

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

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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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)*

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

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

## *Third Sunday of Lent – Sunday 7 March 2021*



*“Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.”*

**Please pray for Pope Francis during his pilgrimage to Iraq this weekend - and for the Iraqi people.**

**SCIAF Stations of the Cross - 3pm - Friday 12 March - a message from the J & P Group**

‘Each year, as part of their Wee Box campaign, SCIAF produce a version of the Stations of the Cross related to the particular focus of that year’s campaign. This year, the focus is on people suffering from disabilities in South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world. The prayers and images used in the Stations meld the problems of our suffering brothers and sisters there with the those of Jesus as he makes His way from judgment by Pilate to death on the cross.’ This Friday, 12 March, you are invited to participate in these Stations of the Cross at 3pm. The Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75519161605>

Meeting ID: 755 1916 1605 Passcode: C1TTqk

**Next Sunday – ‘SCIAF Sunday’ – there is the annual second collection for Papal and Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF).**

**As part of the Year of St Joseph** (initiated on 8 December 2020 by Pope Francis), our Archdiocese has produced a **St Joseph’s Family Prayer book** - price 50p – but as a Lenten gift, we are giving everyone who wants one a free copy – just come to the Parish house and ask for one.

## A THIRD SHORT TALK ON THE PSALMS – Monday 7 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.



**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=VGIVSnZ5dDhwMGICMEU0eUJscTd1Zz09>

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.

This week we will be making available on Monday 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 at a time more suitable for them to be able to do so.... Watch out for the links becoming available – any difficulties, email [ewhite@outlook.com](mailto:ewhite@outlook.com)

**Each week, we are also offering material for PRAYER WALKS – see the attachment/handout, accompanying this newsletter**

Turn off your phones sometimes!

We know that sometimes  
they can keep people apart  
rather than together.

*(Pope Francis)*

# THIS WEEK

(NB It is only possible to attend Mass online)

## Saturday 6 March

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Sunday 7 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/72468486756?pwd=cksrWIRHWVhuYWFndmtkSXA0ZWtiZz09>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Monday 8 March

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

4.30pm – Skype – PEP meeting (PEP standing for Parish Emergency Planning!)

7-8.15pm – Zoom Meeting – A THIRD 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/87646146224?pwd=Q3ZUaXFheGVHRDJoVWY4T2RJNEp2dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4614 6224 Passcode: 998444

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Tuesday 9 March

4.00pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Patricia Walker**

5.30pm – **St John's Fabric Committee Meeting**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Wednesday 10 March

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Thursday 11 March

11.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Requiem Mass for Vi Donaldson** (livestreamed)

6.45pm - Zoom – **Parish Children First Communion group meeting (ie for those children not attending St John's Primary School)**

**NO BENEDICTION THIS WEEK**

7pm – Zoom – **St John's Pastoral Council Meeting**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## Friday 12 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)'

3pm – Zoom - **SCIAF Stations of the Cross**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

## 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)

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

# 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/>.

## **A Justice and Peace Scotland Initiative Poverty & Pandemic panel discussion 4.30-6pm – this Sunday 7 March**

'The challenges of COVID haven't gone away. Across the country we see the front line of inequality. How do we respond? How do we do better?'

The last year has exposed the deep divides in our society, with inequalities and vulnerabilities laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Justice and Peace Scotland** invites you to join us from **4.30 - 6pm on Sunday 7 March**, for a discussion on the impact of the pandemic to share, reflect and start to identify how the church can be ready to meet the challenges which remain.

Our panel includes: Prof Stephen McKinney, University of Glasgow; Fr Basil Clark VE, Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh; Danny Collins, National President, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Scotland; and Martin Johnstone from Poverty Truth Network / At the Edge.

To book tickets for *Poverty & Pandemic Sunday 7th March 4.30pm - 6pm with Justice & Peace Scotland* see: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poverty-pandemic-tickets-141110283657](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poverty-pandemic-tickets-141110283657)

*Prayer at its deepest is more than words.  
(St Augustine)*

## **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 9 March - 7.30pm - Pope Francis on LGBTQ and Ministry – with Fr James Martin SJ**

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 Laity Network: Lenten Journey 2021

To help us prepare the future we warmly invite you to join us on Lenten Journey:

*Discipleship for Artisans of our own Destiny ~ Preparing the Future*

**Our companion for the journey on Thursday 11 March this week is: Omar Haramy – a member of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Palestine and also a member of the Kairos Palestine Steering Committee.** For further information please contact [slaitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:slaitynetwork@gmail.com)

