

# THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

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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)*

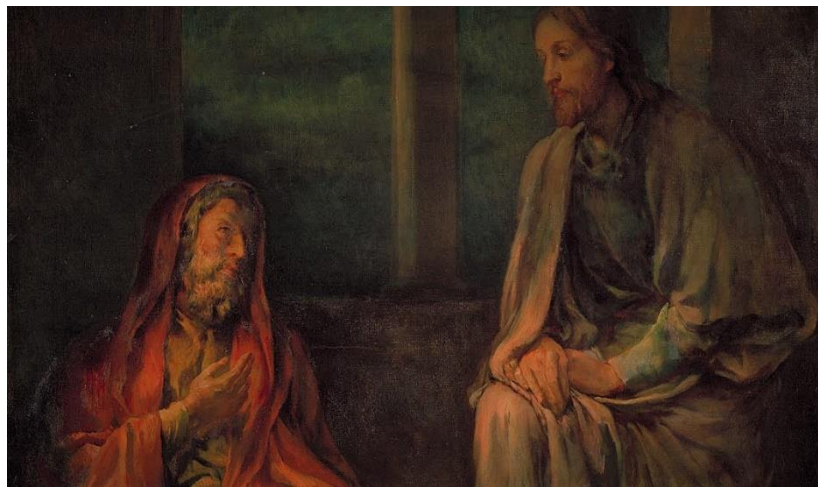
*Web address: [www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)*

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

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

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

## *Fourth Sunday of Lent – Sunday 14 March 2021*



*Jesus with Nicodemus*

*“God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son”*

**This Sunday is ‘SCIAF Sunday’ – there is the annual second collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). With this newsletter there is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Toal.**

**It’s also Mother’s Day this Sunday– so we congratulate and pray for all mothers, grans, great grannies, godmothers, spiritual mothers etc etc...and we also hold in our heart those who grieve the reality that they have never experienced any of these roles....**

**Next Wednesday, 17 March, is the Feast of St Patrick, while next Friday, 19 March, is the Feast of St Joseph.**

## **OUR CHURCHES WILL REOPEN FOR PALM SUNDAY**

**On Wednesday, Archbishop Leo wrote to his clergy:**

‘The First Minister today announced the Scottish Government’s intention to allow the reopening of churches in time for Holy Week and Easter, assuming no deterioration in the virus.

Places of worship are to re-open to the public on Friday 26 March.

The maximum attendance will be 50 for those churches that can accommodate two metre physical distancing (smaller churches may have reduced capacity). I will be in touch again soon with full details.’

### **Here is the full transcript of what the First Minister said in Parliament:**

“The other careful change we feel able to make at this stage relates to places of worship. I can confirm that, assuming no deterioration in the situation with the virus between now and then, we intend to allow communal worship to restart from **Friday 26 March**. This is in time for Passover, Easter, Ramadan and the Vaisakhi. In addition, the limit on attendance at communal services will be increased from 20, which was the limit in place before lockdown, to 50 – assuming of course that a place of worship is spacious enough to accommodate that many people with two metre physical distancing. Now I know that the restrictions of communal worship have been really difficult for many people despite the quite exceptional efforts made by faith groups to reach out to their communities. This change, again, is relatively minor, it is proportionate and we believe that it can be achieved relatively safely but it will hopefully enable more people to draw strength, comfort and inspiration from acts of collective worship.”

*Next week we will give details of our plans for Holy Week – and how people can book places at Masses...*

### **A FOURTH SHORT TALK ON THE PSALMS – Monday 14 March – 7pm - Zoom**

**Fr Jock writes:** ‘In association with our nightly Compline/Night Prayer of the Church, for the first five weeks of Lent, I am offering a short (15 minutes-ish) talk on the Psalms, and particularly the Psalms used at Night Prayer, each Monday evening at 7pm – and available online after that. The Psalms (150 of them) are the prayer book of both Jews and Christians and have been prayed and loved for nearly 2500 years, but come alive for many people with a little knowledge of their background. They were probably known by heart by both Jesus and Mary and prayed often by them both.

