

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

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

If you are visiting, are new to the area, or just live here, you are most welcome in our sister parishes. Please make yourself known to Fr Jock either in person after the Mass, by email or on the phone and ask for details of how to register on the parishes' roll.



Thirty-third Sunday of the Year, 14 November 2021

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:11-14. 18

Mark 13:24-32



*'The mystery of the poor is this:
that they are Jesus,
and what you do for them
you do for Him.*

*It is the only way we have
of knowing and believing in our love.*

*The mystery of poverty
is that by sharing in it,
making ourselves poor in giving to
others,*

*we increase our knowledge of
and belief in love'.*

(Dorothy Day)

This Sunday is the World Day of the Poor - a recent initiative of Pope Francis – ‘and a time to remind ourselves that as *“The poor will always be with us”*, so too practical charity is always going to be part of the Catholic’s vocation. One way of fulfilling that vocation is through **the Society of St Vincent de Paul**. Two of its projects serve broad areas of our Archdiocese. Its **Caravan Project** provides much needed break at Port Seton, while its Furniture Project helps people establish and maintain their homes while helping them avoid debt. The projects serve anyone in need. **This weekend, a Special Collection will be taken for the Caritas & Justice and Peace Commission specifically for these projects.**’

*Listen to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor
who suffer most.*

(Pope Francis)

This Sunday is also Remembrance Sunday – and we remember with gratitude and in prayer all those who have given/lost their lives in war and especially in the 2 World Wars.

Children's Liturgy restarts at the 11.15am Mass at St Mary Magdalene's this Sunday, 14 November – and there will be a meeting for leaders and adult helpers straight after the Mass. New volunteers most welcome – do turn up or make contact with Fr Jock...

Next Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, will be our first NAMETAG SUNDAY for two years!

LIVESTREAMING AND PRE-RECORDED SUNDAY MASSES... from this Sunday we will no longer be livestreaming the Saturday Vigil Mass: instead, the pre-recorded Mass from the Prayer Room will now be available online from 6pm on Saturday night. We will continue to livestream the Sunday 9.30am from St John's.

This decision has partly been taken because of the pressure on the small band of our faithful live-streamers – if anyone might be willing to join the team, please make contact with Deacon Eddie (07986 015772) - training provided...

The second of our November Bereavement Masses takes place this Tuesday, 16 November, at St Mary Magdalene's at 7pm.

This is gentle and beautiful candlelit Mass in which we remember our dead - and have the opportunity to light a candle for them... **Forms are still available** from the back of both churches for you to complete with the names of those you would like remembered and read out. (To ensure the Masses don't take too long the suggestion is that we limit each person to 6 names – the last of which might be – 'the Deceased Members and Relatives of the _____ family'). The completed forms should be placed in the boxes provided. Alternatively, anybody may email Chris Jones, who is kindly collating the names, on his email - chrisjones442@hotmail.com – using this link - <https://bit.ly/BereavementStJMM>

PVG Induction Part 2 Training

Margaret McCluskey, Archdiocesan Safeguarding Administrative Assistant, writes: 'Please note that Induction Part 2 Training should currently be done approx. 18 months after Level 1 or Induction Part 1 Training has been completed (duration approx. 90 Mins) - thank you.'

Trainer: Julie Brechin -
julie.brechin@staned.org.uk
Friday 26 November 2021 at 10 am
Thursday 9 December 2021 at 6 pm

Please book directly with Julie via the email address above. 30 places are available for each session and must be pre-booked to obtain joining details.

Please also provide your parish and role when booking - thanks!

