

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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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

Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini

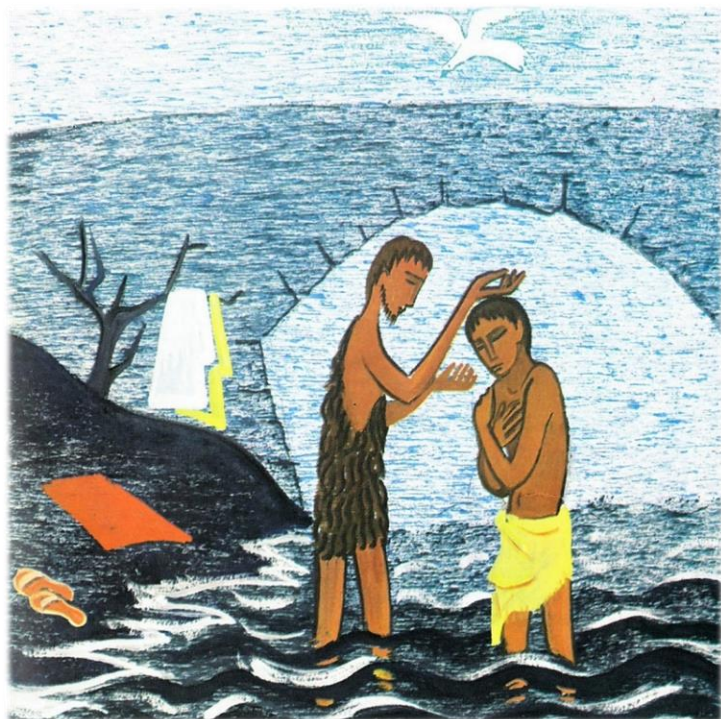
(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

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



12 December 2021 Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday)

'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

There were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

(Luke 3:16-18)

(Illustration by Eric de Saussure, friar of Taizé, taken from "Bible Illustree", 1968)

With the advent of the Omicron Variant, and a further Coronavirus Wave, the Scottish Government is recommending we each take at least two lateral flow tests a week...in order to keep each other safe, so can we gently we suggest that one of those is take before you come to Mass....?

THIS SATURDAY – 11 DECEMBER – OUR CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT WITH FR MARTIN MORAN OMI

The Retreat – for our five parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St John's, St Teresa's, St Ninian's and St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith - will take place in the Church Hall of St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith, **between 10am and 1pm**, led by Fr Martin Moran OMI...No charge but donations welcome at the end to cover costs. Do please sign up on the lists at the back of both Churches.

TODAY IS OUR ANNUAL ADVENT RECONCILIATION SUNDAY

... with several priests available before each Mass to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. At each Mass, an 'Examination of Conscience/Consciousness' will be given out, as always focusing on 3 simple questions:

What do I most want to thank God for? (A confession of gratitude)

What do I most want to ask forgiveness for? (A confession of sorrow)

Where in my life do I want to ask help and healing? (A confession of trust)

The Tower Tombola Draw for December will take place after the 9.30am Mass at St John's this Sunday

Sunset Benediction - Sunday 12 December at 3pm.

Deacon Eddie writes: 'A reminder of the Benediction service this Sunday, 12 December, at 3pm in St John's. It is a chance to listen to some gentle music, some reflective prayers and receive the Benediction Blessing. This will be followed at 3.30pm by half an hour of peace and quiet – an opportunity to sit quietly in the candle-lit Church. Benediction is open to all, with everyone very warmly invited to come long or to join us on the link - <https://youtu.be/ut1JB1g68Ng>

INSTALLATION OF 6 NEW CANONS

This Tuesday, 14 December at the 12.45pm Mass in St Mary's Cathedral, Archbishop Cushley will 'install' 6 new Canons (Fr Kenneth Owens, Fr Jeremy Bath, Mgr Patrick Burke, Fr Brian Gowans, Fr Jock and Fr James Tracey). The Cathedral Chapter in our diocese is composed of a Provost (Canon Joe McMullen) and eleven Canons, normally the eleven most senior (by year of ordination) active priests in the diocese.

