MASS

If you wish to come to any of our 'live' Sunday Masses, please contact the Parish House by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 1pm (NB Change of days this week only!!)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Arlene Lauder writes: 'It is hard to believe that 15 months after the first Zoom children's liturgy session we are still going strong and the young people of our two parishes are as enthusiastic as ever. We are delighted to have a regular number of families joining us each week at 11:15 am zooming in to hear the Liturgy of the Word at their level. **If you would like to join us or know of a family with children of primary school age, please get in touch, just email lauder.82@btinternet.com and we will add you to the link list.**'

Saturday 31 July

12.30 – St John’s – **Baptism of Sienna Danielle McDonald**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Sunday 1 August

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – **livestreamed, booking required** – with Reception of Catherine Collie

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** – pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – **booking required**

Monday 2 August

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

2.30pm – St John’s – **Wedding of Alberto Giaccone and Stella Pezzilli**

5pm – Skype – **PEP meeting**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All** – to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81168315365?pwd=Y3hPSHpKdnM5NzQ0d2xxT296bVZsUT09>

Tuesday 3 August - 7.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** – livestreamed

Wednesday 4 August – 10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 5 August

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s - **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

10.45 – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Wedding Rehearsal of Roy Virnodkar and Valentina Furtado**

7.00pm – St John’s – **Benediction** – livestreamed, no booking required

Friday 6 August – FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

11.00am – **Rosary Group** – ‘Anyone can join, especially if you have Facebook Messenger, but also on WhatsApp, or just on the phone. Sometimes it takes time for us all to join in, but we always manage. Please join us. Message Maria Igoe on 07981333219 or mariaigoe@yahoo.co.uk’

Saturday 7 August

12.30 – St John’s – **Baptism of Valentina Napoli Noble**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Sunday 8 August

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – **livestreamed, booking required**

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** – pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – **booking required**

NOTICE BOARD

Mary’s Meals: how you can help – in triplicate!

Jim Roarty writes: ‘By the end of last year, Mary’s Meals was feeding over 1.8 million children in 19 countries at an average of cost of £15.90 per child per year. The pandemic, which resulted in thousands of schools closing, meant that different ways had to be devised to get the food to the children in as safe way but despite this, Mary’s Meals increased by over 170,000 the number of children being supported by the end of 2020. For this year, with our help, the aim is to feed over 2 million children – a huge number yet still only scratching the surface of the need.

Become a monthly giver before **31 August 2021** and your **first three donations will be tripled** thanks to a group of generous supporters, who have promised to make funds available up to £100,000. Help us access all the funds by setting up a Direct Debit today and the impact of your kindness will go three times further.’



A Message from Edinburgh Street Pastors

Jim Roarty writes: 'Street Pastors began in London in 2003 when Christian volunteers began to go onto the streets at night to listen, care and help anyone in need in the name of Christ. Such has been the effectiveness of this ministry in providing personal help and reducing crime that it is now a UK-wide organisation. Edinburgh Street Pastors was established in 2009. We patrol the city streets on Friday and Saturday nights, and have 60 volunteers representing over 30 local churches.

We are delighted to be back on the streets again after months of lockdown and are now recruiting for new volunteers. Training will take place on the weekends of 24th to 26th September and 8th to 10th October 2021 and will be run on the Friday evening, Saturday part day and Sunday afternoon of both weekends. If you are interested, please *email edinburghsp.training@gmail.com or call 07523 267 906.*

For background information see <https://streetpastors.org/locations/edinburgh/>



From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

Courses at Gillis Centre, Edinburgh

Applications are now open for variety of courses run by St Mary's University, Twickenham, at our Gillis Centre Campus in Edinburgh this autumn. Why not improve your knowledge of the faith with an MA in Theology? Visit stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh

TOWER TOMBOLA

Tickets for the Tower Tombola are still available. The prize pot for the August draw stands at £225 for the lucky winner - which means that £675 will be going towards the Tower Fund! This will increase if we manage to sell more tickets between now and the draw on Sunday 15 August. Please contact Catherine Mc Anenny on 07968 979059 if you want to take part.

Next week there is the Monthly Second Collection at St John's for the Tower Fund.



Every breath you take
is the breath of God.

Father Theophane
(with thanks to the PJPC e-letter)

A Message – and Invitation - from Bethany Christian Trust

‘The Bethany Christian Trust Welcome Centre will be reopening on the 4th October 2021. We are looking to recruit our biggest team yet and we are looking for some help from our volunteers with this, whether that be sharing the following information with someone you know or prayerfully considering the position for yourself.

We are looking for people with a live and active faith who would love to serve people who are homeless in Edinburgh.

Applicants must be aged over 21 and applications close on the 18th August, with interviews being held on 23rd and 24th August.