This Week

Saturday 13 November

12.00pm – St John's – **Baptism of Laurie Bromet**

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

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**

Sunday 14 November – WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

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

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

Monday 15 November

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

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

5.30pm – St John's Hall – **Christmas Fayre Meeting**

8.15-9.30pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

To join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89901520236?pwd=QjZvT0wwZEVrNlZHTzBnN1J3bWF1UT09>

Tuesday 16 November – FEAST OF ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

7.00pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Bereavement Mass** – livestreamed

Wednesday 17 November

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

Thursday 18 November

9.15-9.45am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** – livestreamed

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

7.30pm – St John’s Hall – **Baptism Preparation Course – Evening 2**

Friday 19 November

9.15-9.45am – St John’s – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** – livestreamed

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

10.30am (straight after Mass) – St John’s – **Rosary at Our Lady’s Altar**

Saturday 20 November

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

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass**

Sunday 21 November – FEAST OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass with Baptism of Maisie Alba Tweedie**

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

Jesus in the Eucharist and You - The Archdiocese has put together a series of three videos titled *Jesus in the Eucharist and You*. They will help us prepare for the launch of the 40 Hours’ Devotion which takes place in every parish at scheduled times throughout the coming liturgical year. **Watch the first one on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel bit.ly/ArchYouTube**

Safeguarding - The latest edition of the Safeguarding Matters magazine from the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland is available at bcos.org.uk/safeguarding

Annual Archdiocesan SSVP Mass - The annual Mass to mark the charitable work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in our Archdiocese will be celebrated by Archbishop Cushley at St Patrick’s in the Cowgate, Edinburgh, at 11am **next Saturday 20 November**.

Prisoners’ Week Launch Service - This takes place at 7pm on Monday 22 November at St Mary’s Cathedral, followed by refreshments in the Coffee Saints café. Please register to attend at <http://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/events>

NOTICE BOARD

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT - During this period, in our Primary School, pupils will be encouraged to reflect upon the Catholic school as a community of celebration and worship, with Jesus Christ at its centre. **Next Sunday a Special Collection will be taken up for the Scottish Catholic Education Service.**

Legion of Mary’s November Visit to Mount Vernon - **Maria Igoe writes:** ‘The Members of the Legion of Mary will be going to Mount Vernon Cemetery on Tuesday 16 November, leaving St John’s at 12 noon. We will be praying in the Chapel there and then visiting our family graves. If you would like to join us, please phone me: 07981333219.’



Parishes' Christmas Fayre



Start your Christmas Shopping... lots of Gifts on Offer

On **Saturday 04 December 2021 from 10am to 1.30pm**, we're having a Christmas Fayre! This is the first social, in-person, fund-raising event in the sister parishes for 26 months.

The proceeds of the event will be shared between the St John's Tower Project and the St Mary Magdalene's Camera Fund. Please put this date in your diary and spread the word!

Plans are well underway, and we'd love to hear from people who can contribute to these stalls:

- ✚ bottle stall, home baking stall
- ✚ plant stall, book stall, jam & chutney stall
- ✚ other stalls are planned (raffle, competitions, and child-friendly activities)



No Bric a Brac..... Please support us – thank you.

Water for a Village'

One of SCIAF's **Real Gifts** on offer this year is Water for a Village. We take water for granted – simply turn on the tap and it is there. But for many in our world, the available water is dirty, polluted and disease-ridden. Over half of the world's population is dependent on agriculture but without water, crops won't grow – a problem aggravated by our changing climate.

Money from the "Water for a Village" Real Gift will go to projects designed with local partners and the involvement of the communities they serve to provide life-changing access to clean water, including building wells and lakes and by implementing irrigation systems This allows communities the opportunity to collect and store rainwater, so they always have water to grow their own food.

At £1088, this is probably too expensive for most of us as individuals but would be a wonderful gift from our two parishes, and to sweeten the pill, the Justice & Peace Group will cover half the cost - £544.

We are appealing, therefore, for donations from parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's and St John the Evangelist to donate the balance and help our two parishes to give a struggling village somewhere a Happy Christmas.

Donations should be given to Jim Roarty or any member of the J&P Group or handed in to the parish house or placed in the bright orange bucket at the back of the church (and remember – the J&P Group is a registered charity so if you Gift Aid your donation, it adds another 25%).

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

Words of Gratitude from Frances McDevitt for all the prayers for Baby Alfie McDevitt

'Thank you to all for your prayerful support over recent months. My great nephew, Alfie, will require further cardiac interventions in coming years, but, in the meantime, he is a happy infant who is thriving, much to the relief of his traumatised parents and wider family.'



