

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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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

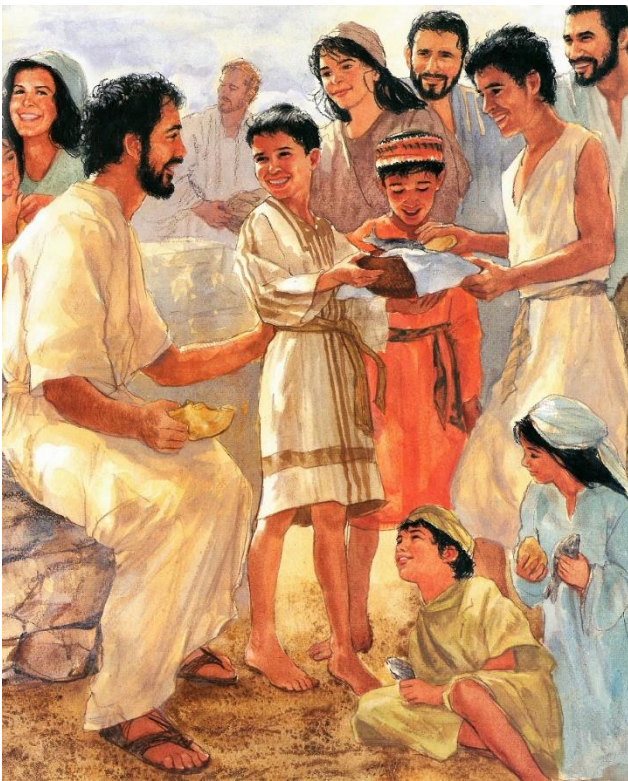
Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

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.



Seventeenth Sunday of the Year 25 July 2021

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted ... The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, "This really is the prophet who is to come into the world."

(John 6:11-14)

(Illustration taken from V. Gilbert Beers & C Bladholm's children's book 'Tell me the Story of JESUS', which Fr Jock found in a second hand bookshop in Carlisle a fortnight ago)

Today - 25 July - is the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

'On Sunday 25 July, the universal Church celebrates the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly at which we are all invited to celebrate and give thanks for the role and contribution of grandparents and older people to their families and our parishes.'

Many Congratulations to the P4 pupils who made their First Communion on Saturday 24 July at 11.00am, a Mass postponed from late June. Please pray for them: Olivia Archibald, Karol Klag, Helena Barrett, Sophie Shepherd, Maxymilian Flisek and Preston Murray.

The First Communion 'Season' is now completed – many many thanks to Arlene Lauder and the Sacramental Preparation Team for all their hard work and creativity, to the staff

of St John's Primary School likewise, and to Frances McDevitt and Paul Tansey, our musicians, Emily O'Brien and Fergus White, our 'livestreamers', Eliza Veitch, Gary Zoltie and Charlotte Lauder, our photographers, Linda Moran and Christina Vinestock, our sacristans, Derek De Fritas, our altar serve, and to the children and their families and to all who have helped make our first communions so very joyful...

Important Developments in Attending Mass In Our Parishes



Following the recent Government guidelines, and input from the Bishops' Conference Covid Working Group (see below), we are seeking to increase the capacity within both churches with 1 metre distancing for most of our seating. At St John's, that will be the case for all the seats in the main aisle. However, the seating in part of the sides 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 will be changing the seat numbers by next weekend, and will have a similar balance between 1 and 2 metre seating.

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

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

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

.....SO NEXT SATURDAY EVENING - 31 July - at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass, **prior booking will not be required** - ie **JUST TURN UP!** 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.

LATEST UPDATE FROM THE BISHOPS' COVID WORKING GROUP

(Chaired by Sir Harry Burns, Scotland's former Chief Medical Officer and Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Strathclyde.)

Covid-19 FAQs

Can holy water fonts be used? There is still a risk that the virus can be transmitted through the use of holy water fonts. The use of fonts is not advised until further notice.

What about the distribution of hymn books and newsletters? This may proceed as normal.

Can we have hospitality after Mass? This is possible within the current government regulations and guidance but caution is urged and table seating is mandatory. Please make sure appropriate hygiene and safety measures are in place. Refer to this guidance for more information [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-tourism-and-hospitality-sector/pages/2/index.aspx).

Can church halls be used for parish meetings? This is possible within the current government regulations and guidance. Meetings should only take place in person if necessary, otherwise they should continue online. They

should: have as few people as is necessary; be brief; be socially distanced and all the usual mitigations should be in place - cleaning, sanitising, wearing face coverings, socially distanced.

What about confessionals? The use of enclosed confessionals should continue to be avoided.