CHRISTMAS MASSES – OUR PROVISIONAL TIMES

It has been difficult to decide on exactly when to have, and how to organise, our Christmas Masses because of the ever-changing situation in which we find ourselves, but the provisional plans are that as usual we celebrate 3 Masses:

Christmas Eve - 6pm – St John's – Mass for Children and Families

Christmas Eve - 8.30pm – St John's – Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - 10.30am – St Mary Magdalene's – Christmas Children's Mass

At all Masses, there will be one metre distancing.

We are reintroducing booking for the 6pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve – opening this Tuesday at 10am – email stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com – or ring 0131 669 6518 (during parish office hours).

It is very likely that there will no seats available for those who just turn up on the night because the Church will almost certainly be full... indeed, we are looking at the possibility of an additional 4.15pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve if we are heavily overbooked.

In addition, **seats can be booked for the 8.30pm Mass** on Christmas Eve but it is likely (depending on the number of people who do book) that some seats will be available for those who turn up on the night.

There will be no booking for the 10.30am Children's Mass on Christmas Day at St Mary Magdalene's. However, as with the other Masses, there will be a limit on numbers.

DO YOU WISH YOUR CHILD TO BE ENROLLED FOR CONFIRMATION?

Bronagh Power, co-ordinator of our Confirmation programme, writes: 'The date for the Confirmation Ceremony celebrated by Archbishop Cushley has been set for Tuesday 24 May 2022. We are due to start our programme of preparation in January. Parents of pupils at St John's Primary School have already signalled their intentions to participate. We'd like to warmly invite any other parents from our two parishes who would like to present their children for Confirmation in 2022 to contact either Fr Jock (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) or

This Week

Saturday 11 December

10am-1pm – St Mary's, Leith - **CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT**, led by Fr Martin Moran

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** – livestreamed

Sunday 12 December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (RECONCILIATION SUNDAY)

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

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

3.00pm – St John's – **Sunset Adoration and Benediction**

Monday 13 December

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

7pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89572492381?pwd=Tk5YWQ0Y0FPQ1dyMnVHMTR0NmQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 895 7249 2381 Passcode: 561294

Tuesday 14 December

12.45pm - St Mary's Cathedral – **Mass with Installation of 6 New Canons (Fr Kenneth Owens, Fr Jeremy Bath, Mgr Patrick Burke, Fr Brian Gowans, Fr Jock and Fr James Tracey)**

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

7.30pm – St John's Hall – **RCIA Enquiry 3**

Wednesday 15 December - 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

Thursday 16 December - 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

Friday 17 December - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – livestreamed

Saturday 18 December

6.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**

Sunday 19 December – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

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

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Thursday 23 December

11am – **An Advent/Christmas Ecumenical Pilgrimage Walk around the Churches of Portobello, starting at St John's**

3pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Ann Emsley**

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

Diploma in Catechetics 2022 - Get ready to explore the richness and depth of the Catholic faith with course leader Sr Anna Marie McGuan from the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. She and a range of guest speakers bring you online lectures each Thursday, guided reading, one-to-one support, retreats and supplementary courses on Zoom and YouTube. The Diploma in Catechetics lasts one year, begins in January 2022 and costs £200. Registration is now open at bit.ly/DiplomaCatechetics2022

Restoration of Sunday Obligation - The Bishops of Scotland have decided that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation will be reinstated from **Sunday 2 January 2022**. Their pastoral letter can be read at bcos.org.uk

40 Hours' Devotion - The 40 Hours' Devotion has started and takes place in parishes across the Archdiocese throughout this new liturgical year. It continues this weekend in the parishes of St Patrick's in Kilsyth and St Mark's, Oxfords. Come and pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Full parish schedule for the 40 Hours' Devotion: bit.ly/40hoursschedule

Advent talks: Faith, Hope & Love - Find out more about the season of Advent and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love in a series of online talks held each Monday in Advent. Hosted by the Archdiocese, the third talk is on Monday 13 December 7:30pm-8:00pm, with Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. No registration required, simply use this link each week to join: bit.ly/AdventTalk (or webinar ID: 891 8951 4801).

