

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

0131 669 5447

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 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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year 12 September 2021

Isaiah 50:5-9; Mark 8:27-35; James 2:14-18;



He called the people and his disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

Our gratitude to Fr Jim Smith, celebrating our Masses this weekend, for his ministry among us this last fortnight, while Fr Jock has been on holiday.



LEGION OF MARY



Maria Igoe writes: 'The Legion of Mary celebrated the Centenary of its founding in Dublin on 7th September. The Praesidium in St John's began 42 years ago in November. Many parishioners have been involved in its prayer and apostolic works over the years. **At present we meet in the Parish House on Tuesdays at 10.30am.** We are always hoping that more people will join us so that we can expand our work. So, if you would be interested in finding out what we do in our outreach to parishioners, please come along on a Tuesday morning. You will be very welcome.'

Children Sacramental Preparation

Arlene Lauder writes: ‘The parishes Sacramental Preparation of P3 and P4 children will resume shortly. If your child is in primary 3 or primary 4 (or has not yet celebrated First Reconciliation or First Holy Communion) and DOES NOT attend St John’s primary school, please get in touch. We run a parish-based programme which prepares children for the celebration of the Sacraments in both St Mary Magdalene’s and St John’s churches. To register your child/children or to have a chat about what is involved please contact Arlene Lauder (Sacramental Coordinator) on 07950880833 or by email on lauder.82@btinternet.com or speak to Father Jock at any time.

THE SEASON OF CREATION – A NEW ‘SEASON’ INITIATED A FEW YEARS AGO BY POPE FRANCIS – BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER AND WILL CONTINUE TILL 4 OCTOBER - THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The Human Face of the Climate Emergency: A Call to Action

During the Season of Creation and in advance of COP26, the Commission for Caritas, Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh will consider the human face of the climate emergency during this mini colloquium. Online on Sunday 12th September from 3.00 to 5.00pm

The event will focus on:

- the disruptions in the climate that are driving people to become refugees • hearing from people for whom this is the present reality
- the current refugee situation in Scotland
- how we can respond.

The event will be led by commission members Agatha Kai Kai and Mike Mineter. Agatha Kai Kai is a Trustee of the Refugee Survival Trust (RST) whose mission is to minimise destitution among refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. She is a member of the St Columba’s Justice and Peace group and represents the parish in the Newington Churches Together Committee. Mike Mineter has been active in Justice and Peace groups for years, now mainly focusing on groups seeking ecological justice, working for a just future for all in Palestine/Israel and campaigning for morally responsible investment. He is a member of the Iona Community and works as the computing expert in a climate research group at the University of Edinburgh.

Register on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-human-face-of-the-climate-emergency-tickets-166962349883>

We have also recently received an invitation from our fellow cluster parish of St Ninian’s:

Dear Cluster parishes,

Greetings to you for the Season of Creation.

Please accept our invitation to join us this week on Wednesday (15th) at St Ninian’s Marionville for a Season of Creation meditation in our garden grounds.

For practical purposes (covid etc), we would be grateful if one of your parishioners would be the contact for your church and would let us know how many of you might be attending and would keep your own record of those people. [*Enrico, our administrator will kindly be the contact for St John’s and St Mary Magdalene’s*]

This is an outdoor event. We will have a couple of seats available at each meditation point for anyone who finds standing for any length of time difficult. Please let us know if any wheelchair user might be coming.

With best wishes

Cath Norman: catherinenorman21@btinternet.com 0131 669 1498

...and a Scottish Laity Network Initiative: A Faith Based Challenge to COP26 with Fr Seán McDonagh Thursday 23 September - 7.00-9.00pm on Zoom

Fr Seán, a Columban priest, has a long history of being an eco-activist and has written many books and articles that have all contributed to a deeper understanding of what is happening to our 'common home' and the need to take radical action. He also contributed to the research for '*Laudato Si*'. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, as women and men of faith, to discern the action needed at COP26.

