

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:

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

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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.

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year 8 August 2021



1 Kings 19:4-8

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

John 6:41-51

“I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life ...

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.”

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

Fr Jim Walls will be celebrating next Saturday's Vigil Mass in St John's in anticipation of the first anniversary of his Mum, Cathy Walls. Cathy's anniversary is on 28 August but Fr Jim has to return to the Scots College in Rome on 16 August (helping to look after it until the students return).

Fr Jim has very kindly offered to give a short illustrated talk on his Lindisfarne – Iona pilgrimage, made to bring attention to the plight of refugees – especially those in Calais – and to raise funds for the Marie Skobotsva House there. He will speak at 5.15pm, probably in the Hall – all welcome.

The next Baptismal Course will take place at 7.30pm in St John's Hall on Thursday 19 and Thursday 26 August....if you would like your child baptised, please make contact with Fr Jock sooner rather than later!

TOWER TOMBOLA - THE FIRST DRAW NEXT SUNDAY AFTER THE 9.30AM MASS

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. Please contact Catherine Mc Anenny on 07968 970159 if you want to take part.

THE NEXT HEALING MASS - THE FIRST FOR 18 MONTHS - WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16 AUGUST AT 2.30PM AT ST JOHN'S

Important Developments in Attending Mass In Our Parishes – NO NEED TO BOOK FROM THIS WEEKEND AT ST JOHN'S OR FROM NEXT WEEKEND AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S



Following the most recent Government guidelines, and while we await official guidance from the Bishops' Conference Covid Working Group (see below), we have increased the capacity within both churches with 1 metre distancing for most of our seating. **At St John's**, that is 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 now have a similar balance between 1 and 2 metre seating.

In our efforts to encourage more people to return to attending Mass, we are suspending 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 WEEKEND – 7-8 August, at the Vigil and 9.30am Mass in St John's - prior booking will not be required – however, a seat can be booked if preferred. That will also be the case from next Sunday (15 August) at St Mary Magdalene's.

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.

IF YOU STILL WISH TO BOOK A PLACE AT MASS

If you still wish to BOOK, please contact the Parish House by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm

Last Sunday in his homily Fr Jock quoted the Basque priest, Jose Pagola, and then promised to print the quotation in the following week's newsletter:

After twenty centuries of Christianity do we not need to discover once more that the whole strength and originality of the Church lies in believing in Jesus Christ and in following him? Do we not need to move away from the attitude of being followers of a religion of beliefs and practices, and instead focus on living as disciples of Jesus? The Christian faith does not consist primarily in faithfully complying with a list of practices and new observances superior to those of the Old Testament. Definitely not. Christian identity lies in learning to live a way of life that is born of a living and trustful relationship with Jesus Christ. We become Christians in the measure by which we learn to think, feel, love, work, suffer and live like Jesus.

To be Christian today demands an experience of Jesus and identification with his project which were not required some years ago in order to be accepted as good practicing Christians. To survive in a modern secular society, Christian communities need more than ever to adhere to and maintain a vital contact with Jesus, the Christ.

NOTICE BOARD



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, no booking required

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

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

Monday 9 August – Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

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

2.00pm – St Mary Magdalene's – **Wedding of Roy Virnodkar and Valentina Furtado**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All** – to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83188359821?pwd=amdzVGxKdlhtMDBnTjhhBWVZDZWJCU09>

Tuesday 10 August – Feast of St Lawrence

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

Wednesday 11 August – 10.00am - St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 12 August - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Friday 13 August

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'

1pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Alice Ferguson (Deacon Eddie)**

Saturday 14 August –

11.30am – St John’s – **Baptism of Joseph Beresford**

12.30pm – St John’s – **Baptism of Norah Todd**

5.15pm – St John’s Church/Hall – **Illustrated Talk by Fr Jim Walls on his Lindisfarne to Iona Pilgrimage**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass (celebrated by Fr Jim Walls)** – livestreamed, no booking required

Sunday 15 August – FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass with baptism of Freya Cockburn** – livestreamed, no booking required

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – **No booking required**

BETHANY’S BEFRIENDING SERVICE INVITES YOU TO A...