Advent: Rosary for Life - Join parishioners and clergy from across the Archdiocese each Tuesday throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. It continues at 7:45pm this Tuesday (14 December) and includes a reflection from Fr Martin Eckersley of St Francis Xavier in Falkirk. Event on Zoom, register at bit.ly/14DecRosary

Feast of the Holy Innocents - Archbishop Cusack will celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents in St Margaret's Chapel, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB, at midday on Tuesday 28 December. The Mass has been organised by our Pro-Life Office and will be followed by refreshments, covid guidelines permitting. Register at bit.ly/InnocentsMass21

The Archdiocese is recruiting - The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is looking to recruit a full-time Religious Education Adviser (Primary Schools). Closing date for applications is this Monday (13 December). Details at bit.ly/vacancy_2021

Mary's Meals: Double the Love - Until 31 January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a group of private donors, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to donate, including choosing Mary's Meals gift cards as a meaningful gift this Christmas, or setting a virtual place at your Christmas table. Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk



"I heard your prayer.
Now trust my timing" – *God*

The highest compliment we can give to God, our Creator, is to thoroughly enjoy the gift of life. One should never look a gift universe in the mouth. The best way to pay for a beautiful moment is to enjoy it.
(Ron Rolheiser)

Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven. (Pope Francis)

NOTICE BOARD

THE RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) HAS RESTARTED – WITH THE THIRD ENQUIRY SESSION THIS TUESDAY AT 7.30PM

(and it's certainly not too late to come along....)

Would you like to discover more about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Faith? You would be most welcome to come along to our informal gatherings on Tuesday evenings, at 7.30pm in the St John's Church Hall. Portobello. For more information, contact Fr Jock on 0131 669 5447 or jockdalrymple@postmaster.co.uk

St John's and St Mary Magdalene's Christmas Fayre

Chris Vinestock writes: 'Thank you to all our Parishioners and friends who gave so generously of their time and effort in making our Christmas Fayre such a happy community event. We are indebted to all the stall holders ensuring that there was such a variety of items to buy or win.

Special thanks to Mike Kinane, John Morrison and Neil Simpson for providing us with live Christmas music. The total raised the wonderful sum of £3,620.'

A message from the Justice & Peace Group SCIAF Real Gifts – Thank You

Jim Roarty writes: 'A big thanks to all who bought SCIAF Real Gift presents. As we mentioned, previously, jointly between the J&P Group and our two parishes, we raised £1088 for Water for a Village.

In addition, from the sale of the gift cards after the Masses this last two weekends and also at the December Fayre, you contributed a further £1073.

And finally, a parishioner of St Mary Magdalene's, who prefers to keep their shining light under a bushel, purchased the gift of Water for a Village, a further £1088 (Gift Aided, so we can claim an additional £272 back from the taxman next year, to help with the cost of providing meals for the Bethany Overnight Welcome Centre etc).

So, in total, we have been able to send off to SCIAF £3249 this Advent to help the lives of the people whom SCIAF support. Thank you again.'

(PS. SCIAF Real Gifts are still available to purchase online at <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/real-gifts-store>)

Prayer at Night

A fortnight ago we started online Prayer at Night during Advent. This is on Zoom each night and will continue through the winter months until Easter, 17 April 2022.

The prayer will start at 9.15pm each evening and last for less than 15 minutes.

This is an initiative for our two parishes, St John's and St Mary Magdalene's. However, because it is online it is also accessible for people wherever they are - and all are very welcome.

For ease, the Zoom link will be the same each evening:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9129622900?pwd=b1F1THhtY3NVeGptOWY0VGw2K2xBQT09>

Meeting ID: 912 962 2900 Passcode: Prayer

We will include the link in the parish Newsletter each week and it will also be on the parish website and Facebook page.

FOR THOSE STRUGGLING TO FIND THE LINK FOR NIGHT PRAYER AND/OR STRUGGLING TO REMEMBER AT 9.15PM – AN INVITATION TO SIGN UP FOR AN EMAIL REMINDER:

Deacon Eddie writes: ‘We’re all so grateful to Donald Scott and Lesley Reid who have been responsible for this superb initiative. Given the trouble they have taken, we want to help everybody who might wish to join in to be able to do so: See below for details of joining a daily reminder email list.