You can register at: <https://forms.gle/WVAr5CN362v7VdYJA>

The final section of the evening will be in Breakout Rooms and these will be based on Diocese and, if requested parish. (If you would like to meet as a Parish Group and ask you to indicate that on the Registration Form.)

This Week

Saturday 11 September - 6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed

Sunday 12 September

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

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

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

Monday 13 September

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

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89894807877?pwd=VVhRQ1VSSGdtY0NjR0NuQWN2ZUdHUT09>

Tuesday 14 September - 7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass – livestreamed

Wednesday 15 September

10.45am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Requiem Mass for Ella Ayres** – livestreamed

6.00pm – St John's – Wedding Rehearsal for **Elise Haller-Shannon and Matt Zurowski**

Thursday 16 September

9.30am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Mary Phair** – livestreamed

3.00pm – St John's – **Wedding of Elise Haller-Shannon and Matt Zurowski**

Friday 17 September

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

11.00am – St John's – **Rosary at Our Lady's Altar**

5.30pm - St John's – Wedding Rehearsal for **Marie McGarrol and Martin Rennie**

Saturday 18 September

2.00pm – St John's – **Wedding of Marie McGarrol and Martin Rennie** - livestreamed

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

Sunday 19 September

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

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

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

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum' -

A national online event titled Interreligious Dialogue in the time of Pope Francis takes place at 11:00am-2:30pm on Saturday 18 September. Register at: bit.ly/InterreligiousEvent

NOTICE BOARD

A Request from the Justice and Peace Group

Jim Roarty writes: ‘**DRIVERS WANTED.** Several lunchtimes during the week, the Bethany Care Van distributes sandwiches to people in need on the street. These sandwiches are provided by Pret a Manger - basically what they have left over at the close of business. From time to time, Bethany sends out requests for people to uplift the sandwiches from the shops at closing time and take them to their depot in Jane St, Leith for the Care Van next day. If you are interested in helping with this, please let Jim Roarty know (jimroarty4@gmail.com - tel 07719952472). This would be an occasional commitment and obviously dependent on availability.’

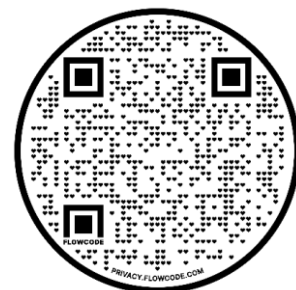
Listening is creative silence.
(Hugh Lavery)

There is a New Donation Option for the Tower Fund.

Frances McDevitt writes: ‘We now have an online donation function for those who prefer this as a method to contribute to our Tower fund-raising efforts.

It is now possible to donate to the Tower Fund via Apple Pay, Google Pay as well as with credit / debit cards. Donations of any value can be single or recurring. There is also a Gift Aid option on the donations page for taxpayers, increasing any donation by 25%. Our new online donation function is within the Archdiocesan ‘MyGivingHub’ arrangements, with payments directed to St John’s Tower Project.

The URL links and its associated QR code are included here for your information. Please share them with family and friends! The URL links will be available on the parish website and Facebook page. Look out for the QR code around the perimeter of the church building!



Thank you, in anticipation, for your continued generosity.’
<https://tinyurl.com/STJTOWER>

A message from Mary’s Meals An Incredible Milestone – 2 Million reasons to smile



Thanks to the incredible commitment and dedication of our supporters, volunteers, partners and staff in the UK and around the world we are thrilled to announce that we are now providing more than **two million children** in some of the world’s poorest communities with a nutritious meal every day they attend school.

This global movement and the meals we serve are making such a huge difference to millions of lives already, but there are many more children waiting. Together we can continue to bring hope in the face of hunger as we move beyond this milestone. Please continue to walk with us as we strive to reach the next child. **For more**

information, go to facebook.com/MarysMealsUKcharity

Coffee Saints

A new café has opened at St Mary’s Cathedral in Edinburgh! It’s called Coffee Saints and is a partnership between the Cathedral and the Grassmarket Community Project, a charity which supports Edinburgh’s most vulnerable citizens. All profits go to the charity. If you’re in the city, pop in and support a great new initiative.