The First Encounter between Great Aunt and Great Nephew – November 2021

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - Mark 13:24-32

I love the first few weeks of Autumn, when the leaves on the trees begin their final phase of life. Nature brings out her palette of colour. Our eyes feast on multitudinous shades of reds and browns; gold and orange. At this time of the year, the Sun never climbs quite as high in the sky and there is softness to its light, a light that gives renewed energy to the decay on display all around us. We rightly speak of our autumn years – there is a mellowness and richness in the early days of Autumn. I am not so keen on the last weeks of the season. Denuded trees lose their vibrancy, grey skies add to the gloom. The silhouettes of Trees, stark against the horizon, remind us of decay and decline. By early December I yearn for Springtime, but I know that Winter will hold back her arrival, but hopefully for just a short while. Earlier this year, I started hugging trees! (I have been assured that I am not going mad!) I am fortunate where I live. No traffic noise, and no people means I can focus on hearing and listening. At this time of year, there is little to hear but, in the springtime, you can hear the sap rising. It's akin to gently running water. You're right: I didn't believe it either, until I tried it! Around here, Silver Birch trees are the best but even those with a thicker bark yield their secrets if you listen closely. Trees whose life span far exceeds my own, share their secrets and life with me. If trees could talk.....what would they say to us? And, if they could think..... what would they think of us?

In 1992, James Carrville, a political strategist working on the Clinton Presidential Campaign in the USA, coined the phrase: *It's the economy, stupid!* It has grown into an oft-quoted mantra of many political campaigns ever since. As I write this reflection, the COP26 Conference is drawing to a close. It has warned of the catastrophic climate disaster that awaits us. The thought occurred to me that Carville's mantra could be tweaked somewhat so that it becomes: *It's the stupid economy.* Insatiable appetite for technology and gadgetry, the desire for air travel and 'clean' cars means that Planet Earth is being ravaged and plundered like never before. And for what? For the sake of the economy. Economies crave growth, Governments of all persuasion want to see an increase in GDP – arguing that this was why they were elected. And, it's true, most of us want a better standard of living for ourselves and our families – but do we want this increased standard of living, whatever the cost to our planet? I love Blueberries – though they are not a patch on the bilberries of my younger days when my Mam would marry them with Bramley apples and sugar and produce the purple richness of that most magical of pies: Bilberry and Apple Lattice Pie. Bilberries grow wild in the north and West of the UK, and are usually available in August-September time. On the other hand, Blueberries are available all year round – as long, that is, if we don't mind them travelling halfway round the world. Do I want my blueberries whatever the cost to the planet or can I make do with home-grown seasonal fruit?

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus urges us to learn to read the signs of the times. He suggests that we take off our blinkers, let the scales fall from our eyes: *Take the fig tree as a parable; as soon as its twigs grow supple, and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.* Do you remember those days when motorway travel was a relatively speedy process rather than the tortoise-like crawl of today? We would make good progress – and might expect to be there before tea, but then orange lights start to flash, warning us to slow down for there is an obstacle ahead. The sensible drivers do slow down in obedience to the signage but there is always a handful of idiots who carry on in the outside lane. They don't take advice, they don't read the signs, their agenda is more important than anything or anyone else. Fools!

The Earth does not belong to us. God has loaned it to us. We are merely guardians for future generations. When we look for a used car do we buy from a 'boy racer' or would we look for one that had benefitted from a careful owner with full service history and the like? The challenge is ours. Will we be the ones who rise to that challenge or assume that future generations will sort out our mess? Will we follow the warning signs - or carry on regardless in the outside lane?