## 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.”**

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎0800 027 1234

## PARISH REGISTER

*Please pray for those who have died recently: Anthony Finnerty, Sr Deirdre O'Brien, Jutta Mashamba and Bill Hughes*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Alf O'Brien, Mgr Tony McNally, Andrew Williams, Jean Greig, Maureen Sime, Paul Williams, Fr Gerry O'Mahony SJ and Mgr David Gemmell*

**St John's - Mar.6:-** Patrick J (Joe) Ward (1999); Agnes Boyle; Conal Boyle; **Mar.7:-** Maureen Sime (2018); Anne Holt (1981); **Mar.8:-** Jean Greig (2020); Thomas Connor (1998); Annie Tunley (1952); **Mar.9:-** Margaret McMillan (2011); James Docherty (2008); James A McGrory (1976); Michael Murphy (1975); Joseph F Gallagher (1966); **Mar.10:-** Alison Thomson (2020); Mary Teresa Glancy (2019); Alfred O'Brien (2009); Mary D'Arcy Hughes (2007); Edward Quin (2007); Michael D'Arcy; **Mar.11:-** Dorothy Fusco (2008); George Ogilvie (1950); John O'Brien (1945); Joseph McElroy; Norah Mullan **Mar.12:-** Margaret Adams (2000); Winifred Wynne (2000); James Kelly (1987); James Wynne (1986); James A McGrory (1967); Wood family (1955); **St Mary Magdalene's: Mar.7:-** John Hughes (1967); **Mar.8:-** Michael Watt (2008); Vincent Dobie (2001); Alistair N Sibbald (1994); Stuart King (1991); **Mar.10:-** John McPhee (2004); Annie Dalgleish (1997); John Barrett (1995); **Mar.12:-** Jeannie Docherty (2010);

**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, 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, 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, Jim Gallagher, Chris and Louise 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:** Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Chris Mann, Marina and Maria Calanna, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Annabelle Cervantes, Nan Doig, Bridie Hanlon, Sharon Henderson, 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, 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, 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 February 2021**



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£65.00 total as Offertory	£1292.40 total including Offertory of £70, Gift Aid of £442.40 and £780.00 Online Donations

The January and February Draws for the St Mary Magdalene’s 200 Club were held last Sunday after the 11am Mass - 47 Maureen Scott (January) - 98 Katie Gallagher (February) who both won £30 each.

**A Prayer to St Joseph, composed by Pope Francis for the Year of St Joseph.**



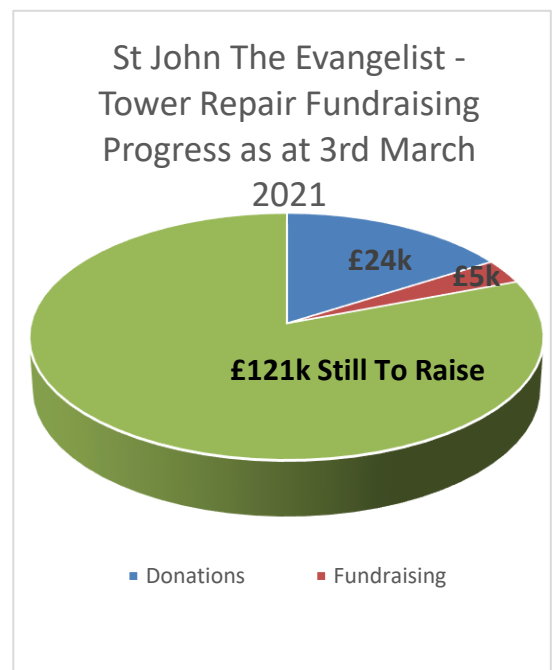
*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

**TOWER FUND UPDATE**

**Gary Zoltie, Chair of St John’s Finance Council, writes:** ‘Thank you very much for the continuing donations you have made for the Tower Fund, we have received a further £11,316 since last month. 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 £150,000.

In the first four months since we launched the project we have made a wonderful start as the Christmas raffle made £4,771 after costs and we have received donations totalling £24,083

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. Last weekend brought another second collection for the tower fund. If you missed it - and whilst the church remains closed - 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.”



# A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## John 2: 13-25

“Riot is the language of the unheard”, so said Martin Luther King in 1966, adding: “It is as necessary for me to be as vigorous in condemning the conditions which cause people to feel they must engage in riotous activity as it is for me to condemn riots.” This sums up the dilemma many of us contend with. How do we cope with the frustration of possessing a socially aware conscience, at the same time as grappling with our utter powerlessness in the face of massive injustices? Many of us this week have watched in horror at the pictures coming out of Yemen. We saw pictures of children with upper arms no thicker than our fingers. At one point I turned from the television screen, no longer able to view the images, and saw one of my dogs, sleeping on her back, all four legs in the air and belly filled with food. I saw pictures of men, women and children, eyes pleading as they stared into the camera lens, helpless in the knowledge that they will go without food, water and the necessities of life, while, screaming overhead, fighter jets each costing millions of dollars fire their equally expensive missiles. Anger doesn’t even come near to adequately describing the way we feel. We crave an end to injustice and unfairness even as we try to empathise with the population of Myanmar, the friends and family of George Floyd, the peoples of Yemen or Palestine. Like Jesus Christ in this weekend’s Gospel we grow frustrated, we become increasingly emasculated. Our problems are so small in comparison and yet, they remain real for us. Imagine how much more real for them.

