THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LLBingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HYParish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple:0131 669 5447Deacon – 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: <u>www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk</u> Joint Facebook page: <u>http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes</u> Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: <u>stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com</u>

Palm Sunday – Sunday 28 March 2021



"Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

OUR CHURCHES REOPEN FOR PALM SUNDAY

...with Masses this weekend as 'normal' – i.e., Vigil Mass at St John's at 6.30pm and Sunday morning Mass at 9.30pm at St John's and 11.15am at St Mary Magdalene's. For the moment, there will not be a 4.30pm Mass on Sunday afternoon but (except on Easter Sunday) we will continue to offer Mass in the Prayer Room at 11am on Sunday on YouTube and Facebook, though this will now be pre-recorded on Saturday.

And remember the clocks go forward this Saturday night/Sunday morning.

Fr Jock writes: 'This Holy Week will be different to most others we have ever celebrated...the continuing feelings of fear, uncertainty, confusion and various other strong emotions – including, thank goodness, hope - will bring us closer to those of Jesus and his disciples than normal.....please do create space in your own lives to follow Jesus into Jerusalem, to the Temple, to the Upper Room, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to Golgotha and to the Tomb... and next Saturday night and Sunday to the Glory and Joy and Mystery of the Resurrection. And please let's pray for each other and especially for all those who continue to walk their own Way of the Cross with Jesus at this time...'

'For the followers of Jesus to celebrate the passion and death of the Lord is a demonstration of heartfelt gratitude to, and joyful worship of, the incredible love of God, and a call to live like Jesus in solidarity with all crucified victims' – Jose Pagola

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

NB The Holy Week Services always take longer than the normal Sunday Mass. The guidelines we have received from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland give no time limits but encourage celebrating in a 'dignified but expeditious' manner (!), advice we will seek to follow. Please remember the traditional 'Sunday obligation' does not apply during the pandemic, and be aware of the need for caution – and for following all our health and safety guidelines. We will endeavour to ensure as good through-ventilation as possible, while trying to avoid the churches becoming too cold....

Saturday 27 March 6.30pm – St John's – Pam Sunday Vigil Mass (booking required) 9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Sunday 28 March – PALM SUNDAY

9.30am – St John's – Mass (livestreamed) (booking required) 11.00am – Prayer Room – Mass (streamed online, pre-recorded)

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

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Monday 29 March

10.00am – St John's- Mass (livestreamed) (no booking required)

 $10.30am-St\ John's-{\it Reconciliation/Confession}$

12.30pm – Zoom – The entrance into Jerusalem (Lourens de Jager, PJPC)

Zoom Details for all Holy Week Midday PACT Gatherings:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355247186?pwd=OTdiTGt6a01IejM0MDg4dmEvMXVWQT09

Meeting ID: 873 5524 7186 - Passcode: 327551

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,87355247186#,,,,*327551# United Kingdom

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Tuesday 30 March

12.30pm – Zoom - Jesus Anointed (Glenn Innes, Portobello Baptist Church) 7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass (livestreamed) 9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Wednesday 31 March 10.00am – St John's – Mass (livestreamed) (no booking required) 10.30am – St John's – Reconciliation/Confession 12.30pm – Zoom – The Washing of the Feet (Fr Jock) 9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Thursday 1 April – HOLY THURSDAY

12.30pm - Zoom - The Last Supper (Sophia Marriage, St Mark's Episcopal Church)
7.30pm - St Mary Magdalene's - Mass (livestreamed) (booking required)
9.30-11pm - Prayer Room - Watching with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
11pm - Zoom/Youtube/Facebook - Night Prayer

Friday 2 April – GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am – St John's - Children's Stations of the Cross (livestreamed) 9.30-11.30am - Good Friday Porty Prayer Walk (see below) 12 midday – Zoom – To the Cross (Stewart Weaver, PJPC) 3.00pm - St John's – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion (livestreamed) (booking required) 7.30pm – St Mary Magdalene's – **Stations of the Cross** (livestreamed) (booking required)

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Saturday 3 April - HOLY SATURDAY 8.30pm – St John's – EASTER VIGIL (livestreamed) (booking required) with confirmation of Roy Cliff Virnodkar and Luke Wormald

Sunday 4 April – EASTER SUNDAY

9.30pm – St John's – Mass (livestreamed) (booking required) with baptisms of Amelie and Ava Wheelan

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

11.30pm – St John's – Mass (booking required)

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We are looking for children willing to read one of the fourteen stations – if you are interested, please contact Julie O'Hanlon (juliecprior@hotmail.com) who is co-ordinating the Service. NB Children's Stations will take place in St John's and will be livestreamed. However, it is NOT 'open to the public' – ie only those participating are allowed to be present.

