

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE  
35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL      Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY  
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](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)      Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)  
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### *The Baptism of the Lord – Sunday 10 January 2021*



A Prayer for all of us for the year ahead

*Be the eye of God dwelling with you,  
The foot of Christ in guidance with you,  
The shower of the Spirit pouring on you,  
Richly and generously.*

**Fr Jock writes:** Fr Jock writes: ‘Sadly, we are back in lockdown, and our churches are closed for Masses with normal congregations. However, we intend to continue to try to celebrate our faith together – and to support each other as best we can – it’s never been more important to do so! All our Masses will be livestreamed, the weekday ones sometimes from St John’s and sometimes from the Prayer Room – and we will now offer two rather than one Sunday Mass, a 6.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday in St John’s, and the 11am on Sunday from the Prayer Room. (No more 5 minute homilies either...!)

We are very much hoping that many of our former FOLK (folk offering logistical kindness) will make contact again with some of our PIPS (possibly isolated parishioners) to ensure that anyone who wants a hard copy of the newsletter or a DVD of the previous week’s Sunday Mass will receive one. Please let us know if you want either by making contact with the Parish House and Office. And likewise, if anybody else is willing to offer their help...

And if anyone has any creative ideas of ways to increase our care of each other, or of deepening our faith and developing our praise and worship of the Lord, please do email or give a ring...

**NB** Donald Scott and Tracy Burgess’ Compline/Night Prayer initiative below. ’

**Living Faith** – the Redemptorist booklet with a reflection for each day in the next three months is available at the door of the parish house for anyone who would like a copy...for those who are housebound or shielding, just ring the parish house and we will post out a copy.

## Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Welcome to  
Children's Liturgy



Arlene Lauder writes: "Zoom **Children's Liturgy sessions are continuing.** Why not join us this Sunday where we will be starting around 11:15 am? To be included, please send your email address to Arlene at [Lauder.82@btinternet.com](mailto:Lauder.82@btinternet.com) by 4pm on Saturday 9 January. Please tell us your full name, your child/children's names and which mass you would normally attend, this information is for our register to keep all involved safe. \*\*Please note that we will automatically send the Zoom link by email to everyone who has joined us before'.\*\*

## Night Prayer/Compline over Zoom

**Deacon Eddie writes:** 'With our buildings closed, but our Church still very much alive, we invite you to take part in Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church, which is a short (15 mins or so) praying of Psalms and passages from the New Testament, and a gentle and peaceful way to end the day.

Donald Scott and Tracy Burgess will lead us in this three nights a week from the week beginning 18 January. There will be details of days and timings in next week's newsletter.

We will provide a link on Zoom with the content of the prayers and readings. You can join with us online or, alternatively, pray them on your own.

Please feel free to email me on [eddie@eddiwhite.com](mailto:eddie@eddiwhite.com) if you would like more information or to receive a copy of this week's Night Prayer to try out yourself.'

## THIS WEEK

(NB It is only possible to attend Mass online)

**Saturday 9 January** - 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)

**Sunday 10 January** - 11.00am – **Mass** (streamed on YouTube, live-streamed from the Prayer Room)

### Monday 11 January

10.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

4.30pm - Skype – **PEP meeting**

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

To join in over Zoom, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88913902322?pwd=MGZabXhWQzhNdUU4YmdWYnRwNTILZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 1390 2322      Password: 984871

**Tuesday 12 January** – 7.00m – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

### Wednesday 13 January

9.20 – St John's – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** (livestreamed)

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

11am – St John's - **Funeral Service for Agnes Rostant** (private)

### Thursday 14 January

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

7.30pm – Zoom – **St John's Pastoral Council Meeting.**

### Friday 15 January

9.20 – Prayer Room – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** (livestreamed)

10.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

**Saturday 16 January - 6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)

**Sunday 17 January**

11.00am – **Mass** (live-streamed from the Prayer Room)

## **In the Coming Weeks**

Wednesday 20 January – 1pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Alan Halliday**

Friday 22 January – 12 midday – St John's – **Funeral Service for Conan Murie.**

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **From Archbishop Leo's Ad Clerum**

#### **COVID 19 Lockdown guidelines for the clergy (and us all!) Effective from 06 January 2021**

**Close your church:** Your church should now be closed to the public for Mass and private worship. This is expected to last throughout January.

**Funerals:** A funeral can take place in your parish with a maximum of 20 participants, including the priest. Post funeral gatherings cannot take place. Face coverings do not need to be worn by the priest leading a funeral service.