More information on how to apply can be found at www.bethanychristiantrust.com/jobs-volunteering and select "Jobs" - Kind regards...The Welcome Centre team’

COP 26

Scotland’s Bishops have announced their intention to set up a 'Care of Creation Office' ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow later this year. COP26 is the twenty sixth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is to take place at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. Pope Francis will be attending. A briefing for Faith Communities can be found at bit.ly/COP26briefing

A PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD

*May you give to us all, dear Lord, a vision of our connected world as your love would make it.
A world where the weak are protected and in which none of us may sleep in peace until the hungry
share in the world’s riches.*

*A world where those in the shadows can experience the sun, and where those with everything can
understand the meaning of injustice and do something about it.*

*A world where different races, nations and cultures can value and live by the words “mutual respect.”
And as our beautiful planet burns and floods, awake us from our slumber to these endless cries of our
wounded earth before it is too late.*

(Adapted from an old prayer from the campaign group War on Want by Peter Miller)



Parish Register

Welcome to the World... Hannah de Jager, born on 26 July, a little sister for Sophia, and a second child for Mishia and Lourens de Jager (Lourens is Associate Pastor at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church.)

Warm birthday greetings to Nessie Cairns, 90 on Sunday 1 August

... and a fond farewell and the promise of our prayers to Sr Jenny Lindsay who will be moving this week to Duns.

Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Anne Young
Fr Pat Clarke
Violet Laing**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**Jordan Houston - Peter Wilson
Kate Nielson - Lena Mancini
Christopher Laurie**

Anniversaries:

St John's

July 31: Madge Freeman (2009); Baby Grace Mills (2003);
Aug.1: Evelyn McPhee (2017); Mary Cooper (2012); Patrick O'Brien (2010); Margaret McCann (1943);
Aug.2: Lena Mancini (2019); Mary Ann Black (2008); Paul Gara (2004); Graham Miller (1988);
Aug.3: Elia Santangeli (2008); Michael Glancy (1998); William Passmore (1989); Emma Hamilton;
Aug.4: Charles McMullan (1961); Sara McCue (1956); William McKiernan;
Aug.5: Lisa Malone (2017); Edward Heron (1997); Peter Wilson (1996);
Aug.6: Tina Cupo (2018); Denis Ford (1993); Christopher McD Laurie (1955);

St Mary Magdalene's

Aug.2: Kate Neilson (2018); Bridget Hodgson (1998);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

May Thomson, Josie Tilley, Evelyn Oldershaw, Sheila and George Service, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Peter Kelly, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Joyce Martin, Mike Iannarelli, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, Celia Stone, Catherine Walker, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Denis Davidson, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Newall, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Baby Alfie McDevitt, Gordon Marron, Una Johnston, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie Mc Anenny, John Kellagher, , Murdo Tait, John Blyth, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, William Young, Ann Thorp, John Mackenzie, Alistair Grieves, Tonino Howard, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Nan Doig, Rachel Kennedy, Leo Stone, baby Baxter Sweeney, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Billy McPhillips, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, John Walsh, Moira McConville, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Ranier Carpo, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Kathleen Cawley, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme

Offertory Collections – 25 July 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£164.00 total including Offertory of £104.00 and Gift Aid of 60.00	£1794.19 total including Offertory of £259.19, Gift Aid of £545.00 and £990.00 Online Donations

THANK YOU!

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR 18th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - John 6: 24-35

(NB The author of these reflections is a friend of Fr Jock living in Northumberland)

Apparently, George and Amal Clooney didn't think twice before going out to help their neighbours who were hit by the recent floods around Lake Como in Italy. To us, it seems the most natural thing to do. Rather like the RNLI **volunteers** who give their time, and sometimes their lives to rescuing people stranded at sea. Sections of the extreme right mounted a campaign this week, calling for the RNLI to be 'punished' in some way for daring to go to the aid of refugees drowning in the Channel. For two days the vitriol of these people knew no bounds. British people responded to this hatred by donating record amounts to the Life-Boat Institute. On Wednesday of this week, donations increased by 3,000%.

Last Saturday I found myself struggling with heavy shopping walking down something called 'Hallstile Bank'. As the day wears on, my legs tend to swell, and I quickly resemble the Michelin man. My doctors are trying to balance my medication but, so far, with minimal success. It was a hot day, and I was wearing shorts which did not help the overall aesthetic appearance. A young man, probably in his late twenties, passed me, turned and came back to offer to carry my bags. I suddenly felt very old but was grateful for his offer. 'Those legs look painful' he proffered. 'They are', I replied. Even though we were both wearing masks, eye contact was enough to put us both at ease. He carried my bags to the car. You'll have noticed that I tend to loquaciousness, and he was a good listener, (did he have a choice?) and we must have chatted for about 15 minutes. He was visiting Hexham to try and fill his day. It transpired that like me he was a recovering alcoholic, but he was struggling. I offered what I could by way of advice. He was envious of my 20 years of sobriety, and I told him that every one of those 20 years has been taken one day at a time, and when a whole day was too long, then one hour at a time. I encouraged him not to give up. His 19 months of sobriety were not to be sniffed at. We parted – and will probably never cross paths again. We wanted to help each other and in so doing fulfilled the most basic of human urges. We are so much better than the hate and bile that sloshes around us like putrid sewage bringing nothing of value or worth.