Holy Week Services – How/If to Book

To help us to manage the numbers, if you wish to come to any of the services during the 'Triduum' – the great three days from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday - please contact the parish house by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) **only on Monday 10am to 1pm - Tuesday 10am to 1pm – and Wednesday 10am to 1pm**

or by email

(stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) from Monday 10am until Wednesday 1pm.

We suggest that people only book **either** Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper) **or** Good Friday (Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion). However, if you come to one of those, you can also come to Stations of the Cross on Friday evening.

Similarly, you are invited to sign up for **either** the Easter Vigil **or** one of the three Easter Sunday morning Masses (we are able to offer an additional Mass at 11.30am at St John's thanks to the availability – and generosity – of Fr Jim Smith).

Please sanitise your hands when you enter and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service.

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

We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.

A Request for Welcomers, Stewards and Cleaners

When we re-open, after every Mass in one of our Churches, 'deep cleaning' will have to take place – something that takes time and effort. We are so very grateful to all who offered their services between July and December and hope you will continue to do, so but we would be very grateful if a few more people would put themselves forward...If you are willing to help, please approach Chris Vinestock or Fr Jock

RECONCILIATION – If anybody wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Jock, **he will be available after the 10am Monday and Wednesday Masses in St John's.** Otherwise please do ring him at the Parish House to arrange a mutually convenient time...

Below are three questions to help you prepare for the sacrament or just to ponder as preparation for celebrating Easter.

Since my last celebration of reconciliation/in recent months

- For what do I most thank God?
 - For what am I most sorry?
- Where do I want to ask help and/or healing in my life?

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly Ad Clerum

Easter Triduum - The following ceremonies will be available on the Archdiocese's YouTube channel:Holy Thursday, 7pm | Good Friday 3pm | Easter Sunday 9am. All celebrations with Archbishop Cushley from St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Online at <u>bit.ly/ArchYouTube</u>

Pro-Life Stations of the Cross - Archbishop Cushley will give a reflection at the online Stations of the Cross, organised by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, this Monday at 7:45pm. Register now on Eventbrite: <u>http://standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com</u>

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: <u>https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/catechetics/</u>

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

The last of 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 30 March - 7.30pm - Pope Francis and the Role of Women in the Church' by Gemma Simmonds CJ. 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''

NOTICEBOARD

Can we 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 - *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

Sharing Holy Week with our fellow Christians Locally – Short Zoom Gatherings (10-15 mins.) - 12.30pm:

Monday 29 March - The entrance into Jerusalem (Lourens de Jager, Associate Minister, PJPC)
 Tuesday 30 March - Jesus anointed (Glenn Innes, Minister, Portobello Baptist Church)
 Wednesday 31 March - Jesus washes the feet of the disciples (Fr Jock)
 Thursday 1 April - Last Supper (Sophia Marriage, Rector, St Mark's Episcopal Church)

GOOD FRIDAY PORTY PRAYER WALK

A leaflet has been produced by the local churches with prayers and Holy Week readings (It is included with this newsletter). People will be encouraged to walk round Porty - with opportunities to stop, read, pray, reflect. 9.30am-11.30am on Good Friday (2 April). Then at 12 midday, Stewart Weaver Minister of PJPC, will reflect on 'To the Cross.'

Zoom Details for all Holy Week Midday PACT Gatherings: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355247186?pwd=OTdiTGt6a01IejM0MDg4dmEvMXVWQT09 Meeting ID: 873 5524 7186 - Passcode: 327551 One tap mobile +441314601196,,87355247186#,,,,*327551# United Kingdom



Arlene Lauder writes: "This weekend marks the first anniversary of Children's Liturgy by Zoom. It continues to be a tremendous achievement for all those involved giving the young people of our parishes the opportunity to be part of the liturgy at their level.

Each week is an enormous privilege and pleasure, seeing our young parishioners participating in children's liturgy with open hearts and minds. The children's liturgy leaders see an enthusiastic group of children eager to hear and learn about the life of Jesus and often tasked with activities to help their understanding. Whether the young people are drawing pictures of seeds and flowers or building Lego creations depicting scenes from the readings that Sunday, each one of them has contributed in their own unique way.