**Weddings:** These can take place with a maximum of five participants, including the celebrant (six if translator required). Face coverings must be worn by those attending a wedding, except for the couple and the priest.

**Baptisms:** Unless required *in extremis*, Baptisms should not take place.

**Last Sacraments:** Emergency callouts – the arrangements will vary between different hospitals/care homes. Please follow all the safety protocols provided by them.

**Livestreaming:** You may use your church for livestreaming a Mass without a congregation. When broadcasting on social media or YouTube or website do not use music that is subject to copyright unless you have a licence. BCOS guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.bcos.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/BCOS%20Live%20streaming%20policy%20FINAL.pdf>

**Scottish Government coronavirus guidance** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/>

### **Other Matters**

**Weddings:** Are you planning to marry this year? You should give you parish priest at least six months' notice before the date of your wedding.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** - This takes place from 18-25 January. Resources are available at <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**Sacramental Talks** - Rediscover the power of the Sacraments in a new online talk titled *Fire & Water*, covering confirmation and baptism. Sign up for your deanery area by emailing [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk). All talks on Zoom. Edinburgh: Mon 18 Jan 7:30pm

## A Reminder for those who do not have the Internet but would like to ‘access’ Mass....

**Maria Igoe writes:** ‘**Dial-a-Mass** offers those who are unable at this time to get to Mass and who do not have the Internet, the opportunity to hear a short Mass daily on the phone. This was started by Fr Stephen Baillie, who will now share this service with 4 other Priests, including Bishop John Keenan. It is greatly appreciated by those who have no other way to partake in the prayers of the Mass and the scripture readings. Access this by phoning 0141 473 4869.’

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)  
☎0800 027 1234

## PARISH REGISTER

***Please pray for those who have died recently: Eric Murray, Maisie Geddes, Brian Benson, Conan Murie, Evonne Taylor (Arlene Lauder's sister), Alex Robertson and Celine Diniz***

***Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Leo Stone, Canon Hugh Gordon, Anne-Louise Dalrymple, Des Farmer and Andrew Neilsen***

**St John's Jan.9:-** Des Farmer (2020); Les Garvin (2015); Anne Hughes (2011); Leo J Stone (1958); **Jan.10:-** Frank Davey (1999); Andrew Durkin (1991); Andrew Blaney (1958); **Jan.11:-** Betty Peddieson (2007); Donald Montgomery (2004); James Clarke (1933); **Jan.12:-** Elizabeth Doherty (2009); Maureen Molloy (2002); Canon Hugh Gordon (2001); Arthur J Cockburn (1980); James Marshall; **Jan.13:-** Andrew Neilson (2001); Lizzie Waugh (1997); Veronica Black (1992); Bridget Meldrum (1986); Anne Wood (1963); William Smart (1945); **Jan.14:-** Annie Harris (2016); John McLoughlin (2012); Jean Holligan (2006); Richard Watt (1995); **Jan.15:-** Rita Santangeli (2012); Isabella Thomson (2001); Kitty Durkin (1995);

**St Mary Magdalene's Jan.10:** Alex. McEwan (1997); **Jan.12:-** Maureen Fairnie (2009); Peter Fergus (1997); **Jan.15:-** Luigia D'Inverno (2003);

***Sick Parishioners - St. John's:*** Pauli Walker, Dolores Jones, Alex Telford, Molly Lugton, Bill Laidlaw, Ian Thompson, Nora Bruce, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Chloe Sutherland, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Sheila Tansey, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Giulio Crolla, Alf MacNamara, Stan McKay, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme

***Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's:*** Jim Gallagher, Chris and Louise English, Jacqueline Marinello, Sheila and George Service, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Denis Davidson, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Prior, John Newell, Michael McPhilipps, 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 & James Muir.

***Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:*** Paul Kinghorn, William Dalrymple, Peter Von Schenk, Anthony Finnerty, Angela McGuigan, Sr May Lewis, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Anne Harty, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Martin Carr, Michael Igoe, baby Josh Simpson, Katie McAnenny, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, baby Francesca Horwood, John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Hazel Yeoman, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Jan Meise, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Carla Zanetti, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Janie Low, Ranier Carpo, William Young, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Diniz, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden and young Ray Donovan Syme

**Welcome to the world....a baby son, born in Glasgow on Saturday 2 January to Dr Sabahat Rabbani and Imam Hassan Rabbani.**



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
3 January 2021	£46.00 offertory and £75.00 Gift Aid - <b>£121.00 total</b>	£301.20 (including Gift Aid of £77.40) and £794.00 Online Donations – <b>£1095.20 total</b>
Tower Fund Collection		£533.10
Legho Collection		£70.00

## **The Statement of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland about the Lockdown – 5 January 2021**

Recognising the dangers posed by the new faster-spreading variant of COVID-19, we note the Scottish Government's decision to close all places of worship from Friday 8 January 2021.

