

**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)*

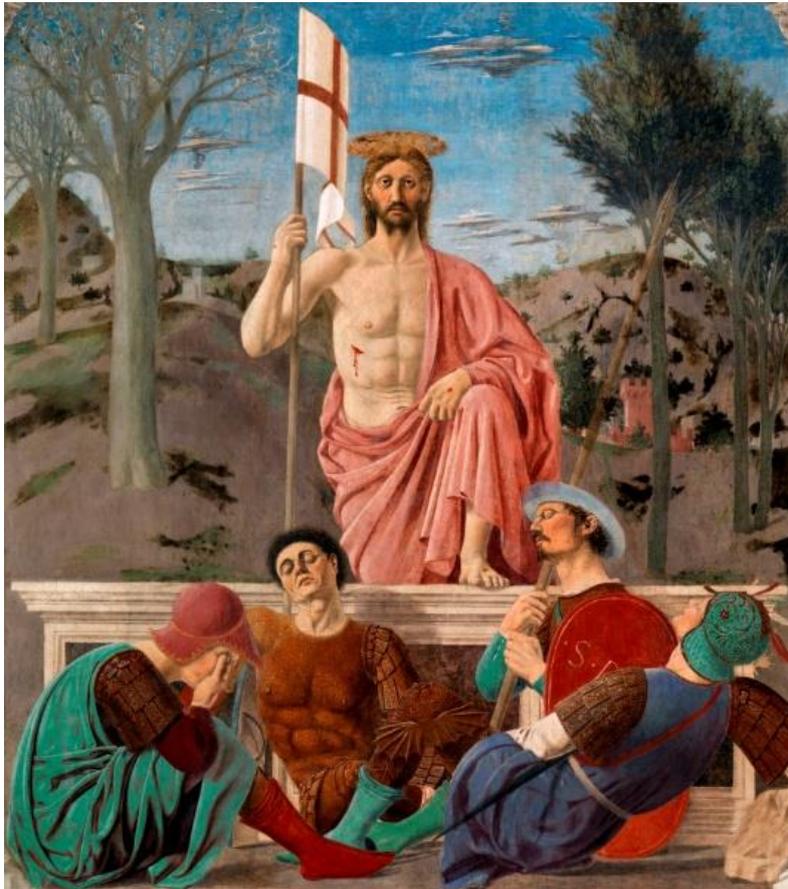
*Web address: [www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)*

*Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)*

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

*Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: [stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)*

***EASTER SUNDAY – 4 April 2021***

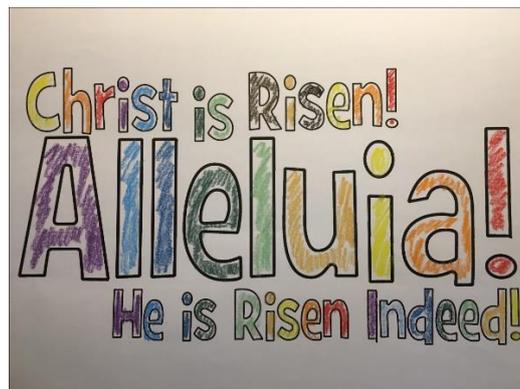


***We wish all our Parishioners  
and Visitors  
A Very Happy  
And Joyous Easter.  
Alleluia!***

**Fr Jock writes: ‘A Happy and joy-filled Easter to Everyone from Deacon Eddie, the Pastoral Team and myself..... and a warm welcome to any visitors to our Churches today.** It has been a moving and poignant week for all who’ve walked with Jesus the journey from Palm Sunday and the entry into Jerusalem to Holy Thursday and Mass of the Last Supper, and from there to Gethsemane and on to Calvary and Good Friday. Now we celebrate, today, Sunday, the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – which we Christians believe to be the central event in the history of our world, and one that gives meaning and hope to life, and to each of our lives.

And congratulations to **Luke Wormald** and **Roy Virnodkar** who will be/will have been confirmed at the Easter Vigil, and to **Ava** and **Amelie Wheelan**, baptised today on Easter Sunday.