1. You don't need a Zoom account. You can join as a guest by clicking the invite link.
2. You don't need a microphone to join in. You are invited to join them in prayer, and to listen and reflect upon the prayers... but not over a microphone. Zoom couldn't cope with us all praying into microphones at once.
3. You don't need a camera to join either. (This means I don't need to worry about my hair sitting perfectly before night prayer begins.)
4. You don't need to be on Facebook or keep the newsletter link at hand. You could schedule the meeting in your calendar...although that isn't a level of organisation I have ever personally reached.

For this reason, we are proposing a trial of an email reminder:

Every day at 9pm, we will send an email out with the link for the evening's night prayer meeting. It is the same link every night but getting the email and 15 mins to organise ourselves will hopefully make it easier for all to join. Please email stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com to ask to be added to the email group (an invitation to our local and less local parishioners alike)

You can use a Zoom app on a phone or tune indirectly from the Internet. You can use Apple phones or Samsung phones - and any laptop or chrome book seems to work.

We really don't want technology to be a barrier to you joining us so if you would like to, but are unable to, join then let Enrico or myself know and we will do all we can to help you join in. (Our contact details are at the front of the newsletter)

THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC – the new fortnightly magazine (really replacing the Scottish Catholic Observer) – this week’s edition is available at the back of both churches - price £2 (let Enrico, the Parish Administrator, know if you would like a copy reserved for you.)

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O’Rourke

Chapter 48 – ‘My Silent Heart Opens Like A Flower’

Elizabeth Rimmer writes about her own wrong expectations in one of her poems:

*I thought perhaps You would come in splendour,
With choirs of angels and golden majesty;
And I would sing Your praises through all eternity - I have no voice.
I thought perhaps You would come in judgement,
But You ask no questions, make no accusations,
Only by your light I see my own sinfulness, And Your great mercy.
I thought perhaps You would come in power,
But You do not ask, or say, or do but only be,
And in the sun of Your silence, my silent heart Opens like a flower.*

‘My Silent Heart Opens Like a Flower’ by Elizabeth Rimmer (a Scottish poet, editor and translator) is reproduced by permission of the poet (www.burnedthumb.co.uk).



A fond farewell and the promise of our prayers to Pat and Brian Dishon, longterm parishioners of both St John's and St Mary Magdalene's, who moved to Gullane at the beginning of December. We hope Pat will continue to write her inspiring occasional View from the Pew.'

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Josephine Finnegan (sister of Anne Kinane)
Julia Furelaw (granddaughter of Jean McCraw) - Anne Emsley
Ann O'Brien (mother of Oonagh)

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Jean McCraw – Agnes Stone – John Cahill –
Maureen Callaghan
Roy McGillivray - Frank Baron –
John Ritchie - Fr John Robinson
Patricia McHugh - Jane Wright - Tina
Stevenson - Jim Duffy - Joan Peet George
Smith - Myles Durkin
Margaret Knowles – Stan Tweedie
Elizabeth Foster Melliar

Anniversaries:

St John's

Dec.11: Stan Tweedie (2014); Mary Meehan (2006); Bridget & Michael Meldrum; Annie Shrivener;
Dec.12: Jean McCraw (2019); John Ritchie (2016); Valerie Messent (2003); Myles Durkin (1975); Margaret Riach (1960); Ann Cassidy; James Daly;
Dec.13: Jane Wright (2016); John Dalrymple (2016); James Quinn (1991); Joseph P Gannon (1968); Agnes Stone (1964);
Dec.14: John Cahill (2017); Isabel Garvie (2015); Peter Brown (2004); Annie C Dobson (2002); Margaret Donaldson; Margaret Ward;
Dec.15: Maureen Callaghan (2019); Sarah Carty (2001); Janet Peters (1993); William Cotterell (1984); Jeannie O'Brien (1959); Edward D Maher (1958); Catherine Carvell; Catherine Connell;
Dec.16: Winifred Curran (2012); Margaret Mary Dick (2001); Patricia Scott (1999); John Nolans;
Dec.17: Annie Nelson (2005); William Cotterell (2000); Elizabeth Grieve; Mary Meehan; Maurice O'Neil;

St Mary Magdalene's

Dec.11: Winifred Graham (1981);
Dec.15: Baby Colin Newall (1968);
Dec.16: Patricia Scott (1999);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Margaret MacKenzie, Donna Buchan, David Dowie, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, John Waugh, May Thomson, 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, Mike and Patricia Lawler, 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, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Jacqueline Marinello, Anne Tolson, Sandra Watt, Sam Burns, Mary Cole, Denis Davidson, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Clive Davis, 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:

