

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-sixth Sunday of the Year 26 September 2021

Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48;

'Anyone who is not against us is for us.

If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck.'

(Drawing by Maximino Cerezo Barredo, CMF, Spanish Catholic priest and liberation theologian, as well as an artist known for his murals)

Many congratulations and the promise of our prayers to Revd. David Todd, who will be ordained a priest of the Scottish Episcopal Church at St Mark's, Portobello, next Saturday 2 October.

WONDERFUL NEWS – THE RETURN NEXT SUNDAY AT THE ST JOHN'S OF 'IN PERSON' CHILDREN'S LITURGY



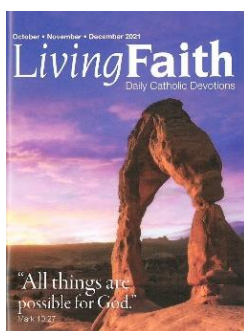
Arlene Lauder writes: 'After 19 months of Zoom Children's Liturgy, we are delighted to let you know that 'face to face' children's liturgy will resume during the 9.30pm Mass at St John's on Sunday 3 October.

In order to keep all our parishioners safe, we will be following the latest Government and Archdiocese Covid guidelines. We move on – and back to

the Church – and do so with huge thanks to all those who have made Zoom Children’s Liturgy possible, in order to ensure that our young parishioners have been able to continue to grow in the faith. The young people of our parishes have shown great resilience and open hearts as they have gathered weekly and shared the Gospel over Zoom for such an extended period of time. **We look forward to welcoming all families back to Mass to continue their faith journey.’**

We hope to begin Children’s Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene’s after the October Break.

The next Healing Mass (with the Sacrament of the Sick) will take place this Monday - 27 September – at 2.30pm at St John’s.



Copies of the new **Living Faith**, the three-monthly booklet of daily reflections (covering October, November and December 2021) are now available from the Parish House and is also available at the back of our churches to collect before or after Mass. It is our daily invitation to immerse ourselves in God’s Word and to pray. This edition of Living Faith comes with the theme: “*All things are possible for God*” (**Mark 10:27**). Time spent in prayer is never wasted, as it is conversation with God. This month *Living Faith* invites us to consider adding the Rosary to our busy days. **It comes free, though if you wish to make a donation of £1 or £2 to help us cover costs, please do so.**

With this newsletter, there is an ‘Events Diary – 2021-22’ offered by our Archdiocese, outlining planned events in the coming year.

THE PARISHES’ SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME IS RESTARTING

Arlene Lauder writes: ‘The Parishes Sacramental programme for the celebration of First Reconciliation (around P3) and First Holy Communion (around P4) begins again next month. An in-face meeting for the P4 parents/carers will be held on Monday 4 October at 7 pm in St John’s Church Hall and the following evening, Tuesday 5 October, an in face meeting at 7 pm in St John’s Church hall for the P3 parents/carers. If you would like any further information around Sacramental preparation, please do not hesitate to contact Arlene Lauder on 07950880833 or email on lauder.82@btinternet.com.’

Details will be given in the coming weeks about the parishes’ next **Baptismal preparation course**, about the **RCIA**, and about the **P7 Confirmation Programme**.

*Prayer drives the hungry soul up
into the fullness of God,
and draws the great God
down into the little soul.*

(Mechtild of Magdeburg - a 13th German mystic)

Safeguarding Webinar - The Bishops of Scotland invite clergy, religious, church employees and volunteers across Scotland to a **national safeguarding webinar at 11am this Saturday 2 October**. It will be a chance to find out more about the safeguarding document In Gods Image v2 and reflect upon on its implications for your safeguarding role. The link to register is: bit.ly/3gQRdPu. In God’s Image V2 can be found at www.bcos.org.uk/Safeguarding

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. Several of the handouts in this week’s newsletter mark the season.

The St John’s Church ‘Shop’ has opened again, and there is a selection of Christmas cards, Christmas candles, Advent calendars and many other items for sale.