**Remember, each day this week is part of the Easter Octave, a full feast day, requiring celebration...’**



**...AND THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who have worked so hard to make our celebrations happen, especially the Parish House Team and those who’ve helped prepare and celebrate the many different services.**

## **THIS WEEK**

**Saturday 3 April - EASTER VIGIL - 8.30pm – St John’s – Easter Vigil Mass – fully booked (livestreamed)**

**Sunday 4 April – EASTER SUNDAY**

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass – fully booked** (livestreamed)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass – fully booked** (livestreamed)

11.30am – St John’s – **Mass – fully booked**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

**Monday 5 April - 10.00am – St John’s – Mass** (livestreamed)

**Tuesday 6 April - 7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass** (livestreamed)

**Wednesday 7 April - 10.00am – St John’s – Mass** (livestreamed)

**Thursday 8 April**

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

11.30am – Portobello Cemetery – **Burial of Stan McKay**

**Friday 9 April - 10.00am - St John’s – Mass** (livestreamed)

11am - **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](mailto:mariaigoe@yahoo.co.uk)’

1pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Bridie McGlinchey**

**Saturday 10 April - 6.30pm – St John’s – Vigil Mass (booking required)**

**Sunday 11 April - 9.30pm – St John’s – Mass (livestreamed) (booking required)**

11am – Prayer Room – Mass (pre-recorded)

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

## **MASS BOOKING**



To help us to manage the numbers, if you wish to come to one of the ‘live’ Saturday and Sunday Masses, please contact the parish house **by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) only on Wednesday 10am to 1pm - Thursday 10am to 1pm -Friday 11am to 1pm** or by email ([stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)) **until Friday 1pm.** After every Mass in one of our Churches, ‘deep cleaning’ has to take place – something that takes a considerable length of time and effort. We are so incredibly grateful to our welcomers, stewards and cleaners who are making it possible for us to have our churches open – **and always open to new volunteers.**) Please also be aware that you will need to utilize hand sanitisers as you come into and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service.

Due to the COVID regulations we have limited seatings available and therefore **we advise early booking.**

## **From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly Ad Clerum**

### **Grace: The Church’s Hidden Treasure (Zoom)**

Easter is a season of grace, so register now for a six week course titled *Grace: The Church’s Hidden Treasure*. It is hosted by the Archdiocese and takes place on Mondays at 7:30pm, starting **19th April**. Sessions will focus on grace according to the teaching of Saint Thomas Aquinas in the *Summa Theologica*. It will include an introduction on how to read the *Summa*, its structure, and how to go through one of Saint Thomas’ articles. The webinar course is organised by the Catechetical Commission of the Archdiocese and led by Fr Kevin Douglas (St Peter’s & St Columba’s, Edinburgh) and Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. Register now at [bit.ly/GraceCourse2021](https://bit.ly/GraceCourse2021) Sessions will be recorded.

### **Exterminating Poverty or the Poor? A Scottish Doctor’s Story (Zoom)**

Mark H Sutherland & Neil Sutherland, authors of ‘Exterminating Poverty’, will tell the true story of how a Scottish doctor took on Marie Stopes 100 years ago, and why this matters today. This webinar will inform and inspire those who take up the pro-life fight today. It takes place at 7:45pm on **Monday 26th April**. Register now on Eventbrite [bit.ly/ExterminatingPovertyOrThePoor](https://bit.ly/ExterminatingPovertyOrThePoor)

### ***A Reflection for Easter Day by Fr James Martin, an American Jesuit.***

I don’t think I’ve ever wanted spring to come as much as I have in the last few weeks. Thanks to the pandemic, this has felt like the longest fall and winter in history. On the rooftop of my Jesuit community in New York City is a little garden. Last fall I planted all sorts of bulbs: daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses in little plastic pots, and they are just now starting to bloom. I feel an almost physical release looking at them.

And I long for Easter even more, because it has also felt like the longest Lent in history. The pandemic began in Lent last year and, as a result, it has felt like the entire past 12 months has been one big Lent. This Ash Wednesday, when people asked me what to give up I was tempted to say, “Nothing: you’ve probably given up more than you ever thought possible last year.” There has been for the last year, among many people, feelings of rootlessness, hopelessness and even despair. Fear too. Sadness. It is similar to what the disciples felt on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil leads us into these feelings.

Yet we know that this is never the last word. Fall and winter always give way to spring and summer, as those of us in the northern hemisphere are now experiencing. And suffering is never the end, in the Christian worldview and, more importantly, the Christian experience.