Please pray for those who have died recently:

John Allen

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**William Turnbull
Jude Payne
Domenico Fertini
Hugh Campbell O'Neill
Mike Delaney
Tom Plews
Sally Stone
Michael Reynolds**

Anniversaries:

St John's

Nov. 13: William Turnbull (2019); Tom Plews (2014); Anne Platt (1999); Rose Fox (1998); Martin Black (1997); Christina Service;
Nov. 14: James Pyper (2013); Kitty McDonald (2000); Mario Marcantonio (1998); Maisie McGrory (1997); Isabella Cheape (1982); Anthony Gallagher; Margaret Ward;
Nov. 15: Michael Reynolds (2018); Hugh O'Rourke (2006); Helen Shanley (1991); Agnes Loftus (1988); Agnes Rafferty (1987); Ferdinand McDevitt (1973); George Cordery (1948); William Henery; James Ward;
Nov. 16: Domenico Fertini (2017); Alexander Pyper (2007); William Cairns (1994); Daniel O'Lone (1979); Michael Clyne (1960);
Nov. 17: George Hooper (2014); Winifred Thomson (1997); Helen Flynn (1992);
Nov. 18: Fr. Gerry Jackson (1996); James P Meehan (1990); Annie Danial (1978); John Hartnett (1967); Harry Lawler (1965); Francis Flynn;
Nov. 19: George Harper (2014); James Flannigan; Charles I Jamieson (1948); Ella Flynn;
St Mary Magdalene's
Nov. 15: Charles Balfour (2003);
Nov. 16: James Madden (2007);
Nov. 19: John Murphy (1967);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Catherine Walker, David Dowie, Anne Polson, 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, 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:

Una Johnston, Michael Ramsden, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Ian Henderson, Stuart Falconer, Tom Sutcliffe, 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, Murdo Tait, 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, John Walsh, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Ranier Carpo, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, KMisia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme

Offertory Collections – 7 November 2021



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£344.00 total including Offertory of £199.00 and Gift Aid of £145.00	£ 1542.79 total including Offertory of £377.99, Gift Aid of £219.80 and £945.00 Online Donations

Louise Oliver, Admin Assistant from Missio Scotland, writes: ‘Many thanks for your recent cheques for £300.45 from St John the Evangelist Parish and £104.60 from St Mary Magdalene Parish in relation to Mission Sunday. It is very much appreciated, especially during these difficult times.’

RONALD ROLHEISER - OUR NEED TO SHARE OUR RICHES WITH THE POOR

We need to give away some of our own possessions in order to be healthy. Wealth that is hoarded always corrupts those who possess it. Any gift that is not shared turns sour. If we are not generous with our gifts we will be bitterly envied and will eventually turn bitter and envious ourselves.

These are all axioms with the same warning, we can only be healthy if we are giving away some of our riches to others. Among other things, this should remind us that we need to give to the poor, not simply because they need it, though they do, but because unless we give to the poor we cannot be healthy ourselves. When we give to the poor both charity and justice are served, but some healthy self-interest is served as well, namely, we cannot be healthy or happy unless we share our riches, of every kind, with the poor. That truth is written inside human experience and inside every authentic ethical and faith tradition.

For example: We know from experience that when we give of ourselves to others we experience a certain joy in our lives, just as when we selfishly hoard or protect what is ours we grow anxious and paranoid. Native American cultures have forever enshrined this in their concept of Potlatch, namely, their belief that, while everyone has a right to private property, there are real limits to how much someone may own. Once our wealth reaches a certain point we need to begin to give some of it away – not because others need it but because our own health and happiness will begin to deteriorate if we hoard all of those possessions for ourselves. Jewish spirituality shares the same idea: Again and again in the Jewish scriptures, we see that when a religious leader or prophet tells the Jewish community that they are the chosen people, a nation specially blessed, that affirmation comes with the admonition that this blessing is not for them alone, but that, through them, all the nations of the earth might be blessed. In Jewish spirituality, blessing is always intended to flow through the person receiving it so as to enrich others. Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic spiritualities, each in their own way, also affirms this, namely that it is only in giving away some of our gifts that we ourselves can remain healthy.