Passing the Baton Free Taster Training Session to Support your Church
Befriending lonely and socially isolated people in your local Community

Tuesday 14th September 2021, 7.00 – 8.30pm on Zoom

“Loneliness can be profoundly damaging for mental and physical health. Social isolation and loneliness are not the same, but they are closely related.

The current recommendations to practice social distancing, and limit social interactions mean that many people will be feeling the effects of isolation in our communities.” Dr Jenny Groarke, a Health Psychology Lecturer

‘Join us for an inspiring taster training session which will equip your Church towards build meaningful friendships with people who are lonely and socially isolated in the community. This free training session is open to all Church leaders and members who want to help befriend people back into their community after the pandemic by demonstrating God's love in action.

- Why is friendship important? • What makes a good conversation? • Listening to understand and support people
- Helping people to empower themselves to take action

Please book spaces by registering at Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/passing-the-baton-training-tickets-165895286267>

Please contact us by email, ptb@bethanychristiantrust.com or phone us on 07969 771659/ 07990 078377.’



Parish Register



Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Kathleen Nangle
Christina Burke
Alice Ferguson**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**Peter Wilson
Paddy Bannon
Pat Gilhooley
Catherine Alton**

Anniversaries:

St John’s

Aug.7: Michele Gradone (2015); Adam Black (2014); Kathleen Innes (2002); Arthur Lonie; William Murray; Gerrardo Ranaldi;

Aug.8: Mary Thornton (1969); Andrew McGovern;

Aug.9: Mary Treasurer (2000); George Kirk (1987);

Aug.10: Veronica Schmelter (1995); Elizabeth Garland (1994); Domenico Demarco;

Aug.11: McMullan Family;

Aug.12: Martha Anthony (2001); Eddie Cullen (1941);

Aug.13: Hugh Ward (2001); Eleanor Gracie (1999); Catherine Lowe (1987);

St Mary Magdalene’s

Aug.7: Jim McKaill (2001);

Aug.10: William Gillespie (2004); Michael A Atkin (2000);

Aug.11: Amedeo Alonzi (2004); Barry Ledden (1968);

Aug.12: Pat Gilhooley (2013);



*Please pray for those Parishioners
who are sick:*

St. John's:

Catherine Walker, Anne-Marie Lofthouse, John Freeman, John Waugh, May Thomson, Josie Tilley, Evelyn Oldershaw, Sheila and George Service, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Mike Iannarelli, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, Celia Stone, 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, 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:

Susannah Bauld, Jean Douglas, Denis Davidson, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jr, 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 – 1 August 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£82.00 total including Offertory of £67.00 and Gift Aid of 15.00	£1579.00 total including Offertory of £391.20, Gift Aid of £197.80 and £990.00 Online Donations

**THANK
YOU!**



GRIEF

*Grief is an ache that resides in the heart,
the faint echo calling us back
to the times of loss.*

*Grief asks that we honour the loss and,
in doing so,
deepen our capacity for compassion*

*We are called back,
not so much to make things right,
but acknowledge what happened to us.*

(Frances Weller)

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR 19th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - John 6: 41-51

I enjoy 'people watching', and like nothing better than sitting quietly on a bench somewhere and just observing the world go by. Depending on your viewpoint I am blessed or cursed with a vivid imagination. I often worry that it may get me a bloody nose, one of these days: "What are you looking at, mister?" I consider myself to be in good company. In the late 1980's I found myself observing Rowan Atkinson on the main concourse in Central Station, Newcastle. I surmised he was waiting for a connection to Kings Cross as he constantly scanned the Departure Board. Most travellers were too busy to notice him. When he wasn't checking the board, he was watching the people around him. I, in turn, watched him – discreetly, of course. The only difference between the two of us was that he was making detailed notes. This is probably why he went on to become a successful writer of comedy and I ended up writing this weekly rambling discursive. I create my own mini dramas around the people I watch and will never know the accuracy or otherwise of my observations.