Bridget Bonner, John Slaven, Evelyn Tibbs, Helen Briton, Robert Daly, Una Johnston, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Caitlin McGillivray, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Caroline Minto, Henrietta Fraser, Pat Mulvenna, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Ant Ridge, Claire Johnston, Emma Bromet, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette,, Peter Millar, Leo Stone, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme

Offertory Collections – 5 December 2021



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£199.43 total including Offertory of £99.43 and Gift Aid of £100.00	£1395.50 total including Offertory of £293.10, Gift Aid of £322.40 and £780.00 Online Donations

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Luke 3: 10-18

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

Two of my childhood heroes were the Lone Ranger and Robin Hood. I loved the white stallion favoured by the Lone Ranger and even came to like Tonto's piebald pony. I liked them because they possessed the wisdom of Solomon with the guile of Poirot. Robin Hood was a hero because he always managed to outwit the Sheriff of Nottingham and would take the gold and treasure from (usually fat) Bishops who were venturing though the glen without a guide! His haul was then shared among the poor. Along with the rest of the world, I love it when good conquers evil whether it is James Bond crushing Spectre or Alec Guinness (aka Obi Wan Kenobi) sacrificing himself so that Luke Skywalker can take on Darth Vader and destroy the Death Star. My need to see good winning is a driving force behind my support of Jolyon Maugham and the Good Law project. He is singlehandedly taking on corruption and has enjoyed several victories in the High Court against the Government. He relies on public donations to fund his work, and I am happy to support him. Like the famous Elton John song 'I don't have much money but, boy if I did.... I give what I can. When I was feeling powerless and helpless against the system, he seemed to come along into my life at just the right time with an answer to the question posed in this weekend's Gospel passage. *What must we do then?*

One sentence this week has left me chilled to the bone and crying heartfelt tears, hot stinging tears that ran down my cheeks and into my tea even as I battled to stem their flow. They were some of the final words of 6-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes caught on the video camera installed by his stepmother and father to monitor him. He had been beaten, was struggling to stand, and his emaciated body can be seen clutching a duvet for comfort, crying out: "Why does nobody love me?" Imagine for a second what it must be like to feel so abandoned that the only thing you can plead is: Why does nobody love me? The prosecutors believe that the video camera was there for another, more sinister, purpose – it was there so that those who tortured him could revisit their cruel, criminal activity. It was to be their downfall. Faced with such evil, the question rings in our ears: *What must we do, then?*

What must we do, then? 'All the people' ask this question as they listen to John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness. John's answer is startling in its simplicity and clarity. *'No greed and no extortion: but above all, believe in the one who is following me, Jesus of Nazareth: listen to what he has to say and do as he says'* – then adding *I am not fit to undo the straps of his sandals.* Many years ago – and in a former life, I received the Ministry of Reader. I knelt before the bishop who handed me a New Testament. I can still remember the words that were addressed to me: *Receive the Gospel of Christ; believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.* As I stand in my 69th year, I hope that God finds my performance in this regard to be satisfactory. The question *What must we do then?* is never far away

Looking back to the time when I was being throttled by my addiction, I think I always knew what I must do – but I was never brave enough to do it. The road was too difficult, too uncomfortable to contemplate. I knew that I could ease the discomfort with another drink. So, I took another drink. But the question never left me. I always knew what I should do - but I chose not to listen. The reality is that we **always** know what to do, because the whispering voice of God from deep within our psyche never leaves us. We can stop our ears but when we remove our hands the voice is still there. He looks back at us every morning and every night from the mirror. When we listen to him, we instinctively know what to do.

Christmas shopping is always a stressful affair. On Thursday afternoon, my local Tesco resembled a scene from bedlam. Eventually I made a successful exit from the checkout area but not before I had pushed my trolley past a whole row of Brown Wheely Bins – each filled to overflowing with groceries for the local foodbank. One elderly lady was struggling with the mask as well as her shopping. She was putting a huge box of biscuits from her shopping into one of the bins. My heart felt giddy and light for I saw again that good will always conquer evil – she knew exactly what she should do – and I do too.