### **Having Problems Accessing the Psalms Fr Jock is talking about in the same translation?**

We’ve received feedback about this – so the three psalms that will be looked at this coming week are included as an attachment/handout with this week’s newsletter. They also double up as this week’s Prayer Walks...

### **Having Problems Accessing the Talks Online?**

**Deacon Eddie writes:** ‘Thank you for the feedback on the technology. It has come to light that some people are struggling to find the links - due to the fact the newsletter is published on the Friday and the talk is recorded 3 days later, after Mass on Monday. To avoid having to search for the links, and so we can invite you to watch previous weeks' videos as well, we have created a page (insert link here) so as to make finding the talk easier.

<http://stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com/news/psalms/>

We continue to share on Facebook and premiering on YouTube at 7pm as well so if you already find the link using these ways, they will still be shared in this way as well as with the above link.’

**Can we also encourage you - if you are not already doing so - to try joining us at 9.15pm at least one evening this week for Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church.** It takes 10 minutes (though you are invited to join in silence 5 minutes before and stay for 5 minutes at the end, if you wish) and is ‘broadcast’ every evening.

*The details for getting into Compline online:*

**Passcode:** compline

**Link to Join Compline on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83916544352?pwd=VG1VSnZ5dDhwMG1CMEU0eUJscTd1Zz09>

or, if you already have a Zoom account,

Meeting ID: 839 1654 4352 Passcode: compline

If you need help to get online - then please contact the Parish House (0131 669 5447)

We can give help with using Zoom. If you need help to get a device - pad or computer or to get on the internet we can also help.

We have also made available on Youtube and Facebook **two pre-recorded Night Prayers** for those people who forget and miss the 9.15pm ‘slot’ or, alternatively, wish to ‘tune’ in during the evening at a time more suitable for them to be able to do so....

# THIS WEEK

(NB It is only possible to attend Mass online)

## Saturday 13 March

- 9.45am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Bill Hughes**
- 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Sunday 14 March

- 11.00am – **Mass** (livestreamed from the Prayer Room)
- 12.15pm – Zoom meeting – **'Tea and Coffee after Mass' – Open to all**  
To join in over Zoom, go to  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76379910290?pwd=R3BPZFpHNC94ZVpUbXR4M094ZVpkZz09>
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Monday 15 March

- 10.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 3.30pm - Skype – PEP meeting
- 7-8.15pm – Zoom Meeting – A FOURTH SHORT TALK BY FR JOCK ON THE PSALMS – followed by a time of  
**Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**  
To join in over Zoom, go to  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82834204322?pwd=b1ozaFM5OTE2YitSV3k3dGtNOVlrQT09>  
Meeting ID: 828 3420 4322 Passcode: 821587  
To join over Google Meeting, go to  
[meet.google.com/frh-pggh-rdi](https://meet.google.com/frh-pggh-rdi)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Tuesday 16 March

- 2pm – St Clare's, Preston – **Requiem Mass for Anthony Finnerty**
- 7.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Wednesday 17 March

- 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Thursday 18 March

- 10.30am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Funeral Service for Margaret Gordon** (livestreamed)
- 7.00pm – **Benediction** (livestreamed from St John's)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Friday 19 March

- 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)'
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Saturday 20 March

- 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Sunday 21 March

- 11.00am – **Mass** (livestreamed from the Prayer Room)
- 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

**Weekend Plans:**

- Going for a walk.
- Walking.
- A walk.
- Walk to the shop.
- Walk around the block.
- Popping out for a walk.



## From Archbishop Leo's Weekly Ad Clerum

### **Lent event 1: INSPIRE prayer talks**

Register now for the remaining talks in the Archdiocese's INSPIRE talk series for Lent. Guest speakers will guide you prayerfully through the season. All talks on Zoom, 7:00pm-7:45pm. If you miss a talk you can find it at [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

TALK 3: *Prayer as a Relationship Reflected in St Teresa of Avila*, with Sr Sally Rollo. 7pm, Tue 16 March.