Around about the same time as my brush with fame, I was a frequent visitor to a psychogeriatric hospital. Most of the residents were long-term and to a large extent had been forgotten. I saw the same people, week after week. I developed a soft spot for many of the residents, but there was one that I favoured. I'll call her Martha. She possessed thick, white hair and it was clear that in her youth she had been a red-head for there was just a hint of ginger in that whiteness. She possessed eyes that had once been blue, but now were clouded and distant. Her skin enjoyed that smoothness and softness that many develop with age. Most of her days saw her sitting and staring into space, and I sat with her every week for anything between 15 minutes and half an hour. There was no conversation but as you can imagine, that didn't stop me chatting. One of the professional carers had encouraged me to talk about everyday things: 'You never know, something might spark with her!' So, I rambled onand on...and on. With the fingers of her right hand, she constantly toyed with the wedding band on the third finger of her left. Whenever her right hand was moved away – washing, dressing, eating and so on – her levels of stress and anxiety grew. Being able to feel the ring seemed to bring her comfort and security. Occasionally she would take my hand and place it on her wedding ring, and I thought I caught the glimpse of a smile but was never absolutely certain: it could just as easily have been trapped wind! Her mind had for many years been locked away from all of us – but not necessarily from herself, and that is maybe why she drew comfort from knowing the wedding band was there; it transported her to a more peaceful place, and she wanted to share that place and that peace.

We're continuing our journey through the 6th Chapter of John's Gospel. We're being led by the hand. Jesus reaches for our hand. It's a gentle journey and Jesus is painstakingly leading us towards an understanding of what is meant by a living relationship with God as Father. This weekend, his fellow Jews are becoming irritated by the content of Jesus' teaching. They question his claim to be the bread that came down from heaven. They argue that they know his father and mother. What is this crazy talk about *the bread of life – the bread come down from heaven so that a (wo)man can eat it and not die?* Their incredulity gets the better of them and they grow deaf to his words. Jesus teaches that anyone who believes, already **has** eternal life. Belief means that God lives in us and we in him. Life in God is for the here and now. It's not something out there, something beyond our grasp. We **have** eternal life. It's in embryonic form – but it's real - and will come to fruition in the peace of Heaven. He is there when we wake and greet the first light of dawn and He is there as we turn off the light and allow restful sleep to wash over us. He walks with us, every step; we breathe his life and spirit for we are in comm-union with Him. Jesus is leading up to his Eucharistic discourse, and next week we reach something of a climactic point. This week we ready ourselves by reflecting on what is meant by being in a relationship of faith. Through faith we **have** eternal life; here, now – not sometime in the future. Just let that sink in. Faith brings us into a relationship that is not dependent on physical proximity. The relationship that I enjoy with God as 'other', is as real as any of my earthly relationships. To find peace in her troubled mind, all that Martha needed to do was to feel her wedding band roll around her finger. To find peace in our troubled world, all that we need to do is recognise and reflect on the fact that we live in God and God lives in us – and He will never abandon us.

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 30 – Watching What God is Doing



Gethsemane: The Prayer of Jesus

The kind of spirituality and prayer many of us have been used to is concerned with making things happen, asking God to do things for us, trying to do things for God. Our prayer of stillness is all about being with God without any agenda. It is about just being there.

We no longer have to see our spiritual life as a kind of battleground where we exert ourselves to combat our faults, or to attain the good qualities we associate with living the gospel. Nor do we have to strive to come closer to God. Our starting place is not here. As we have learnt from Augustine, the starting point is in resting, in finding the place of rest within. And from this place of rest, we watch what God is doing for us now and has done in the past.