Parish Register



Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Evelyn Oldershaw
Jacqueline MacCallum
David Tippett**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**Casimierz Cichocki
Hugh Shannon
Gerry Wynne
Albert Hancock**

Anniversaries:

St John's

Sept.11: Jimmy Maughan (2016); James McGrory (1997);
Sept.12: Alec Gilroy (2016); William and Theresa Morrison (1991); Bridget Service (1979); John McCann (1976);
Sept.13: Neil Griffin (1991); Annie Mouat (1991); Margaret Huntly (1988); Margaret Hartnett (1949); Thomas McDonough;
Sept.14: Hugh Shannon (2020); John Smith (2009); Janet Gilroy (1956); Agnes Devlin;
Sept.15: Gerry Wynne (2017); Sylvia Berry (2016); Alessio Lanni (2006); John West (2000); Joseph Waugh (1993); Veronica Haller (1969); Bridget Meehan (1958);
Sept.16: Agnes Cassidy (2000); Marian Craik (1994); Kitty De Marco;
Sept.17: Albert Hancock (2017); William Brown (1996); Alexander Nicholson (1985); Charles Tunley (1983); Margaret Griffin (1967);
Sept.18: Nicole DiBiasi (1999); James Robertson (1999); Norrie Lamb (1996); Leonardo Politi (1989); Mary Reading (1979); Robert Harrop (1976); John Adair; Annie Hanlon;

St Mary Magdalene's

Sept.13: Jimmy Henry (1982);
Sept.14: Samuel Hay (2001);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Catherine Walker, John Freeman, John Waugh, May Thomson, Josie Tilley, 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, 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:

Mary Cole, Denis Davidson, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, 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:

Margaret Cunningham (from the USA - sister of Bill Cunningham), Finny Paterson, Drew Shiels, Lewis White, George Lewis, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Rachel Kennedy, Gordon Marron, Una Johnston, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie Mc Anenny, John Kellagher, Murdo Tait, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Audrey Burgess, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette,, Peter Millar, Nan Doig, Leo Stone, 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, 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 – 5 September 2021

*Thank
You!*

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£300.10 total including Offertory of £109.10 and Gift Aid of £191.00	£ 1666.50 total including Offertory of £192.50, Gift Aid of £540.00 and £934.00 Online Donations

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Mark 8: 27-35)

Having decided some weeks ago, to forego meat from my diet, I now seem to eat a lot of lentils. Before cooking them, they need to be washed, and on Thursday, I was washing some in a pan in preparation for an evening meal. The swirling water and the brightly coloured lentils had a somewhat hypnotic effect. I found myself transported back some sixty years when at the age of 6 or 7, I would watch my elder brother playing with the model railway which we were all meant to share but which was really his. He had invested a lot of work and energy into that railway: the track was fixed to a board using tiny brass nails; there was a station platform, a waiting room and a signal box and a mail bag collection and delivery system, which to my impressionable eyes was nothing short of magical. I was an effortless time traveller, reliant not on a time machine, but on a pan of swirling lentils. I was back to a magical time, to the land of childhood memory, a time of innocence and purity. The water was poured off and refreshed, more swirling, more water – and this effortless journey back through time, continued. It had begun because of a grain hopper which formed part of the goods train. My brother had filled this hopper with a mixture of lentils and split peas to add ‘realism’ to the busy scene enacted before our eyes, eyes opened wide in excitement. I’m not sure how long I remained in this halcyon state, but I did have a pan of very clean lentils by the time I had returned to September 2021.