Do we need to continue with Test and Protect? Please continue to support the Test and Protect regime by the collection and temporary retention of parishioner information. However, if this is unduly burdensome parishes may collect information for just one person per family group. Alternatively, parishes may invite people to register for their usual Mass as a one-off and ask them to inform the parish if they can't attend.

What about cleaning procedures? We are still waiting on clarification about the cleaning of churches. We expect the need for this will be reduced but please continue with the procedures you currently have in place.

What are the main changes affecting places of worship in Level 0?

Scotland moved to Level 0 on Monday 19 July – it is the lowest level of covid restrictions.

- One metre social distancing instead of two.
- The max attendance for weddings and funerals is 200 (with one metre distancing).
- Congregational singing is permitted.
- Face coverings must be worn inside church, unless exempt.
- Names and telephone numbers of those attending church must still be taken.
- Sanitiser should still be made available for parishioners.

BOOKING PLACES AT MASS

If you wish to come to either of our 'live' Sunday Masses, please contact the Parish House by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 1pm.

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

This Week

Saturday 24 July

11.00am – St John's – **Mass with First Communions – livestreamed, by invitation only**

3.00pm – St John's – **Baptism of Leo di Sotto**

6.30pm – St John's – **Mass – livestreamed, booking required**

Sunday 25 July

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with baptism of Aoife Whytock – livestreamed, booking required**

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

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

Monday 26 July

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

4.30pm – Skype - **PEP meeting**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All** – to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82299022454?pwd=Q0k5eVNlVDNaV1c2ZFhDMEpkZnlKdz09>

Tuesday 27 July

11am – Zoom - Monthly Zoom conversation between Imam Hassan Rabbani and Fr Jock

6.00pm – St John’s - **Wedding Rehearsal for Stella Pezzilli and Alberto Giaccone**

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

Wednesday 28 July – 10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 29 July - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – livestreamed, no booking required

Friday 30 July

10.00am – St John’s – **Requiem Mass for Pat Hunter** – livestreamed, no booking required

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

Saturday 31 July

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

6.30pm – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, **NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

Sunday 1 August

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

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

New Canons of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter - To fill the recent vacancies in the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter, I have nominated Father James Tracey, Father Jock Dalrymple and Father Kenneth Owens. The new canons will be officially installed later in the year. On your behalf, let me congratulate them warmly.

Safeguarding webinar - The Bishops of Scotland invite clergy, religious, church employees and volunteers across Scotland to a national safeguarding webinar at 11am on Saturday 2 October. It will be a chance to find out more about the safeguarding document *In Gods Image v2* and reflect upon its implications for your safeguarding role in the Church. The link to register is: bit.ly/3gQRdPu

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - Sunday 25 July is the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, in which we are all invited to celebrate and give thanks for the role and contribution of grandparents and older people to their families and our parishes. **All are encouraged to make a visit or call an elderly person living alone on Sunday or the week ahead (observing relevant Covid guidelines).**

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM FR JIM WALLS

... to all those who sponsored his Iona to Lindisfarne Pilgrimage

‘On behalf of the St Maria Skobstova House in Calais please accept my thanks for your generous donations forwarded by Fr Jock (a most convivial walking companion). It was a great privilege to pilgrimage between Iona and Lindisfarne in solidarity with the migrants of Calais. Please continue to support them with your prayers and whatever practical means are at your disposal. Jesus’ final exhortation in Matthew’s Gospel spells out what, as Christians, we should be about...feeding the hungry...clothing the naked...welcoming the stranger...in supporting the Marie Skobstova House you are fulfilling these commands. May God bless you, Jim’

UPDATE ON THE TOWER

Chris Vinestock, St John's Fabric Co-ordinator, writes: 'As the weather is set to be favourable during the next weeks, we hope the work will continue to make steady progress.'

More pictures are regularly uploaded here: <https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk/home>



People at work!

Walter (on left) is working on preserving the original stones and Ian (on right) is removing defective mortar in preparation for repointing.



Pope honours Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has instituted the celebration of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to pay them tribute for wisdom they offer society. Starting this weekend, it will be held every year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus -- the parents of the Blessed Mother, according to tradition.

The original announcement was made in February. Referring to the February 2 feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple -- when the elderly Simeon and Anna recognized the child Jesus as the Messiah - Pope Francis said, "the Holy Spirit even today stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly."

The voice of the elderly "is precious," he said, "because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples" and remind us that "old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generation, to pass on to the young the experience of life." The pope lamented that "grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on" what the elderly have received.