This Week

Saturday 25 September - 6.30pm – St John’s – Vigil Mass - livestreamed

Sunday 26 September

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass with baptism of Kasey Kane Smith** – livestreamed

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

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

Monday 27 September

2.30pm – St John’s – **Healing Mass** – livestreamed

7.00pm – St John’s Hall – **Meeting of our Cluster Parish Priests and Pastoral Council Chairs**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88233005138?pwd=RGtabzZkNW0yR252eWh1aWUxMTAxZz09>

Tuesday 28 September - 10.00am – St John’s – Mass – livestreamed (NB – Change of time)

Wednesday 29 September - FEAST OF SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

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

Thursday 30 September

9.15pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

5.00pm – St John’s Church – Wedding Rehearsal for James O’Keefe and Danielle Fallon

Friday 1 October

9.15pm – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

10.35am (straight after Mass) – St John’s - **Rosary at Our Lady’s Altar**

Saturday 2 October

11am – St Mark’s Episcopal Church, Portobello – **Ordination to the Priesthood of Revd David Todd**

1.30pm – St John’s – **Nuptial Mass** of James O’Keefe and Danielle Fallon

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

Sunday 3 October

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

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

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

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 4 October – 10am - St John’s – **Requiem Mass for Moira McConville**

Tuesday 5 October – 10am - **Requiem Mass for Evelyn Oldershaw**

Friday 8 October – 10am – **Requiem Mass for Josie Tilley**

Pope Francis got us all thinking about care of the earth and climate change when he wrote *Laudato Si'* in 2015. He gave us "an urgent challenge to protect our common home", and called for "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet". He urged us to hear "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

In St Patrick's, Kiltegan we decided to respond to this call from Pope Francis and we decided to start at home. "What can we do here in Kiltegan", we said, "to reduce our carbon footprint and try to find ways of producing the energy we use from renewable sources?"

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We began by installing a wind turbine and solar panels to generate some of the electricity we need. When we were extending our Care Unit we incorporated a geo-thermal central heating unit. It takes heat from under the ground and transfers it to the hot water that heats the rooms. These three projects helped to cut our heating and electricity bills and reduced our carbon footprint. But we still felt we could do more.

We have four large buildings all requiring central heating in the winter months. They were heated by oil burners and we were using about 45,000 litres of oil every year. We wondered if there was some way of reducing this dependence on fossil fuels, some way of avoiding all the carbon we were pumping in to the air.

An opportunity came along when we decided to give up direct management of our dairy farm and rent out the land. As part of that change we retained some land in order to grow a biomass crop to produce wood chip as a new energy source for our central heating.

WILLOW FOR FUEL

In April 2018 we planted 13 acres of willow, estimating that at full production this should give us enough fuel for the winter months. In the following two years we planted another 21 acres with the aim of having a three year rotational cycle of harvests. When willow is harvested after three years, the same plants sprout again and produce another crop. This series of harvest and regrowth can continue for 20 years.

We cut our first harvest of willow on April 10th this year. The cutting is done by a machine like a silage harvester. It chops the plants into fine chips and blows them in to silage trailers. The chip was stored in a specially designed drying shed in order to reduce the moisture content and make it ready for the boiler. After six weeks of drying its moisture was reduced below 30% which enables it to burn efficiently.



Renewable Energy in St Patrick's, Kiltegan

Seamus O'Neill

The Willow – Nature

*A REFLECTION FOR
THE SEASON OF CREATION
(from "Africa", the monthly
magazine of St Patrick's
Mission)*

CARBON NEUTRAL

Willow chip releases carbon when it burns. However, it does not add to the carbon in the atmosphere. When willow is growing it takes in carbon from the air. It takes in the same amount of carbon during growth as it releases when it burns. One of the greatest advantages of using willow for fuel is that it is carbon neutral.

THE BOILER

The new boiler, installed in 2019, a Talbot 600kW model, provides central heating for all our four main buildings. It is positioned in a central area and the hot water is pumped underground to the buildings. This method is called "district heating" and can be used in small villages or clusters of houses where a central boiler can provide heating for a number of homes.

The boiler feeds itself automatically from the attached fuel bin. The bin is fed once or twice a week by a teleporter transporting the chip from the nearby biomass fuel store. The controls, pumps, cleaning system and ash bin of the boiler are fully automatic so the service and maintenance are at a minimum.



's Bountiful Gift



RUNNING COSTS

The establishment costs are considerable but the return on investment is also considerable. It is estimated that the pay-back period is between eight and nine years which represents approximately an 11% annual return on investment. Teagasc has done calculations on the savings achieved by the changeover from oil central heating to willow biomass heating. One unit of heat produced by oil costs on average 0.07 euro (7 cents). When all expenses of willow biomass production are taken into account



Main photo: Harvesting the willow crop in April 2021. (Photo M. Kane) The willow crop in July 2021, regrowth is well underway. (Photo L. Brennan)

(rent of land, cultivation, planting, harvesting, drying, etc) it costs 0.016 euro (1.6 cents) to produce one unit of heat. This is a 75% reduction in cost. Over the winter months that is quite a considerable saving for us.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS

The savings to the environment are also substantial. The heating oil we used every year was releasing 135 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. The willow chip on the other hand adds no extra carbon to the air. The crop is renewable and requires only one cultivation in 20 years. No artificial fertilizer is used as the crop responds excellently to the application of animal manure. Birds and other wildlife love the dense green cover and insects thrive on the pollen and nectar produced by the plants. We have seen some rare visitors to our fields since we planted the willow, like the willow warbler, snipe and woodcock.