As well as these memories which floated effortlessly into my consciousness, I realised that I had also been blessed with an 8-year-old’s faith; with angels and sunbeams, statues with flowing robes, radiant smiles and with enough red paint to add realism to hands and feet that had been nailed to the cross, but not so much as to be gory. I was back in Primary school, I remembered the smell of the beeswax used to keep the corridor floors protected and shiny (and presumably outlawed in these days of health and safety) I heard Sister Mary John telling us to sit up straight and fold our arms, I heard Miss Ready threatening to ‘box the ears’ of anyone stepping out of line and Mr. McAuliffe adding a nuance to Sister John’s order; ‘Sit up straight, fold your arms, close your mouths and open your ears.’ And all this started by a pan of swirling lentils. For how long had I disappeared into my memory? – I have no idea. Weeks, months, and years were compressed in time. Was I glimpsing an understanding of eternity? I don’t know. We are told that dreams last seconds, often milliseconds, but we seem to experience hours in those seconds.

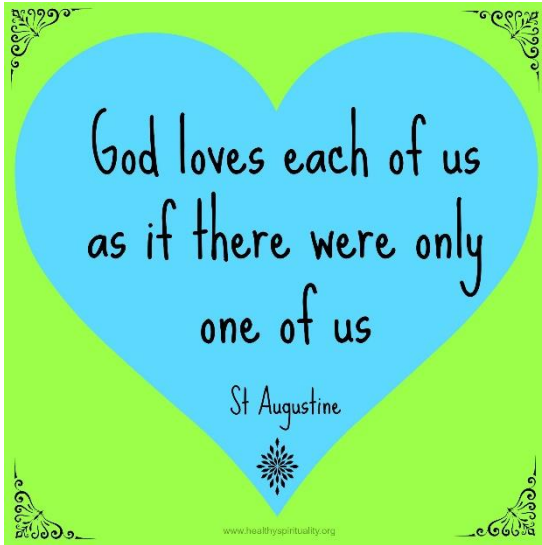
Lentils washed and back in the room I reflected on how far I have come in life, in my understanding of self and others, but more importantly in my knowledge and love of the God who created me. I have learnt much, discovered baggage carried and now discarded, and I have grown. I have learnt that God is Love and if I can strive to love as God does, then all will be well. Every living thing goes through a period of growth. I pray that I am still growing in that knowledge and understanding of the God with whom I will share eternity.

In this weekend’s Gospel, Jesus is conducting possibly the first ever opinion poll: *Who do People say I am? They reply, John the Baptist, Elijah or another of the prophets.* ‘But who do you say I am?’ It was Peter who spoke up: ‘You are the Christ’. And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. From where did Peter’s courage emanate? Was it a flash of inspiration akin to my hypnotising lentils or was it an awareness that had crept up on Peter over the few months he had known Jesus? After Peter’s profession, Mark proceeds to tell us that Jesus ***began to teach*** them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously.... The important word here is ‘began’. In other words, flashes of inspiration are one thing, but Peter and the disciples had much more to learn. In the Gospels we will witness aspects of Peter’s faith journey, his threefold betrayal and his three-fold commitment. Faith germinates with the tiniest of sparks, lasting no longer than a millisecond, but our journey with Christ will last for a lifetime. We are invited to participate fully in that same journey in the certain knowledge that we will never fully understand or comprehend - but we never stop striving to learn more...

for eye has not seen, nor ear heard, the things that God has prepared for those who love him. (1Cor 2:9)

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 35 – God Loves Us



*'Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse in Margery Williams' book, **The Velveteen Rabbit**. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time,' he continued, 'not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become Real.'*

Everyone needs to know that they are loved. In our journey through life the greatest discovery of all is that we are loved by God. Only that love makes us completely Real.

The truth is that God loves us and calls us his beloved. But our lives are often so busy that we no longer give ourselves the chance to hear him say *'I love you.'*

But some have a problem in accepting, in really believing or feeling, that God loves them. Jo, a regular visitor to our priory, tells me that she remembers the moment, in her thirties, when she first heard this message. She had grown up at a time when the fear of God was preached more than God's love, with the result that *'many of us were afraid of God, of being watched and judged, and threatened with God's punishment.'*

Jo tells me that she went to Mass one day in West London and heard the youngish Irish priest say this: *'Most of you have come here to live and work in London from different parts of the country and from all over the world, and when you come to this church you feel anonymous. You think nobody knows you and what has happened to you in your life, or what sins you may have committed. But God knows.'*

At this point, Jo said, her heart sank. But after a pause the priest continued: *'And God knows why your life has been as it is, and he loves you.'*

This was not what she expected to hear thirty years ago. Most members of the congregation, even the young, would have been waiting for what usually came next, the condemnation or the pep talk. *'To be told that God knows everything about us and our circumstances, and that he loves us because of everything, not even in spite of everything, was a revelation.'*

Sitting in silence allows God to wipe away our fear and our feeling of unworthiness. Gradually we become aware that the love God has for us is very real and that he loves us and cares for us just as we are.