We focus on what God is showing us and we watch our reactions. It is an exciting adventure. As God sheds light into our hearts we resist trying to understand, or to make sense of our lives. That will come later. As we become quieter, as we learn how to watch, how to observe patiently and with compassion, we become aware of what is going on.

In the silence we know we have a choice. We do not have to be at the mercy of our thoughts and feelings. We let our thoughts come and let them pass on. We remain still and observe our feelings. We become detached.

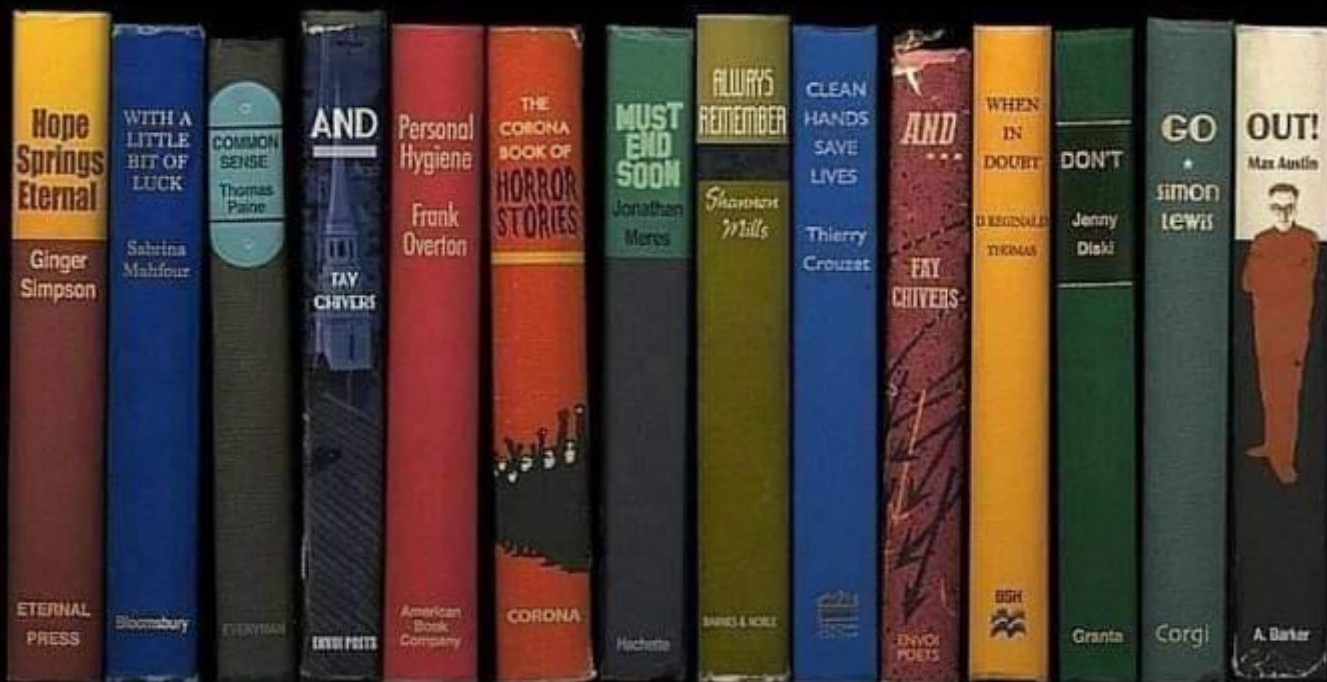
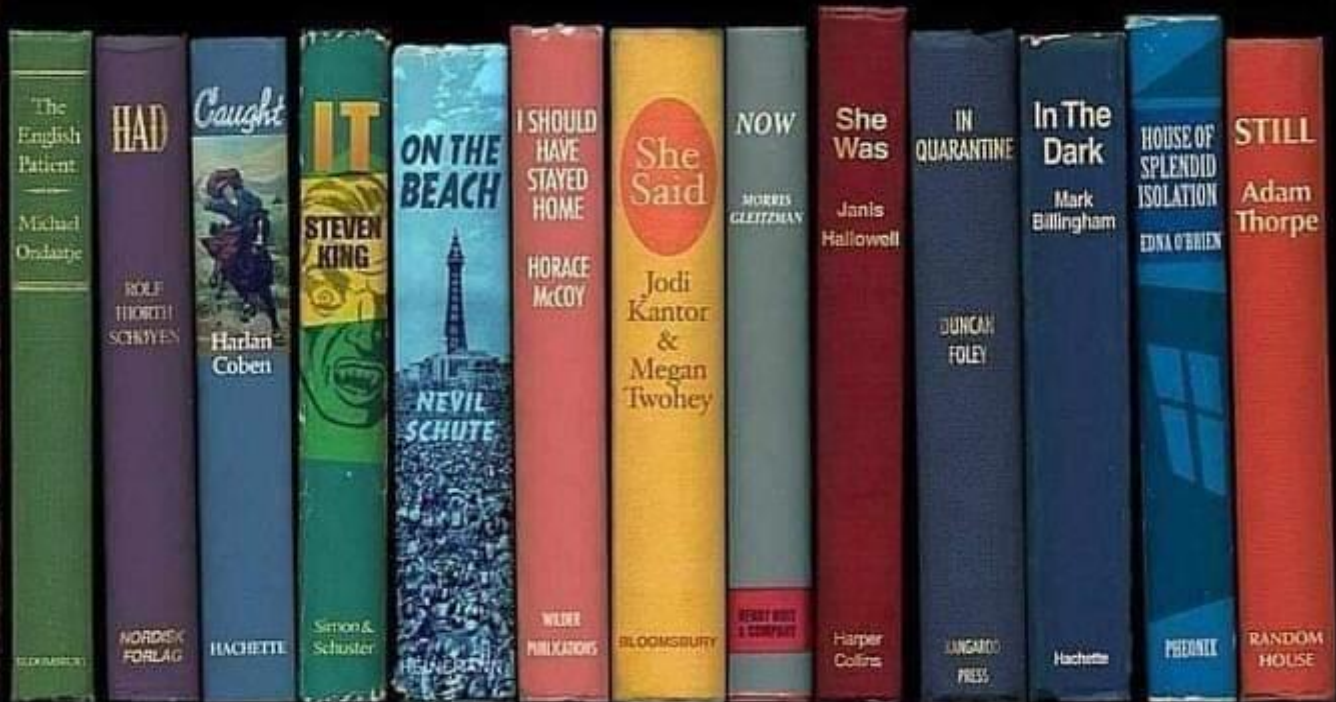
It is a crucial turning point when, instead of being tossed around by our thoughts and feelings, we stay and watch them, refusing now to go chasing every stray thought, or being dragged away by every stray feeling.

We watch our thoughts as if we were standing at a window and they were passing along on the other side of the street. We observe them, distance ourselves from them, and just label them: anger, say, obsession, or resentment. It is totally different from introspection, which is the ruin of silent prayer. We become observers, rather than players in the games that are going on inside.

Even good thoughts, spiritual thoughts, that come to us are meant to be gently put aside. This is not the time for any thinking whatsoever. It is a time to rest from all effort, except the effort to remain still. We are just sitting, in touch with the present moment and taking stock of where we are. There is no tomorrow, no yesterday. There is just the present moment, and we rest in it.

While we are sitting, simply experiencing the present, experiencing the chair we are sitting on, listening to the sounds on the road outside, we begin to observe our mind and its movements. We are wide awake, watching, more alive than when we are dragged along by our fears, our anxieties, our fantasies. We stay alert, receptive, and keep ourselves from daydreaming or drowsing off into sleep. Jesus told his disciples, *'Wait here and stay awake with me'* (Matthew 26:38).

For a few moments we come into the present. Our vision has altered. Our perception of everything changes. We see how things really are.



👉 👉 Read the titles from top left onwards ...arranged by a librarian. Simply brilliant! 😊 😊