Register: [bit.ly/LentRollo](http://bit.ly/LentRollo)

TALK 4: *Praying the Passion according to St Mark*, with Archbishop Leo Cushley. 7pm, Tue 23 March.

Register: [bit.ly/LentCushley](http://bit.ly/LentCushley)

**Lent event 2: Pro-Life Stations of the Cross** - Stations of the Cross, organised by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, is on **each Monday evening of Lent at 7:45pm**. The Stations are followed by a short reflection by a priest of the Archdiocese. You can register now on Eventbrite: <http://standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com>

**Healing Service** - New Dawn in Scotland is hosting a **Lenten Healing Service at 7:30pm-9:00pm on Friday 12 March on Zoom**. The theme is 'Repent and believe the good news' and the event is led by Fr Stefan Park. Visit <https://newdawninscotland.com/> for the link to join the service.

**Lent resources** - The Archdiocesan Catechetics Commission has produced a range of resources for Lent that will assist adults and children to deepen their understanding of this holy season and aid them in their prayer life. Find them in the resources section at: <https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/catechetics/>.

## NOTICEBOARD

### **A Request from The Justice and Peace Group for Help with the Bethany Care Van**

**Jim Roarty writes:** "One of the services which Bethany provides for the homeless, and which is supported by our two parishes, is the Care Van which distributes sandwiches and hot drinks to people on the streets. We presently do the van on average one Sunday lunchtime per fortnight.

The service involves a team of three - a driver and two people who hand out the food and drink through a hatch in the side of the van. (We used to have one or two more so that people could get out to chat to the customers at each stop but these Covid times have put a stop to that.) The team meets at the Bethany depot in Leith at around 11.45am on a Sunday morning, checks that the van is clean, loads up the sandwiches and flasks of hot water for the drinks then sets off for five stopping points where people will be waiting. After returning to the depot and leaving the van in a suitable condition for the next group, the team is usually finished around 2.30pm.

**If you are interested in getting involved with this service, please contact Jim Roarty ([jimroarty4@gmail.com](mailto:jimroarty4@gmail.com)). Volunteers will only be scheduled on average once every two months so it is not a major commitment of time."**

## FROM THE EDINBURGH JESUIT CENTRE – WHAT WOULD POPE FRANCIS DO?

a series of Tuesday evening Lenten Talks Exploring the Key Issues Defining Francis' Papacy.

'To mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' election on 13 March, the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre is delighted to announce a number of prominent Catholic voices exploring the teaching of Pope Francis. Join them each Tuesday in Lent as they delve into some of the key issues that are defining Francis' papacy.'

**Tuesday 16 March - 7.30pm - Pope Francis and Church Reform – with Christopher Lamb of The Tablet.**

Zoom Login Information: Join on Zoom by following the link below. 'We shall also be streaming to Facebook Live.' <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814> or Meeting ID: 236 509 2814 View on Facebook live by typing Edinburgh Jesuit Centre into Facebook. For more information contact [edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk)

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎0800 027 1234

## PARISH REGISTER

*Please pray for those who have died recently: Sheila Anderson, Gus Morgan, Chris Mann and Michael Martle*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Margaret Stanton, Bernard Vinestock, Andrew Williams, Anne Kinane, Pat Sibbald, Alex Connolly, Rab McGovern, Mgr Tony McNally, Margaret Reid and Margaret McPake.*

**St John's - Mar.13:-** Jessica Quinn (2000); Thomas Henderson (1984); Cecily Docherty (1972); Patrick G Hunt (1968); John T Clarke (1943) - killed in action; Roseanne D'Arcy; **Mar.14:-** Mary Kelly (2000); Elizabeth Binnie (1987); **Mar.15:-** Greta Clarke (2013); Very Rev.Charles Canon Brodie (1999); John Barber (1998); Alexander Connelly (1985); Rebecca M O'Kane (1981); James Waugh (1979); **Mar.16:-** May Mackay (1997); Edward Molloy (1961); **Mar.17:-** Sheila Devlin (2005); Patrick Duff (1981); Chris Lynch (1975); Mary Hunt (1966); Margaret Burns (1937); Esther Keating; **Mar.18:-** Eva Nolans (2002); Annie Cockburn (1993); Anne Kinane (1985); Mary Loftus (1946); **Mar.19:-** Margaret Reid (2015); Bernard Vinestock (2011); Gertrude Forsyth (1986); David Philp (1984); Peter Kelly (1952);