As St Augustine wrote: *'You care for each one of us as if we were the only one you had to care for. Yet you care for all of us as if we were the only one'* (**Confessions 3.11**).

Too late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient, O Beauty so new. Too late have I loved you!

You were within me, but I was outside myself, and there I sought you!

In my weakness I ran after the beauty of the things you have made.

You were with me, and I was not with you.

The things you have made kept me from you - the things which would have no being unless they existed in you!

You have called, you have cried, and you have pierced my deafness.

You have radiated forth, you have shined out brightly, and you have dispelled my blindness.

You have sent forth your fragrance, and I have breathed it in, and I long for you.

I have tasted you, and I hunger and thirst for you.

You have touched me, and I ardently desire your peace.

(Confessions 10:27-38)

AN INITIATIVE FROM THE EDINBURGH JESUIT CENTRE SOME SYNOD SCENARIOS

(Three views of the Synod Process from The Amazon, Rome & Liverpool)

‘Pope Francis has called for a ‘Synodal Church’ that listens, learns and shares mission. Synodality is a word that we may not have encountered too often but it simply means ‘to walk together’ and this was a vital component of the early Church. The Catholic Church in Scotland is scheduled to begin the Synodal process in October; so why not join us at the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre this September to get a view of how this might look at grass-root level in different parts of the world. We are delighted to announce three speakers:

‘A View from the Amazon’ - **Mauricio Lopez (Executive Secretary for the Pan Amazonian Ecclesial Network)** - Tuesday 14 September - 7.30pm - Zoom & Facebook Live

‘A View from Rome’ - **Sr Nathalie Becquart (Under Secretary to the Vatican Synod of Bishops)** Tuesday 21 September, 7.30pm - Zoom & Facebook Live

‘A View from Liverpool’ - **Fr Philip Inch (Synod Moderator for the 2020 Synod in Liverpool)** Tuesday 28 September - 7.30pm = Zoom & Facebook Live

Zoom Login Information - Join us on Zoom by following the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814>

We shall also be streaming to Facebook Live (just type Edinburgh Jesuit Centre into Facebook)

Come along to a wonderful evening of classical guitar music with the internationally renowned Ayman Jarjour

Ayman Jarjour
Classical Guitarist

Tuesday
14 September 2021
7.00 pm

Concert in aid of *Palcrafts*, a charity that aims to reduce poverty in Palestine by selling Palestinian goods in its FairTrade shop, *Hadeel*

St Andrew's and St George's West
13 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PA

Tickets £12 from:
www.eventbrite.co.uk

Concert is in aid of *Palcrafts*, a charity aiming to reduce poverty in Palestine by selling Palestinian goods in *Hadeel*, its FairTrade shop.

Ayman Jarjour has performed in the Middle East, Europe, the US, Africa and the Far East.

Ayman holds a Masters degree of Music from the Juilliard School in New York and a Bachelor's degree from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid. He serves on the Faculty of the High Institute of Music in Damascus, Syria and has lived and taught in the UK, Spain, Sudan, Belgium and the US.

Born in Damascus, now living in Scotland, his repertoire includes work with Spanish, Latin American, Classical, Middle Eastern and modern flavours.

He plays an instrument made by Egyptian luthier Jean-Paul Haggar.

Ayman is involved with many refugee charities, and he is the Ambassador for Arts and Culture for the Scottish Refugee Council.

Tickets can be bought here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ayman-jarjour-classical-guitarist-tickets-167630446177>