We want to say a huge thank you to the parents and carers of these children for their support and invite other families who would like to be involved to make contact at

lauder.82@btinternet.com"

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours) 20800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: John Sheehy, Stanley McKay and Bridie McGlinchey

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Alison Stewart, Tom Thornton, Ellie Meagher, Vincent Wallace, Liz Davis, Fr Roland Walls and Helen Hanlon

St John's - Mar.27:- Eileen McCann (2017); James Lacey Jun. (1991); Alice Baron (1970); Dorothy K Lynch (1964); Sarah Ferrier; Mar.28:- Helen Hanlon (2019); Bridie Hughes (1994); Charles Marrins ; Edward Baxter (Killed in action) (1943); Mar.29:- Constance Miller (2013); Robert Duffy (2011); Charles Herriott (1998); John Ogilvie: Mar.30:- Tom Thornton (2017); John Harkin (2003); Giuseppina Nicora (1947); Jean Joyce ; Mar.31:- Elizabeth Kelly (2008); Peter Sheridan (2003); Anthony John (2002); Margaret Thackery (2002); Agnes Clyne (1956); Alison Stewart (1994); Apr.1:- Ellie Meagher (2016); Kathleen Craig (2014); Hedley Smibert (2008); Margaret Smith (2007); James McAlinden (1987); Mary Anne McWilliams (1972); Apr.2:-Mary Burke (1997); Mrs. Brennan (1993); James Magee (1962)

St Mary Magdalene's: Mar.28:- Irene Valentine (2013); Mar.30:- Christina Renton (1980); Apr.1:- Liz Davis (2016); Apr.2:-Samuel Casement (2015); Hugh Boyle (1997)

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: 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, Gavin Findlay, baby Baxter Sweeney, St 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 – 21 March 2021

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St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist	The work
nil	£857.40 total including Offertory of	O hank Jo
	£20.00, Gift Aid of £57.40 and	
	£780.00 Online Donations	

Warm birthday greetings to Gary Zoltie, 60, today, Sunday 28 March

Thanks to your incredible support Mary's Meals is now reaching 1,838,859 children with life-changing meals while they learn!



'Last March when schools began to close due to the pandemic, we worked hard to adapt our feeding model so we could continue to bring nutritious daily meals to those hungry children already relying on us. Despite these challenges we are delighted that we have kept our promise to the children we feed, whether in school or at home, and in addition have also welcomed 171,792 new children to our programme since the beginning of 2020.

This wonderful news has only been made possible by your generosity and the many little acts of love you have carried out, taking us closer to

a day when all children have enough to eat and can go to school.

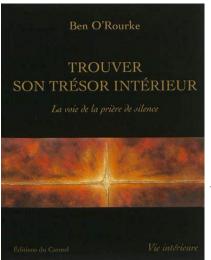
However, the need is still great, with millions more children waiting for a daily meal and the chance to learn. Your ongoing support means we can reach many more hungry children. If you wish to donate, please visit: <u>https://giving.marysmeals.org/en_gb/email-donate</u>

Supporting Mary's Meals, STEKA Children's Home and the St John's Tower Fund all at the Same Time

Elizabeth McClory writes: 'Thanks to your generosity, we are now halfway through our sponsorship for Mary's Meals and Steka dresses and the Tower Fund. Remember we are asking for a donation of £10.00 for 3 dresses. You can make payment to my specially-set up bank account (sort code 608371, acc. no. 02772692) or you may hand your envelope to the Parish House (please write "Dresses" on it).'

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 10 – Choosing the better part.



Augustine links the story of Martha and Mary with **Psalm 46**. Mary, he says, had truly heard the psalm's promise, '*Be still and know that I am God.*' He sees the scene this way.

'While Martha was busy seeing to all the serving, Mary was sitting at the Lord's feet, and listening to his words. One was working hard, the other sitting still, doing nothing. One was feeding others, the other was being fed. Martha was absorbed in the matter of how to feed the Lord; Mary was absorbed in the matter of how to be fed by the Lord. Martha was preparing a banquet for the Lord; Mary was already revelling in the banquet of the Lord.'

In medieval times the unnamed author of The Cloud of Unknowing

pictures Mary gazing on Jesus with all the love of her heart. 'Nothing she saw or heard could budge her, but there she sat, completely still, with deep delight. From "this part" nothing on earth could move her ... She had other work to do that Martha did not understand.'

Sitting still and remaining quiet in the Lord's presence, like Mary, may be hard for some who are just setting out on the journey into silence. Others will find it easier.

A priest serving a rural parish in Ireland tells the story of an old lady who was housebound for many years with arthritis. He had called in and sat for a while to chat. 'I suppose, Brigid,' he said, 'you have time to say lots of prayers for us all.'