**St Mary Magdalene's: Mar.13:-** Patricia Sibbald (2014); Gertie Urquhart (1980); **Mar.15:-** Robert Harris (1981); **Mar.18:-** Joseph Patrick Foster (1969);

**Sick Parishioners - St. John's:** 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, 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, 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:** 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, Gavin Findlay, 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, baby Josh Simpson, 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, Rokszana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme



### Offertory Collections – 7 March 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£140.00 total as Offertory	£1282.40 total including Offertory of £55.00, Gift Aid of £447.40 and £780.00 Online Donations

# A Reflection on the Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

*John 3: 14-21*

The other night on TV, I caught a rerun of the film version of ‘Absolutely Fabulous’. Like a great deal of successful comedy, it relies on exaggerated characters who resonate with people we have each met in our own life. I still find it funny! There is a scene where Patsy and Edina are together in the bathroom preparing to go out for the evening. Edina is staring at herself in the mirror and asks the sort of question many of us have asked. Depressed by the reflected image she plaintively asks of Patsy, ‘Am I looking old and fat?’ She needs reassurance. Patsy advises that Edina should stop looking in the mirror. ‘Forget about the mirror Edina, let me be your mirror. Ask me again! Ask me again!’ ‘OK - am I looking old and fat?’ ‘No’ comes the reply. ‘You look perfect.’ ‘OK then, let’s go out!’

When I was a drinking alcoholic and slowly beginning to realise that I was drinking too much it was to another heavy drinker that I turned for advice. ‘Do you think I might be alcoholic?’ ‘No! I think like me you’re a heavy drinker. You enjoy a drink’. Suitably reassured, I would reach for another bottle. In a similar vein, my inability to see some dust and most cobwebs is a regular source of tension. On the other hand, my Bolognese sauce is peer-less! When it comes to cleaning, I don’t possess the laser-like vision to spot anything more than the obvious. ‘Can you not see those cobwebs?’ ‘I can – now that you’ve pointed them out – but I didn’t see them first time around. It’s not like I am an arachnophile, eager to preserve the life form before me!’ And so, what could have developed into World War 3 becomes no more than a passing domestic dispute!

This weekend, in our Gospel passage, we encounter Nicodemus. He was a senior Pharisee and the same man that we will meet after the crucifixion when he anoints the lifeless body of Jesus prior to burial. Between the two episodes, Nicodemus experiences a life-change. His meeting with Jesus occurs quite early on in John’s Gospel. If you have the chance, read the whole episode from the beginning of Chapter 3 because when we look at the whole incident, rather than the excerpt in today’s section, we see that Nicodemus approached Jesus at night. He needed the cover of darkness when shadows are long, and events go unnoticed. His reputation was at risk if anyone saw him approaching Jesus, let alone engage him in debate. But..... he had questions. When he compared himself to the other Pharisees, he probably felt that he was doing OK – perhaps not the sharpest of brains, but no slouch either. This comparison was all well and good, but he knew that there was more. His thirst for knowledge and self-awareness led him to seek out Jesus for a private 1-to-1. He wanted to know more about Jesus’ view on God, on life. Ultimately, he wanted to know about himself and this is a quest we all share. Who am I? When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He said ‘I am who am.’ ‘Tell them (the Israelite People) “I Am” has sent me to you’ Since that episode – and probably before – human beings have thirsted for knowledge about themselves. Nicodemus is no different and part of the same search. He knows that he must open his soul to the person of Jesus Christ. He knew that Jesus would tell it as it is. He knew that real growth would come about once he was able to view life the way Jesus does.