The Scottish Government believes that such measures are necessary to curtail the spread of this new strain during the roll-out of the vaccine. We appreciate the difficult choices facing the Scottish Government at this time and we have shown ourselves ready both to cooperate with and to support its efforts in protecting the common good. This has included curtailing public worship in extreme circumstances and for a limited period.

However, we are also perplexed by the decision, given that the stringent measures taken since last March to ensure public safety in our churches have been effective. No evidence has been forthcoming to justify the inclusion of places of worship as sources of infection. Without such scientific evidence these restrictions will appear to Catholics to be arbitrary and unfair. Moreover, a significant number of other sectors similarly restricted last March alongside public worship – such as construction, manufacturing and elite sports - have now been left free to continue in operation.

We also note that, in England, the essential contribution of public worship to the spiritual welfare of all citizens during this crisis has now been endorsed by the decision not to close places of worship while the Scottish Government has apparently retreated from this view, causing dismay and confusion

We are very aware of the disappointment these closures will cause not only to our own Catholic community, but to many of our fellow-Christians and those of other faiths in Scotland. We wish to emphasise again the spiritual, social and psychological benefits provided by continuing public worship, and we ask for these to be taken into full account in future decisions. Public worship is a human right and is a duty humanity owes to God. More concretely, Catholics need the Eucharist and the Sacramental encounter with the LORD as necessary to their spiritual wellbeing and their ultimate salvation.

While we unequivocally share the common goal of protecting public health, we urge the Scottish Government, when the present measures are reviewed later in January, to reconsider these restrictions in the light of the above concerns.

### **‘WHERE I FIND GOD’ – Willie Walsh**

*Willie Walsh was Bishop of Killaloe from 1994-2010. He is admired by many for his willingness to speak openly and honestly about many controversial issues within the Catholic Church. Bishop Walsh has recently written a memoir, entitled ‘No Crusader’ (Columba Press).*

I have been asked where I do find God in my daily life. Obviously, it is a difficult question because I can never find God in the same way as I find things in life, through the senses. So, when I speak of finding God, I think I mean what helps, what gives meaning to my belief in God. In that sense I find God in people, especially in the sheer goodness, generosity, and kindness of people. I find God especially in the people whom I loved and who loved me.

In a strange way I also find God in the people whom I struggle to love, in the poor, in people who have been broken and abused by life. I say in a strange way because while I often wonder how a God whom we claim to be loving can allow this pain and suffering, yet at the same time if there were no God then life, and indeed my own life, would be meaningless, and I don't think I could cope with that.

Sometimes I struggle to find God in the midst of all this pain and suffering across the world. Yet belief in God keeps me going. It is not a blind belief which quells all doubts. It is rather a decision of mind and heart that belief in a God who treasures each one of us makes sense of, and gives meaning and purpose to, my life.

# A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## Isaiah 55: 1-11; Isaiah 12:2-6; Mark 1: 7-11

Are you feeling focused? I'm looking out onto a very white vista and I'm probably more focused on the beauty of the whiteness that stretches out before me than I am on anything else. Sports coaches love to speak of being focused. Politicians tell us they are absolutely focused on the job in hand, the challenges that we face but those of us with an ounce of intelligence realise that politicians say what they think we want or need to hear. My subconscious never ceases to amaze me and one of those random memories loomed into my consciousness last week with all the subtlety of a runaway juggernaut. I was probably no more than 8 years of age and my mother sent me on a shopping errand. 'Go across to Mr Maltman (the manager of the local Co-op which in those days was referred to as "The Store") and tell him my mam wants 12 large eggs, but they must be brown ones' Off I went with a half-crown tightly gripped in hand. Mr Maltman put the eggs into a large brown paper egg and scrunched the top of the bag but before he handed them across to me, he gave me my change. 'Hold on tight to your change and carry these eggs in the other hand. Hold the bag at the top and you'll not break any'. Aware of the fragility of my cargo and the importance of not dropping any change, progress was initially slow. Confidence grew with each step and as I neared the house, my pace increased and it was with palpable relief that I made it home, kicking the back door to announce my arrival and demanding the help of someone on the other side to life the latch. With a great sense of achievement and relief I stood on tiptoe and released the change onto the work-top followed quickly by the bag of eggs. The eggs were 'plonked' onto the worktop a little too enthusiastically, a couple of casualties smeared a layer of sticky yellowy glue across the inside of the bag and the surviving eggs.