'Indeed, Father,' she answered, 'I must confess that I don't say many prayers. You see it's like this,' she said. 'I begin to say the Our Father and I say, "Our Father," and I think how wonderful it is to be able to call him father. And that seems so wonderful that I cannot get any further. I just sit and wonder at it.' Without being taught, Brigid had discovered the truest form of prayer.

Now, most of us pray in the way we have been taught. And the way we pray reflects, or perhaps even fashions, our idea of God. If we fear him, our prayer will be anxious. If we know God as a loving father, then our prayer will be more like Brigid's. So, if we are not happy with our prayer we may need to look closely at our notion of God.

A Reflection on the Gospel Accounts of the Passion

There seems to be a requirement that to make progress in the murky world of politics one must have an ability to twist the truth. There are those who stay under the radar and honourably discharge their duties as public servants, accountable via the ballot box, diligently working for their constituents - and then there are those who openly lie and twist the truth and seem answerable to no-one. If truth is the first casualty in war then, this is certainly also the case in politics.

The Passion narrative is so well known that we are often hard pressed to come up with anything new to say. The story is as familiar as that of the first Christmas and sometimes its best just to absorb the narrative, to head off to a quiet part of the house and read it slowly and deliberately. (Out loud is best – believe me!) All of the evangelists give Peter a tough time, drawing attention to his three-fold denial. If pressed he will no doubt have defended himself: You have no idea how difficult it was, how threatened I felt. Many of us make the mistake of believing that there were only 12 disciples. This is not true. Jesu had many followers, and he developed a group of 12 or so around him who spent more time with him than the others, but there are many references to others who followed him and who were not part of the twelve. Last week we met Nicodemus, there was Martha and Mary and probably, by association, Lazarus. John, chapter 6, tells us that after his teaching on the meaning of the Eucharist, 'many' of his disciples stopped following him. To imagine there were only 12 disciples does an injustice to the power of his message and the strength of his personality. Why am I labouring this point? Jesus had many disciples - followers. Many of those followers travelled with him to Jerusalem - some believing that the liberation of God's Chosen Race was at hand. Too many to be invited to the Upper Room and the Last Supper or the intimacy of the Garden of Gethsemane, they milled around, finding whatever accommodation was possible or searching a patch of ground where they could set up camp. It was the Passover; innkeepers were busy, business was brisk and profitable. The atmosphere was electric but quickly, almost imperceptibly, things turned angry. Shouts of 'Crucify Him' and 'Barabbas' filled the air. they found themselves amid a crowd that was being manipulated. It was time for heads down and mouths tightly shut lest dialects and accents were recognised.

Anyone identified as a disciple faced ridicule and even physical threat. Peter was their embodiment – but there were many such individuals, and we can identify with them all. Many of us have faced a similar dilemma to them. We find ourselves in the middle of a discussion or argument at work or in our social circle. Others are aware of our Christian commitment and look to us for a lead and guidance. Do we defend our faith or dip under the radar or worse still, engage in self-preserving denial? I can still remember an episode in 1968 when, very much under the influence of the local priest, a particularly strong personality, I tried to defend the teaching of Paul VI on the use of artificial contraception. A somewhat aggressive teacher with a chip on his shoulder the size of a railway sleeper, singled me out for ridicule. I felt vulnerable and was no match for him intellectually. Looking back, I realise he was a bully and the fact that I was the sixth of eight children meant that I had emotional investment in the 'discussion'. I was vulnerable and he exploited that vulnerability - or so it seemed to me at the time. I could feel the prickly heat that accompanies intense embarrassment. I felt threatened and desperately sought somewhere to hide and escape the humiliation that was being heaped upon me. I can vividly remember the episode - and my fear.

Witness is a costly business. Our witness will be as varied and personal as we – and only our conscience will know the quality of our integrity and sincerity. On Good Friday we are invited to read and reflect on John's version of the Passion narrative. In that version we will hear the exchange between Jesus and Pilate with the latter asking: *Truth, what is that?* It's perhaps, the ultimate question. As Christians we are witnesses to "truth." Again, in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he has come as a witness to the truth, adding that all who are on the side of truth listen to his voice. We are called to be witnesses to truth and so can give up hope of ever being a prominent politician. As a witness to the truth, we must be willing to speak out, refusing to remain silent, no longer being anonymous in our witness. Being a follower of Jesus comes at a cost – and this is the message behind the episode of Peter's denial. There can be no Resurrection without Calvary. Today we focus on the former in full recognition of the consolation offered by the latter.