Jesus and the Gospels, of course, teach this repeatedly and without compromise: For instance, the Gospel of Luke, a Gospel within which Jesus warns us that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, nevertheless praises the rich who are generous, condemning only the rich who are stingy. For Luke, generosity is the key to health and heaven. In the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus reveals what will be great test for the final judgment, his single set of criteria have entirely to do with how we gave to the poor: Did you feed the hungry? Give drink to the thirsty? Cloth the naked? Finally, even more strongly, in the story of the widow who gives her last two pennies away, Jesus challenges us to not only give of our surplus to the poor, but to also give away some of what we need to live on. The Gospels, and the rest of the Christian scriptures, strongly challenge us to give to the poor – not because they need our charity, though they do, but because our giving to them is the only way we can stay healthy.

We see the same message, consistent and repeated, in the social doctrine of the Catholic Church.

From Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* in 1891 to Pope Francis' recent, *Evangelii Gaudium*, we hear the same refrain: While we have a moral right to own private property, that right is not absolute and is mitigated by a number of things, namely, we only have a right to surplus when everyone else has the necessities for life. Hence, we must always be looking towards the poor in terms of dealing with our surplus. Moreover, Catholic social doctrine tells us too that the earth was given by God for everyone and that truth too limits how we define what is really ours as a possession. Properly speaking, we are stewards of our possessions rather than owners of them. Implicit in all of this, of course, is the implication that we can be moral and healthy only when we view private ownership in a larger picture that includes the poor.

We need, always, to be giving some of our possessions away in order to be healthy. The poor do need us, but we also need them. They are, as Jesus puts it so clearly when he tells us we will be judged by how we gave to the poor, our passports to heaven. And they are also our passports to health. Our health depends upon sharing our riches.

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 44 – Becoming Whole Again



In his **Confessions** St Augustine describes movingly how God had made him whole after many years of brokenness. *'I find no safe place for myself save in you in whom all my scattered pieces are gathered together,'* he writes.

The journey to wholeness, he says, started when he withdrew to the quiet place of sweet solitude within his own heart. There he invited God to speak to him. *'Whisper words of truth in my heart,'* he pleaded, *'for you alone speak truth. I will leave outside those who do not believe, letting them stir up the dust in their own eyes, while I withdraw to my secret cell and sing to you hymns of love.'*

'I shall not turn aside until you gather all that I am into that holy place of peace, rescuing me from the world where I am broken and deformed and giving me new form and new strength.'

Augustine describes that holy place of peace in his commentary on John's Gospel. It is *'that innermost shrine of your deepest self,'* he tells us, *'that place of sweet solitude, that secret dwelling where there is no weariness, where no bitter thoughts enter, where there is no lurking temptation or heavy sorrow.'*

Looking back on his life Augustine realised that God had been healing him for a long time. All his life, while he had been vainly looking for love in the wrong places, he had been in God's hands.

God's healing touch had rescued him, above all, from self-love. *'You saw me and transformed my ugliness into beauty,'* he recalls. *'Like a balm which soothes my pain, your hidden touch healed my self love. And day by day you continued to heal me until the confusion and darkness were cleared from the eye of my soul.'*

Augustine sees self-love as the main bar to the love that beckons us towards God. He is aware that unless we are healed within we will be disabled, lacking the confidence and energy and the inner strength to become our true selves.

Our self-love is the result of our lack of belief in ourselves. Too often we accept other people's opinions of who we are. We compare ourselves with others and see ourselves as failures or as inferior to them.

Augustine would have us give up our futile searching for our identity in the eyes of others and go deep into 'the shrine of our deepest selves' to the one who loves us. If we allow the Lord to gather us to himself, to work in us, then the effects on ourselves as well as on others are healing and life-giving. The scattered pieces of our broken self are brought together. Day by day God heals our brokenness and we, too, become whole again. So Augustine bids us: *'Surrender to him now all your futile searching. What is withered in you will flower again.'*

Your sickness will be healed. What is faded will be fresh again, and what is warped made whole and strong and sound. And all that is weak in you will not drag you to the grave. But your wholeness will abide, will remain with you before God, who remains strong and abides forever' (Confessions 4.11).