It could well be that this memory re-surfaced because I have spent a lot of time this week reflecting on the fragility of life. COVID has taught us a great deal about life's uncertainties. Our lives are fragile and even as we rub against each other (metaphorically) we run the risk of shell damage. So we are asked to deferentially show each other space and caution. Its unnatural for many of us, but essential for everyone. A virus that is too small to see has brought strong nations to their knees and whole economies buckle before its advances.

*Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.* In our first reading this weekend, Isaiah gives timely advice as we head into January. We are less than a third of the way through the month, but events are moving apace. COVID is out of control and the Government struggles to get a hold on things. Earlier this week in America the democratic process was under severe threat. The Coronavirus attacks the whole human race, supporters of the President of the United States attacked the very structures of Government. An air of supreme restlessness filled the airwaves as we observed incredulously, mouths gawping, pinching ourselves to make sure we weren't dreaming. We were reminded of the maxim: 'For evil to thrive, all that is required is for good people to do nothing.' Without the efforts of scientists and researchers in their quest for a vaccine, our prospects of surviving COVID looked very bleak indeed and without flawed but elected representatives standing up against thuggery then we would be witnessing the demise of democracy. We stood on the edge of an abyss and could have easily lost our balance and toppled over. *Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.*

The Gospel this weekend deals with Jesus' baptism by John in the River Jordan. It marks the beginning of his public ministry, the beginning of the new way. He introduces us to a new way of looking at God and His relationship with us. The Old Testament spoke often of a vengeful God, a God who was ready to administer instant justice. Jesus speaks of a God of infinite love, a God who is full of forgiveness, ever ready to give a second chance and adds further that our duty is to imitate God in everything we do. Only by leading active lives that are full of the love and goodness of God can we ensure that evil will never thrive. It's not always easy. As human beings we experience hurts and know only too well the pain of rejection. We seek justice, sometimes we want revenge, sometimes, like Greta Garbo, we just want to be left alone. Following the teaching of Jesus requires effort on our part. *Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.*

# UPDATE ON ST JOHN TOWER FUNDRAISING

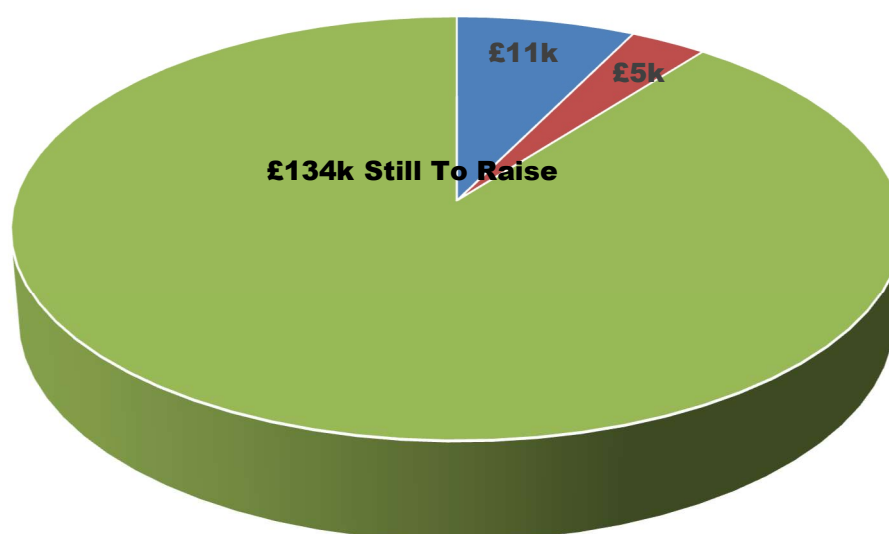
**Gary Zoltie**, Chair of St John's Finance Council writes: 'With many thanks to the generous contributions from our parishioners, we have made a good, solid start to our fundraising for the renovation work. A reminder that the total project cost is £352,000 and we have £202,000 already in the bank so we have a target to raise of £150,000.

In the first two months since we launched the project the Christmas raffle made £4,771 after costs and we have received donations totalling £11,047.