This weekend's Gospel sees the development of the episode started last week when Jesus fed the crowd who had gathered to hear him, with a few loaves and a couple of fish. The episode ended with John telling us that *Jesus escaped back to the hills by himself*. This week, the crowd have learned about his whereabouts, and come to him again: *they crossed to Capernaum to look for him. When they found him, they said 'Rabbi, when did you come here?'* We are reaching the essential point of the whole episode. A relationship with Jesus is not solely about benefitting from the miracles he is able to perform. Presumably for some of those who sought him out, the pangs of hunger had returned and were driving them to ask him to feed them again. He tells them: *You are not looking for me because you have seen the signs, but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.* To paraphrase he tells them: 'Don't think you can use me as a ticket to a free lunch'. He is telling them that a relationship with God has to be at a much deeper level than merely satisfying physical needs. We are spiritual beings and because Jesus satisfies this spiritual dimension we give recklessly (Parable of the Sower) and we forgive unconditionally (The repentant thief). We call out bigotry and hatred and we do not shy from making our voices heard. The Gospels tell us all we need to know, and they are to be taken in entirety, not just the bits that warm us whilst ignoring the parts that disturb us. They're not like a box of Milk Tray where we can avoid the Coffee Crème (other brands of chocolate are available)!

Jesus saw the hunger of the crowd and in feeding them asks them to view the miracle as a window through which they can catch a glimpse of God. He tells them, and us, that he is *the bread of God that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world*. We are surrounded by miracles, manifestations of the love that dwells deep within and which flowers when we see the spontaneous response of support for the RNLI, and the carrying of the burdens of one who is struggling. What is much more scarce, are the voices who will speak truth to power and who will call out wrongdoing – not as ends in themselves but as offering yet another window through which we catch sight of God

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 29 – Just Be There



Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:11)

The prayer of silence and stillness is widely promoted as a cure for modern life's frenzy. And it may be that this is what first draws us to it. But as we grow to love this form of prayer, it is not for its side effects that we persevere. After a time we come to this prayer with only one desire - to come into the presence of the living God. We seek our still centre not to find inner peace for its own sake, but to find God.

We let go of ideas about what we are supposed to achieve. We rest in the Lord, stay quiet, so that we can be in his presence without seeking anything. We lay down our burdens, our problems. We let go, and let God carry us. At first this does not seem anything like prayer. Yet we are prepared to go along with it.

We find after a time that we no longer seek God's gifts, his graces, no longer ask for anything, or expect anything. We leave self behind.

Our relationship with God changes, from wanting things from him to simply being with him, with no other motive. *'If you keep asking God to do things for you, your time of prayer is one prolonged ego trip,'* John Main said. *'You become more deeply hooked into yourself. To gain freedom of spirit you must be unhooked from your own self-conscious preoccupations.'*

Of course, we are used to seeing God as the giver of gifts. The idea that we can have a relationship with him in which we ask for nothing and nothing is given is very rare and very liberating. Augustine teaches us: *'Do not wish to ask anything of God except God. Love him without seeking gain. Desire Him alone.'* This is how to love God gratis, without seeking gain, he says: *'To hope for God from God, to wish to be filled with God, to be satiated by him.'*

Meister Eckhart wrote: *'When I pray for nothing, then I pray rightly, and that prayer is proper and powerful. I never pray so well as when I pray for nothing and for nobody.'*

Father Pedro Arrupe, a past superior general of the Jesuit Order, told the story of a young pupil of his whom he met when he worked on the missions. She would spend hours on end kneeling in the chapel, close to the tabernacle.

'She would arrive in the chapel and walking with the peculiar silence of those who are used to walking barefoot and noiseless from childhood, she would get as close to the Lord as her respect would allow her, and there she would kneel, indifferent to all that surrounded her.'

One day they met as she was leaving. *'We began to talk and little by little I turned the subject of our conversation towards her visits to the altar,'* Father Arrupe wrote. *'At an opportune moment I asked her: "What do you do for such a long time at the altar?" Without hesitation, as if she had thought out her reply long before, she answered, "Nothing." "How do you mean, nothing?" I insisted. "Do you think it is really possible to kneel there for so long and do nothing?"*

'The precision of my question, which removed all possibility of ambiguity, seemed to disconcert her a little. She was not prepared for this kind of interrogation, and she took longer in replying. At last, she opened her lips: "What do I do before Jesus? Well ... be there!" she explained. And she fell silent again. It would seem to a superficial mind that she had said very little. But in reality, she had said everything.'

Into those few words, Father Arrupe saw, was condensed the whole truth of all those endless hours spent near the altar. *'Hours of friendship. Hours of intimacy, in which nothing is asked, and nothing is given. One is just there.'*