Much has been made this week of that interview. The thought occurred to me that once a prince, any prince used to the cosseted life of privilege, starts to see life through the eyes of a woman, and a woman of colour at that, his life perspective inevitably changes. As the expression goes, once you walk a mile in another man’s moccasins you appreciate his life the more. Imagine, just for a minute, what a force for good we would become if we could all see everything and everyone as Jesus sees them. When we view our lives through the lens of self-awareness rather than seeking the approval of like-minded individuals, we discover who it is that we are. Jesus tells Nicodemus today: *On these grounds is sentence pronounced, that though the light has come into the world, (men) have shown they prefer darkness to light.* The preferences we choose are our ultimate judgement; the decisions we make will form the wording on our headstone at the end of our life. Therein lies the challenge for each of us and the challenge posed by that other interviewee – Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee.

# FINDING YOUR HIDDEN TREASURE - by Benignus O'Rourke

*BENIGNUS O'ROURKE (1929-2019) was an Augustinian friar and a member of the Community at Clare Priory in Suffolk, who led hundreds of men and women, people of all faiths and none, on the way of silent prayer for more than forty years.*

## Chapter 8 – Knitting before the face of God



How we each find our own treasure is illustrated for me by a delightful story in Metropolitan Anthony's *School for Prayer*. He tells about an old lady who visited him shortly after he became a priest in the Orthodox church. She wanted his advice about prayer.

For 14 years she had been praying 'the Jesus Prayer' almost continually, she said, and had never experienced God's presence at all.

'If you speak all the time, you don't give God a chance to get a word in,' the priest responded.

'What shall I do?' she asked.

The priest advised her to go to her room after breakfast, put it right, and place her armchair in a strategic position that would leave behind her back all the dark corners into which things are pushed so as not to be seen.

'Light the little lamp before the ikon that you have, and first of all take stock of your room,' he told her. 'Just sit, look round and try to see where you live because I am sure that if you have prayed all these fourteen years it is a long time since you have seen your room. And then take out your knitting and for fifteen minutes knit before the face of God, but I forbid you to say one word of prayer. You just knit, and try to enjoy the peace of your room.'

She didn't think it was very pious advice, Metropolitan Anthony writes, but she took it. Some time later the old lady returned, saying she had done just what he advised. 'It works,' she told him. 'I got up, washed, put my room right, had breakfast, came back, made sure there was nothing that would worry me, and then I settled into my armchair and thought, "Oh how nice, I have fifteen minutes in which I can do nothing with without feeling guilty!" And I looked around and for the first time in years I thought, "Goodness, what a nice room I live in."'

Then she said, 'I felt so quiet because the room was so peaceful. There was a clock ticking but it didn't disturb the silence. Its ticking just underlined the fact that everything was so still, and after a while I remembered that I must knit before the face of God, so I began to knit. And I became more and more aware of the silence.'

'The needles hit the armrest of my chair, the clock was ticking peacefully, there was nothing to bother about, I had no need of straining myself. Then I perceived that this silence was not simply an absence of noise, but that the silence had substance. It was not an absence of something but a presence of something. The silence had a density, a richness, and it began to pervade me. The silence around began to come and meet the silence in me.'



'All of a sudden I perceived that the silence was a presence. At the heart of the silence there was Him who is all stillness, all peace, all poise.'



# Tower Fund



Would you like to sponsor 3 dresses for £10?



We have received a donation of 270 brand new, Marks and Spencer gingham school dresses.

The sponsorship money from the dresses will go to the Tower fund, and in turn the dresses will be donated to both Mary's Meals and STEKA.

We are asking for a donation of £10 for 3 dresses.

Payment should be made to the following bank account:

Name: Elizabeth McClory

Account number: 02772692

Sort Code: 60 83 71

Please add your name as payment reference.

Anyone without access to online banking may place their donation in an envelope marked with "Dresses" and hand it into the Parish house.

If anyone needs any further information, please contact Elizabeth McClory on 0131 669 9976.