**So what is the message of this strange spring, this long-awaited Easter? It’s a message that’s both old and new: Love is stronger than hate. Hope is stronger than despair. Life is stronger than death. And nothing is impossible with God.**

## NEXT SUNDAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### About the Divine Mercy Devotion



‘In 1931, Jesus appeared to a Polish nun called St Faustina. In her words, she saw: "... the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale."

Jesus asked St Faustina to paint an image of Him exactly as she saw Him, with the words "Jesus, I trust in You" written underneath. As St Faustina's visions of Jesus continued, He requested that she start devotion to the Divine Mercy, in which we are asked to recall that God is merciful, that we should be merciful, and to completely trust in Jesus.

#### **About this Novena**

Of the requests that Jesus made, the most important was that a feast to the Divine Mercy be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Pope St John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000.

Jesus asked that we prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday with a novena:

"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw there from strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death."

The novena to the Divine Mercy is nine days of prayer with a specific Intention for each day, followed by the Chaplet. The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised: *"By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls."*

## NOTICEBOARD

### St John's Church Portobello Easter Treasure Trail

### IN AID OF THE TOWER APPEAL

During the Easter Holiday, a challenge for all the family

Please do have some fun by completing the enclosed/attached entry form ... and send some of your photographs of your adventure .... Deadline for entries 18 April 2021

### TALKING TO OUR LOCAL CANDIDATES ABOUT CLIMATE JUSTICE

6.00 - 7.00 pm Wednesday 7 April

‘As **SCIAF** and **Justice and Peace Scotland** remind us this will be an election campaign like no other and it's important that candidates get to hear from you directly so they know that there is a real demand for Scotland to do more to stand up for international solidarity and champion climate justice.

The more voices we have, the louder our call.

At this event you'll hear from policy experts, experienced campaigners and elected representatives about the most effective ways for making your voice heard.

**Register** for this event today. *This campaign is supported by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, Christian Aid, SCIAF, Global Justice Now, Justice and Peace Scotland, Water Aid, Scottish Communities.'*

## From the Scottish Laity Network

### Lay Catholic woman who runs a parish

‘One of our members, Miriam McHardy, suggested that it would be good to have conversation with **Elizabeth Simcoe**, a lay woman appointed by her bishop to run St. Vincent de Paul parish in Albany, New York. Miriam contacted Elizabeth and we are delighted that the conversation will take place on **Thursday 29 April**. In order to make it as meaningful as possible for those who would wish to attend we would like to get a general sense of any of the areas or questions you would like to be raised in the conversation.

Miriam and Elizabeth will be having a pre-chat meeting on Thursday 15th April and it would be really helpful to have your **responses by Tuesday 13th April** so that we can get them collated in advance of this meeting. You can get some information on Elizabeth in this excellent article in the America Magazine.’

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎ 0800 027 1234

## PARISH REGISTER

*Please pray for those who have died recently: Brian Saddler, Gavin Findlay, Stuart Burns, Dorothy Mitchell and Anne Harty*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Pierino Crolla, Adrian Aylward, Alison Stewart, Vincent Wallace and Martin Lynch*

**St John's: Apr.3:-** Margaret Skead (1999); James Bryce (1978); **Apr.4:-** Terence Anderson (1998); Mary Campbell (1995); **Apr.5:-** Grace Kelegher (2014); Maureen Pitter (2012); Denis Holligan (1962); Annie Bonnar; Norah Cavaye; **Apr.6:-** Betty Munro (1997); Elizabeth Rennie (1997); **Apr.7:-** Pierino Crolla (2014); Fr. Joseph Magee (1992); Patrick Taylor (1990); **Apr.8:-** John Haddow (2006); Elizabeth Gibson (1999); Aaron Duffus (1997); Catherine McAllister (1986); Elizabeth Dyer (1926); **Apr.9:-** Bob Grierson (1997); Agnes Christie (1995); Hugh Lynch;

**St Mary Magdalene's: Apr.4:-** Thomas Freeman (2004); **Apr.5:-** John Boyle (2001); **Apr.8:-** Jean King (1993);

**Sick Parishioners - St. John's:** Celia Stone, Eddie Clark, Ann Thorp, Margaret MacCleod, Sheena Sivell, Isa McCafferty, Stuart Thom, Catherine Walker, Andrew Farmer, Joyce Martin, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Susan Cammach, Pauli Walker, Dolores Jones, Bill Laidlaw, Nora Bruce, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Chloe Sutherland, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, 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, Alf MacNamara, Stan McKay, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

**Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's:** Graham Neilson, Sheila and George Service, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, 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 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 & James Muir.

**Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:** John Mackenzie, Alistair Grieves, Tonino Howard, Jimmy McBride, baby Josh Simpson, Maureen McEvoy, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Marina and Maria Calanna, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Annabelle Cervantes, Nan Doig, Bridie Hanlon, Rachel Kennedy, Leo Stone, Diego Dinis, baby Baxter Sweeney, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Billy McPhillips, Angela McGuigan, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Anne Harty, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Katie McAnenny, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, 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, 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, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme

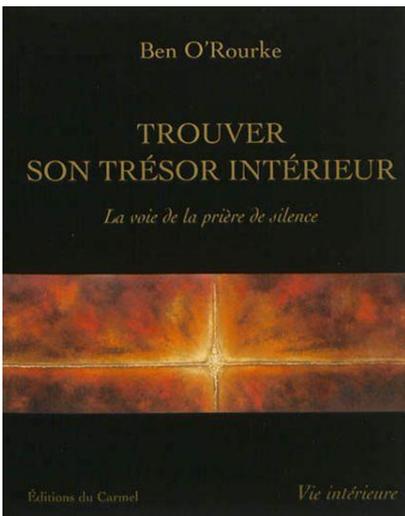
### Offertory Collections – 28 March 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
<b>£404.00 total</b> including Offertory of £153.00 and Gift Aid of £251.00	<b>£1684.40 total</b> including Offertory of £537.06, Gift Aid of £367.40 and £780.00 Online Donations

Thank You

# FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

## Chapter 11 – Our Notion of God



Many of us have been brought up to see God as one who *chooses us*, or who *calls us*, a demanding God who selects us for some purpose.

We are not sure what his plan for us is.

We worry about our response.

We worry about becoming indifferent.

We worry about thwarting his will for us.

*But always we feel there is an insistent call: to improve our lives, to change our ways, to be of more service to others.*

What torment this can lead to!

Some people are scared of coming close to God in case he asks for more, demands more, or demands more than we are prepared to give.

If this is our notion of God we can become discouraged in prayer.

We may feel we are failing to pray properly.

We blame ourselves.

We feel we are not making enough effort, that we are not concentrating, or that our faith is not strong enough.

Because we feel that God is calling us to put our best efforts into pleasing him we try to make a greater effort. If we fail again, we lose heart. And then we are in a vicious circle.

*The popular idea of a 'choosing' God, the theologian Urs von Balthasar tells us, is at odds with the God he finds in the writings of Augustine. The God he meets there is before all else a God who draws us to himself to give rest to our restless hearts, the one who wishes to bring us into his peace.*

Augustine's God is simply the God who comes to us, indeed who has already come, to give rest to our troubled hearts and minds. God of course does choose people, does call people, but this is not where Augustine's relationship with God begins. *'You made us so that we long for you, and our heart is restless until it rests in you,'* Augustine writes in his **Confessions (1.1)**.

*'God is delight,'* he declares, *'and we rest in delight with him, called home from the noise that is around us to the joys that are silent. Why do we rush about to the top of heaven and the bottom of earth,'* he asks, *'looking for him who is here at home with us, if only we could be at home with him?'*

So prayer for Augustine was not an encounter with a choosing or judging or demanding God, a God up there, or out there. Prayer for him, first of all, was an invitation to rest in the God who dwells in our hearts.

Taking Augustine as one of our guides into deeper prayer changes our notion of God and can liberate us from the mistaken feeling that we are failing or not doing enough in our prayer life. It is not our own efforts that will lead us into prayer.

We cease from effort and allow God to do all.

# A REFLECTION ON AND FOR EASTER SUNDAY

When it comes to keeping myself informed about current affairs, I gave up on the BBC a long, long time ago. I have a little more time for ITN and Sky – but not much more. If I want to know what is going on in the world, I rely on a diet of CNN, Al Jazeera, France News 24 and sometimes, even, RT24. At least these stations keep me informed as to events in Syria, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Ethiopia, the plight of the Uighur Muslims and other trouble spots in the world. I can only take so many pictures of British Politicians wandering around in high visibility jackets, hard hats and white lab coats pretending to be builders, bulldozer drivers or scientists. They always remind me of the children's cartoon character, Mr. Benn, and I just don't need them if I am looking to remain an informed citizen of God's world. If I cannot see and hear the plight of the downtrodden, then how can I possibly respond. All that God requires of me is that when I see him hungry or thirsty, bombed or deliberately starved that I go to his aid. We are fed a controlled diet of news stories dictated, by and large, by rich vertically challenged men answerable to no-one – not even their shareholders. As far as I can ascertain, they are all men and there's not a female in sight. Furthermore, it is a source of amusement to experience how others view the goings-on in this country: Not so much Global Britain as Carry-On Flag Wavers!