Whilst we have secured a loan from the Archdiocese for the full £150,000, all funds raised will reduce the amount that we will need to borrow. As the recent lockdown has closed the church again this eliminates our ability to raise further funds through second collections, but you can still donate by placing cash in an envelope and dropping off at the Parish house or by bank transfer to sort code 80-46-53, account number 10765768, account name St Johns Church. In both cases, please mark as "Tower Fund"

**Fr Jock adds:** 'It's good we have a hard headed (and big-hearted) businessman looking after the finances of our Tower Appeal to keep our eye fixed on the far horizon, but as a mere parish priest, I'm thrilled we managed to raise £16,000 in our first 2 months of fundraising – thank you SO much to all who have contributed thus far....'

St John The Evangelist - Tower Repair Fundraising Progress  
as at 5th January 2021



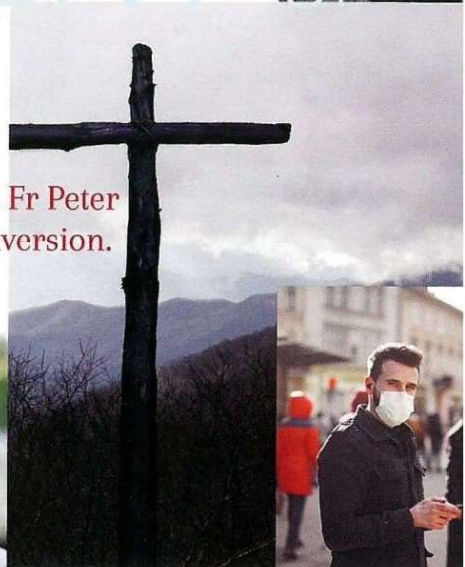
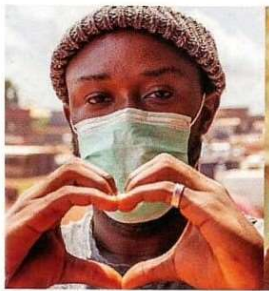
■ Donations ■ Fundraising ■ Balance to Raise





# A MOMENT OF CONVERSION

It took a tiny virus to offer the world a turning point and a choice. Fr Peter McVerry SJ suggests that we are living in a unique moment of conversion.



The world, as we have known it, has changed, perhaps for ever. One tiny, invisible, virus has brought the vast economic edifice, which humankind has spent centuries erecting, crashing to the ground. It has also shattered our arrogance, the belief that we are masters of the planet we inhabit, and that the future is entirely in our own hands, under our control. We Christians have been taught that there is a power greater than ourselves, a being we call God. Now humankind is being taught that there is a power greater than ourselves, which we do not control, called nature. This virus invites us to humility. Unless we learn humility, the next crisis, climate change, may destroy us.

The virus shines a spotlight on the inequalities and injustice in our world. Those who live in overcrowded shanty towns in Latin America, or slums in Africa and Asia, with little access to healthcare, where social distancing is impossible and facing starvation during a lockdown, are the most vulnerable. Those in Ireland who are homeless and whose health is compromised by their homelessness, those living in overcrowded homes because of the failure of our housing policy, refugees living in the often-criticised direct provision centres where whole families have to share rooms: all face the full fury of the virus. The inequalities in our world have condemned many to death. They are Christ crucified today by our sinfulness.

Our western world has promoted a culture of rugged individualism, the belief that I am responsible for myself and my family, and no-one else. The ideal person, to which we are asked to aspire, is one

who is self-sufficient, financially secure and not dependent on anyone or anything else. But the virus has taught us that this self-protective individual is a myth, an impossible ideal. It has revealed our interconnectedness, the fact that we are, each of us, dependent on everyone else. Our love of air travel, for business or pleasure, has enabled the virus to travel the world within days. I am only as safe as

**The inequalities in our world have condemned many to death. They are Christ crucified today by our sinfulness.**

the most vulnerable person in the world. A chance encounter with a stranger could end my life.

This is a moment of conversion. The word "repent" in the Gospel does not mean "be sorry for your sins". No, it means "turn around", do a U-turn, go in a totally different direction. The call to repentance today is a call to reject a culture of selfish individualism, which has made us less and less inclined to let the sufferings of others disrupt the tranquil rhythm of our comfortable lives, and embrace a culture of solidarity, building a world of justice, where others' needs have priority over my wants.

*Fr Peter McVerry, a Jesuit priest in Dublin, is the founder of the Peter McVerry Trust, a national housing and homeless charity committed to reducing homelessness and the harm caused by substance misuse and social disadvantage, <https://pmvtrust.ie/>*