Pope Francis who, at age 84 is old enough to be a great-grandfather, has spoken often about the role his own grandmother Rosa played in his life of faith and has urged grandchildren and grandparents to strengthen their own relationship. "I feel that this is what the Lord wants me to say: that there is an alliance between the young and the old," he wrote in a 2018 book called *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. His main point in that book was that "we need the elderly to be dreamers" so they can "inspire" youngsters to have hope for the future.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, in a press release said that the establishment of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly "is the first fruits of the *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year, a gift to the whole Church that is destined to continue into the future." "The pastoral care of the elderly is a priority that can no longer be postponed by any Christian community. In the encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, the Holy Father reminds us that no one is saved alone. With this in mind, we must treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation," he said.

With the newsletter there is an article from this week's Tablet giving further background to the origin of the day.

Welcome to the world...Lucia Nova Moffat, born on 29 June, a little sister for Sophia, and a second daughter for Jenny Ciancia and Andrew Moffat.

<p><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p>Doreen Train - Alistair Donald – Emma Williams - Gordon Walker - Ray Perrett - Pat Innes - Patricia Larkin - Harry Abbey James Meighan – Antonio Montanini</p> <p><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p>James McQuade – Alison Connarty – Erminia Notarangelo – Mary Caffarkey Rosemary McDevitt</p>	<p>Anniversaries:</p> <p><u>St John's</u> July 24: Alison Connarty (2018); Mary Cafferkey (2016); Catherine Tierney (2003); Francis J Meechan (1992); July 25: Marie Brown (2011); James Dignan (1995); David Gowans (1974); James Forsyth; Robert Clark (1981) July 26: Mary Elliott (2002); Michael O'Neill (1999); Alexander Binnie Jnr. (1967); John Trower (1942); July 27: Peter Connolly (1998); James Cassidy; John Kelly; Helen O'Hare; July 28: Rosemary McDevitt (2002); Catherine Lowe (1986); July 29: James Casey (2019); Fr. Konrad Haller (1976); July 30: Charlotte Hannavy</p> <p><u>St Mary Magdalene's</u> July 25: James O'Hara (1982); July 26: Erminia Notarangelo (2015); Richard McIntyre (1996); July 28: Rae Lang (2010);</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</i></p> <p>St. John's: Evelyn Oldershaw, Sheila and George Service, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Peter Kelly, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Joyce Martin, Mike Iannarelli, Chloe Sutherland, May Thomson, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, Celia Stone, Catherine Walker, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene's: Denis Davidson, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Newall, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:</i></p> <p>Una Johnston, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie Mc Anenny, John Kellagher, Baby Alfie McDevitt, 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</p>
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Offertory Collections – 18 July 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£122.61 total including Offertory of £5.00 and Gift Aid of £117.61	£1406.97 total including Offertory of £267.17, Gift Aid of £149.80 and £990.00 Online Donations

THANK YOU!

We have received cards for the parishioners of both parishes from Nik Birkett and Diana Williams, in gratitude for all who sponsored them through Fr Jock (and Derek de Freitas) on the recent 16-mile Rievaulx to Osmotherley walk raising funds for the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage.

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - John 6: 1-15

Although our ancestors may have been around for about 6 million years, humans in their present form are relative newcomers, having only existed for 200,000 years. This in itself is quite mind-blowing, but there are some who prefer to believe the historical accuracy of the and, in particular the Book of Genesis. For the most part, however, we are prepared to look at and accept the empirical evidence laid before us. These last few weeks has seen me re-visiting the Psalms. Probably, because I have always enjoyed *'The Little Prince'*, I love reading Psalm 8. Charles Spurgeon described the Psalm as 'The Astronomer's Psalm.' It reads: *When I look at the heavens, the moon and the stars you arranged, what is man that you care for him, mortal man that you keep him in mind? Yet, you have made him little less than a god... with glory and honour, you have crowned him.* If we compress the two hundred thousand years of human life on earth into a 24-hour clock, then our average life span of 80 years is represented by just over 34 seconds. It's not very long, is it? Normal 'blink rate' for us is between 12 and 15 blinks per minute. So, seven blinks and we're on our way. Humbling, isn't it? That's how insignificant we are in purely scientific terms.

Our faith tells us, on the other hand, that, in God's eyes we are much more significant. And in this regard, we have the author of Psalm 8 as noble company. Despite only 7 seconds, they are an irreplaceable seven seconds. We have a role and a function that will not be given to anyone else - for our contribution is as unique as we are. We hold as a tenet of our faith that every individual is made in the image and likeness of God. We can readily identify with the Psalmist in Psalm 90 when he says: *our life is over like a sigh.* We know that life is short, too short sometimes. We know of at least one person who has died before their time. Their death requires us to confront our own mortality: it's not always a comfortable place to be.