When we look at today’s Gospel passage, it’s important to note that Jesus is not violent towards any individual. He is angry that the Temple has been taken over by the money men – the people of commerce. Money changers were charging exchange rates that were off the scale, animals for sacrifice were being sold at vastly inflated prices. Jesus is angry at the situation that allows this attitude to go unchecked. Imagine how he feels about us when we remain silent for fear of rocking the boat. I know only too well how difficult it is to strike a balance. Occasionally I have stood accused of being too political in these weekly reflections. One person even went so far as to suggest that the Gospel has nothing to do with politics! When we look closely at the episode described by John this weekend, we see that not only is Jesus angry at the situation, but also that his anger spurs him into action. He makes a whip from some cord, he cracks the whip, he makes a lot of noise, he demonstrates his anger. He shows passion. He generates commotion, and it is the ensuing chaos that drives home the point and effects the necessary change.

The thing that always strikes me about the whole episode is that anarchic chaos is never far from the most ordered of environments. So often in life, order hangs by a thread. Perhaps, this is why, we are naturally averse to any rocking of the boat. Perhaps we just want to float through life, gently, listening to the soothing lapping of the water against the bow of our vessel. Perhaps. Perhaps. We remember the episode when Jesus calmed the storm, when he soothed away the fears of the disciples and told the wind to be quiet and calm. He will quieten all of the storms that beset us – particularly when we are buffeted by public opinion whenever we speak out for hungry children, both at home and abroad, those who are oppressed and trampled by oppressive regimes. We cannot and must not remain silent for if we do then we are completely ignoring and missing the central thrust of this weekend’s Gospel.

If we never get angry at injustice, how are we to summon the energy to address it? It is to our eternal shame that households up and down the country throw food away on a weekly basis whilst so many others starve – here and abroad. It is to our eternal shame that we become exercised at the thought of being forced to wear a mask or take a vaccine whilst the population of Myanmar are suppressed by a military dictatorship. Injustice should make us angry, and we are called to channel that anger into effective change. At the very least we must all speak out, remembering that for evil to thrive all that is required is for good people to do nothing or remain silent.

# 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 7 – Looking in the right place.



There is a story told by the American-born teacher, Gangaji, in *The Diamond in your Pocket*, of a thief who stole only the most exquisite gems. He would hang around the diamond district to see who was buying the gems, so that later he could pick their pockets.

One day the thief saw a well-known diamond merchant buy the jewel he had been waiting for all his life. It was the most pristine, the purest of diamonds. Very excited, the thief followed the diamond merchant as he boarded the train, getting into the same compartment. He spent the entire three-day journey trying to pick the merchant's pocket and steal the diamond.

When the diamond merchant got off the train the pickpocket followed. Finally, very frustrated, he walked up to the merchant and asked how he had hidden the diamond from him.

*'Well, I saw you watching me in the diamond district,'* the diamond merchant replied, *'and I suspected you were a pickpocket. So I hid the diamond where I thought you would be least likely to look for it - in your own pocket.'* He then reached into the thief's pocket and pulled out the diamond.

It is the same for our own buried treasure.

*'Your own hidden treasure,'* Gangaji writes, *'is in your pocket right now, in the pocket of your heart.'*

Augustine's great discovery that within each one of us, in the depths of our hearts, lies hidden treasure changed his life and it can change ours. *'How much treasure we have within us,'* he declares, *'but we do not dig for it!'* Most of us, of course, could reply that we do not know, perhaps have never been shown, where or how to start looking for it.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus in one of his parables likens the kingdom of God to hidden treasure. Jesus said to the crowds: *'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it'* (Matthew 13:44-46).

If we knew just how much treasure is within us we would surely take time in our busy lives to search for it, to find the pearl of great price buried in the field of our lives. We would make time to spend in God's presence.

If we are prepared to sit in silence and journey to the still centre of our being we shall discover that we have everything within us for our spiritual journey, and there are blessings at each step along the way. What we find on the journey will be different for each one of us. The journey may look the same, but each one's story is unique. We each find our own truth, our own treasure.

As a famous sculptor said of one of his pupils, *'I showed her where to find gold, but the gold she found was truly her own gold.'*