I love the Easter Triduum. I love its all-consuming drama and I'm always so glad that it took place two millennia ago before 'media' had been invented. Imagine the lengths that the establishment of the day would have gone to in an effort to suppress the reporting of the incident. Media blackout and sanitized reporting would have been *de rigueur*. At the back of the minds of the religious authorities lurked the fear that Jesus may indeed have been God's Chosen One, that his talk of rising from the dead carried weight and so they ordered that the largest of stones to be rolled against the entrance to the tomb to prevent the theft of his body. Over the coming weeks we will make our way through the Acts of the Apostles; we will encounter Gamaliel who urges caution against those Sadducees and Pharisees who wanted to crush the early Christian Church: *So in the present case I advise you: 'Leave these men alone. Let them go! For if their purpose or endeavor is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God'* (Acts 5:39).

Burial grounds are quiet, sacred spaces. We speak of sepulchral silence. There is a sacredness, too, about the events we read about at Easter. Jesus who had been so alive as his body twisted and turned with every blow inflicted on him; Jesus, who screamed out as he breathed his last; Jesus who everyone thought of as dead; Jesus whose lifeless body was wrapped in fine linen and laid on the cold stone – that same Jesus has risen. For some it was a concept too difficult to comprehend. Just as many of his followers were confused when his 'triumphant' entry into Jerusalem went so horribly wrong, so too they struggled with the very concept of 'Resurrection': Mary Magdalene thinks she is speaking with the gardener, Thomas refuses to believe, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus fail to recognise their companion until he breaks bread with them. Belief in the Resurrection was not straightforward for his companions. Why should it be any different for us? Some find it easy to believe, others find it difficult. Just as it is impossible to fully appreciate the potential of a newborn child, so too the birth of belief in the resurrection is often a slow and gradual process. Conviction in the reality of Jesus' victory over death was gradual and fraught with difficulty and apprehension. There is nothing easy about our faith and our response to his call and demands. *Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, naked or in prison....?*

In the northern hemisphere, Easter is always celebrated in conjunction with the new birth of springtime. Our faith unites us with the whole of creation. With so much new life around us, belief is easier than when we are in the depths of winter. We are on God's side – and God is on ours. Yellow daffodils and spring sunshine embolden and inspire our burgeoning faith. Right is with us and we can take encouragement from the words of Gamaliel even as we hear the cries of those ravaged by war, oppression and ethnic cleansing. We remain encouraged by the dedication and commitment of the early witnesses to the Resurrection, and we remain forever grateful that, back then, the media did not exist. Happy Easter!

**GIFT AID:** Please remember to start using your new GIFT AID Envelopes next weekend as we enter the new Tax Year on the 6th of April.

If you are a taxpayer and would like to consider signing up to making your contributions to the Church, the Church receives 25p for every £1 you contribute.

Please contact the Parish office for more details. Your continued support is necessary for the wellbeing of the Parish in these difficult times.

## For so many, Good Friday comes before Easter Sunday

### *Tortured till Dead For the crucified victims of repression*

*Mocked king clown,  
stag thorn-crowned,  
carpenter's nails impale wrists and feet.  
Stripped peasant,  
powerless slave sold  
for thirty silver pesos.*

*Back bled, skin flayed,  
failed prophet  
forgotten for all time,  
writhes displayed.  
Man's creation  
bitter fruit on tree of damnation.*

*Heat, sweat, thirst,  
shroud of darkness curse.  
Yeshoua screams,  
lungs burst  
in deep, sea-deep  
despair.*

*Head bows,  
heart tears,  
corpse slumps limp  
into night's silent vault.*

*Thomas Greenan  
Give Sorrow Words: poems from El Salvador  
(Fr Tommy, a St John's parishioner, who ministered for many years in Central America,  
died of Covid here in Edinburgh on 17.5.20)*



**THE ORIGINAL ROCK**



**...AND ROLL**