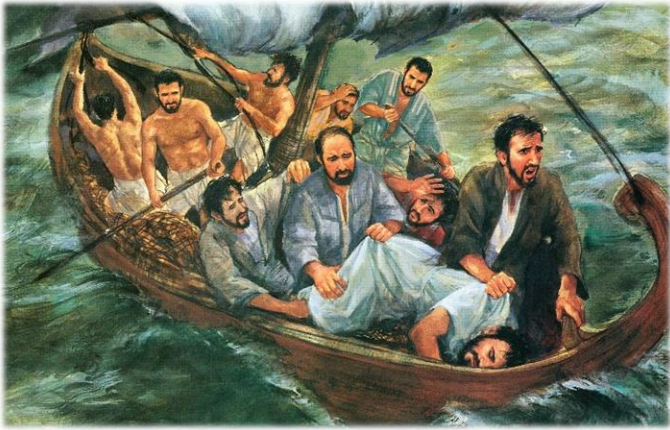
The Gospel compels us to make God's word heard and known; we are asked to show by our example what it means to be created in His image and known and loved by Him. Today, Jesus and his disciples are presented with a difficulty. A huge crowd has followed them, and this crowd presents the disciples with a two-fold problem: they are hungry for the words and miracles of Jesus – and they also need to be fed with food. Jesus teases his disciples: *How are we going to feed these people? He only said this to test Philip, he knew exactly what he was going to do.* In this gentle mischievous exchange, Jesus is giving advance notice that any follower of his **must** have a sense of responsibility to those in need, but that he will always be present to them giving inspiration, determination, and the strength necessary to complete the task in hand.

There is a publication in the UK called 'The Spectator'. It's a bit too much on the right for my appetite. This week they were forced to do an embarrassing U-Turn. They planned to do a 'hatchet-job' on Marcus Rashford the black English footballer so vilified two weeks ago. They thought they had an exclusive and planned to expose the multi-million-pound deals he enjoys in return for his endorsement of various brands. He got wind of the story the night before it was due to be published and decided to make known **all** the details of **all** his endorsement deals, how much he earned and how much of it was used to fund his charities. You've guessed it, every penny and then some more went to fund his charities. The Spectator probably thought they were dealing with an unintelligent black footballer and could score a few cheap points; they ended up with egg on their face. The article was pulled. Marcus Rashford rather pointedly asked: 'What is so wrong about wanting to feed hungry children?'

There is much need around us: there are many who are hungry for God's love – and many who are hungry for the basic necessities we take for granted. Just as he asked Philip all those years ago, Jesus asks us: *How are we going to feed these people?* He has no voice except ours, no hands to soothe the brow of a dying man except the ones he has given to us. The needs are great, and our time is short. We should never put off until tomorrow that which we can do today.

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 28 – As Simple As a Child



A young friend of mine, a busy teacher, explained in a letter how he had struggled for many years to find the 'right' way to pray, and how silent prayer came as a great shock because of its total simplicity. He discovered there is no special method. 'It is about disciplining oneself to remain still - and open to God.'

In his childhood Mark had a very simple faith. 'I believed that God created me and cared for me.

From my grandmother I saw how it was possible to

simply "be" in God's loving presence. As I grew older it no longer seemed enough. I wanted to "do" more, saying prayers and trying various methods of devotional prayer.

'Only recently have I returned to my original, childhood method of prayer and found the healing I had never thought possible before. I feel as simple as a child.'

The practicalities of silent prayer are straightforward, but everyone will find his or her own approach, says Mark. 'I find it helpful before beginning my time of silence to say the opening words of the Hail Mary, up to the word "Jesus". I let the holy name linger. However, when I pray, I use no words. Silent prayer is not about delighting in images or language. It is about leaving aside all that is familiar. No safety nets.

'Instead of praying for someone, or about a particular situation, one holds these before God open-handed, believing that God will deal with that person or that situation however he sees fit. It is based solely on trust. It is also about learning to take God at his word and believing he will dwell within us whether we are personally good or not. God is present within me, even if I do not "feel" his presence. This is especially important when distracting thoughts fizz around in my head and I cannot find the stillness I seek.

'Sometimes, I may only have five minutes of the allotted 20 in any kind of silence. When I am full of distractions, I remind myself that God is within me and that kernel of "me" is enjoying his presence, beneath the surface and its disturbances. Gradually, I slip the anchor down into that place of deep silence and allow the roaring waters to have their storming out.

'There is no "getting it right" involved, which is a relief after years of battling, of visualising biblical scenes and re-enacting them with love, penitence or devotion. Now I fast from images, from feelings, from penitent tears and holy aspirations. I delight in finding God exactly where he is and leaving him free within me to accomplish whatever he wishes.

'I have stopped wanting to be someone else - a better Catholic, for example. Instead, I have started to discover my "Mark-ness", the true image of me which was within me from the moment of my baptism.

'For me, the heart of silent prayer is the discovery that we are called to be ourselves, our true selves, in the presence of the Trinity, helping God to work within the world.'