Because we are using our own land beside the biomass store and boiler there are important carbon savings on transport of fuel. Biomass is bulky and relatively expensive to transport over long distances. We avoid that unnecessary carbon expense by having the production and use side by side.

Modern commercial boilers have computerised controls and achieve impressive combustion processes. This results in maximum heat production, minimum emissions and very small residue of ash. We recycle the ash in our compost unit and its calcium, potassium and phosphorus significantly enrich the compost that we can apply to the growing crop. This is a good example of a circular economy that benefits the environment and cares for the earth.

POPE FRANCIS

Thank God for Pope Francis. He inspires and encourages us to take good care of all God's creation. In *Laudato Si'* he reminds us that in order to be good Christians, good followers of Jesus Christ, we must be "protectors of God's handiwork":

"What we all need is an 'ecological conversion', whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience". (*Laudato Si'*, par. 217) ■

Fr Seamus O'Neill was ordained in 1974. He worked in Lodwar Diocese, Kenya and in student formation in Ireland. He was Society Leader from 2002 to 2014. At present he is the Bursar General and is based in Kiltegan.

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

A Difficult Journey

An event for those supporting friends or family with dementia will be held at the Gillis Centre, Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, from 2-4pm on Saturday 6 November. A talk will be led by Dr Adrian Treloar, and there will be a chance to share experiences before a time of prayer in St Margaret's Chapel, onsite. Light refreshments will be served.. The event is organised by the Archdiocesan Marriage & Families Commission. To register please visit bit.ly/DementiaEvent2021

Courses at Gillis Centre

Applications are about to close for courses run by St Mary's University at the Gillis Centre Campus in Edinburgh. Why not improve your knowledge of the Catholic Faith with an MA in Theology? Teachers are invited to register now for MA Education courses as part of their continuing professional development. These are: Catholic School Leadership; Leading Innovation and Change; Pedagogy; Religious Education. Watch testimonies from students on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (bit.ly/ArchYouTube). All details at www.stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh

The Last of Three Meetings at the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre looking at Synod Scenarios
'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 to get a view of how this might look at grass-root level in different parts of the world.: **Tuesday 28 September - 7.30pm - Zoom & Facebook Live - 'A View from Liverpool' - Fr Philip Inch** (Synod Moderator for the 2020 Synod in Liverpool)

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.)

NOTICE BOARD

An Appeal from the Society of St Vincent De Paul

Mary Iannarelli, President, writes: 'Our SVdeP conference is called *St John and St Mary Magdalene's Conference (Edinburgh East)*. Our group consists of people from different backgrounds, who bring many skills to the group. Prior to the pandemic it was usual practice for conference members to make home visits in pairs and we always strive to work in an unobtrusive, non-judgmental and practical way. We are contacted by those who may be dealing with a crisis in their life, be it bereavement, illness, loss of employment or changes in family circumstances. In the past we have supported others to access entitlements, liaised with utility companies, medical and dental services, council departments and immigration services. Sometimes the support is short term but some of our work is long term, supporting others who may feel socially isolated or marginalised. We also have strong relationships with local schools, donating Scotmid vouchers at Christmas time and supporting families to access school residential experiences for their children. None of the above could be carried out without the very generous donations from parishioners and friends. We are extremely grateful for their continued support especially during these difficult times. ***We are in desperate need now of new members as several of our group have given many years of excellent service and now, in their later years of life, would welcome input from new members. If you feel that you would like to find out more about our work, with a view to becoming a member of our conference please contact a member of the parishes' team, in the first instance. Should you feel that we could help you in any way please phone the parishes' house in the first instance 0131 669 5447.***

Remember the great value of silence. Within each day there must be time for silence. There must be time within which we neither speak nor listen, but simply are. (From the Benedictine tradition.)



Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Josie Tilley
Patricia Knowles
Charlie Macauley
Irene Eardley
David Colling**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**William McLaughlin - Sam McKean -
Nuala Scott - Elizabeth O'Neill -
Neil & Margaret Griffin
Mary Curnyn**

Anniversaries:

St John's

Sept.25: Robert McArthur (2008); Elizabeth Hoy (1993); Colin Kemp (1992);
Sept.26: Bridget Allen (1978);
Sept.27: Mary Lawrie (1985);
Sept.28: William McLaughlin (2013); Paul McElroy (2008); Christina Reidy (2008); Kitty Calder (2003); Arnold Waugh (1993); Esther Leyland (1982); John Jeffrey;
Sept.29: Nuala Scott (2019); Ian Lawrie (2002); James G Kelly (1996); Patricia McAuley (1932);
Sept.30: Alan Ford (1997); Leo Walsh (1991); Alexander Holligan (1981); David Erskine; Annie Hanlon; Sarah McLelland;
Oct.1: Mary O'Brien (1943); John Creamer; Thomas O'Neill

St Mary Magdalene's

Sept.25: James Lang (2008);
Oct.1: John Creamer (1969);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Maria Igoe, Fiona Connel, Catherine Walker, 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, 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:

Sam Burns, 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:

Fr Andrew Hughes OSB, Claire Johnston, Bruno Massaro, Emma Bromet, Pauline McGinnity, Mary Murphy, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, 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, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, 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, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme

Offertory Collections – 19 September 2021

Thank You!

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£195.00 total including Offertory of £95.00 and Gift Aid of £100.00	£ 1508.96 total including Offertory of £392.56, Gift Aid of £182.40 and £934.00 Online Donations

As we think of the task facing all those who are engaged in the great task of healing our planet, we can remember some words of the writer Christina Rossetti....." Does the road wind uphill all the way? Yes, to the very end. Will the journey take the whole long day? From morn to night, my friend."

Miriam McKernan

The Lark in the Clear Air

Skylark: Latin, *Alauda arvensis*; Gaedhlig, *Uiseag*

I walk the South Uist machair on a calm spring morning. Above me, wisps of high cloud streak the deep sky. Beneath me the new grass grows verdant, fresh and fragrant. Light breaths of wind stroke my face. Early heat of the sun warms my back.

I hear the lark in the clear air in South Uist in 2021, just as Samuel Ferguson heard it in Ireland 200 years ago. Samuel Ferguson (1810-1886) wrote *The Lark in the Clear Air* to a traditional Irish tune, *The Tailor Lad*.

The poem is a hymn of praise to the lark. Her song lifts the heart of the listener to the beloved. Joy, excitement and love pour confidently from the throat of the lark and from the soul of you who hear it.

The tune has free timing, with runs and triplets overlaying a waltzing lilt. It follows the sweet parsed trilling of the lark, beyond sight, deep in the sky, singing her music to fill the hemisphere of the wide Uist spring sky, sustained for fifteen minutes or more.

An introductory riff signals the commencement of the performance as the lark ascends in a diagonal into the blue. From that atmospheric stage, the sustained sweet song of the lark fills the clear air in a sphere encompassing me.

My heart soars enchanted to the now invisible source of the song. I wish to share this love with my friends. They shall hear my joy, all my fond heart will say. The pure notes of the lark's song elate my heart. My heart and soul are united to the song of the lark as she recklessly pours out my song of love.

On a fine May morning, 'moch madainn Ceitein', the lark fills the clear air with a hymn of love to Mary, Our Lady of the Isles, Queen of Heaven. I rejoice with the lark.

Machair

Machair is a low lying coastal habitat found along the west coast of Scotland and Ireland. Glacial sediment from the last ice age mixes with ground mollusc shells to form white shell sand. Wind and wave deposit the sand inland. Low intensity agriculture in South Uist harvests seaweed as natural fertiliser for the machair. Pesticides and chemical fertilisers are not applied. It is alkaline soil, rich in calcium, supporting a rich profusion of wildflowers, insects and bees. Eurasian skylark and northern lapwing, in decline widely in Europe, flourish over the machair in South Uist and the Western Isles of Scotland. Larksong is the melody of spring in the islands. ■

The Lark in the Clear Air

*Dear thoughts are in my mind,
And my soul soars enchanted,
As I hear the sweet lark sing
In the clear air of the day.
For a tender beaming smile
To my hope has been granted
And tomorrow he shall hear
All my fond heart would say.*

*I shall tell him all my love,
All my soul's adoration,
And I think he will hear me,
And will not say me nay.
It is this that gives my soul
All its joyous elation
As I hear the sweet lark sing
In the clear air of the day.*

My favourite performances of *The Lark in the Clear Air* are by Kenneth McKellar and by Karine Polwart. Both available on Youtube.

Photos: South Uist machair with Beanntan arda behind. Our Lady of the Isles by Hew Lorimer, Moire ro Naomh nan Eilean, commissioned by the people of South Uist 1958. (M. McKernan)

Miriam McKernan is from St Columbkille's, Rutherglen and St Mary's, Bornais, Scotland. She loves music and being outside in Creation. Music and writing have given her great joy during the pandemic.

