

# 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)

## *Pentecost Sunday - 23 May 2021*



## Winds of the Spirit

*“Peace be with you.*

*As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.”*

*After saying this*

*he breathed on them and said:*

*“Receive the Holy Spirit.*

*For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;*

*for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.”*

*(John 20:21-23)*

**With this newsletter, there is a Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of Scotland** to mark the sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' wonderful encyclical on the environment.

**Our sincere condolences to Gift Thompson** on the death of one of his brothers and sisters in the STEKA Children's Home in Blantyre, Malawi, 14 year old David Maseko, who died on Thursday, the first child to have died in the Home since its foundation.

### **QUITE A WEEK FOR THE SACRAMENTS IN OUR PARISHES.....**

**Many Congratulations to all the Primary 7 pupils being confirmed this week** (and also to student Natalia Fajferek, Thomas' big sister! )

**Monday 24 May** - Sophie Telfer; Matthew Curran, Catriona Robertson, Louise Wilson, Dawid Roszkowski and Milly Keegan

**Tuesday 25 May** - Paulina Kuraj, Oliver Wojcik, Lochlan Edwards, Amelia Kazanowska-Grzybczak, Gabriella D'Agostino, Filip Flisek, Dylan Crooks, Thomas Payne and Ellis McClory

**Thursday 27 May** - Thomas Fajferok, Natalia Fajferok, Olivia Gilhooly, Alejandro Bernabeu-Fletcher, Lucy Ramsay, Michael Bridges, Lauren MacGillivray, Julia Zuk, and Noel Daly

**Many congratulations to the P3 pupils celebrating Reconciliation for the first time next**

**Friday 28 May** - Erica Pacitti, Dylan Neild, Declan Doohan Bee, Aleksander Flis, Oliver Benson, Ellie Ewing, Mhairi Robertson, Louis Delaney, David Brunka, Letizia Raviele, Ana Bernabeu Fletcher, Carly Douglas, Lorenzo Fay and Mette Davey.

**...and, finally, many congratulations to the following P4 children, making their First Communion next Saturday, 29 May:** Mason Farmer, Annabel Gibson, Murdo Sinclair, Emme Sivell, Eloise White, Ethan Dunleavey, Sophia Loioia and Emily Loioia.

## MIGHT NOW BE THE TIME TO RETURN IN PERSON TO MASS?

**A Parishioner reflects:** 'Following the long and sometimes difficult restrictions imposed on all of us for the past months, now might be the time to consider attending Mass in our own Churches.

It is wonderful to think that we can be gathered as one, albeit with numbers limited, seeing each other, listening together to God's Word, expressing ourselves as a community and taking part in person in the great gift that is the Eucharist.'

## BOOKING PLACES AT MASS

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)** or by email ([stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)) **on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am to 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.

## THIS WEEK

### **Saturday 22 May**

6.30pm – St John's - **Vigil Mass – livestreamed, booking requested, a few seats still available**

### **Sunday 23 May - FEAST OF PENTECOST**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass - livestreamed, fully booked – with baptism of Jason Coyle**

11am – Prayer Room - **Mass** - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass – fully booked**

### **Monday 24 May**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** - livestreamed, no booking required

12.00 midday – St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh – **Requiem Mass for Mgr Tony Duffy**

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

7.00pm – St John's – **Confirmation Mass – livestreamed - families only due to limited numbers**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All** - to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87513366451?pwd=eGRtK1AwZGR0dXQvcjd1cEhTbmhGQT09>

## **Tuesday 25 May**

5.30pm – **St John's Fabric Meeting**

7.00pm – St John's – **Confirmation Mass - livestreamed - families only due to limited numbers**

**Wednesday 26 May - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass - livestreamed, no booking required**

## **Thursday 27 May**

7.00pm – St John's – **Confirmation Mass - livestreamed - families only due to limited numbers**

## **Friday 28 May**

9.30am - St John's – **Mass - livestreamed, no booking required**

10.30am – St John's – **First Reconciliation Service - 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)'

## **Saturday 29 May**

12.00 noon – St John's – **Mass with First Communions – livestreamed, by invitation only**

6.30pm – St John's – **Mass – livestreamed, booking required**

## **Sunday 30 May – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass - livestreamed, booking required**

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube**

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass - booking required**

## **IN THE COMING WEEKS**

Friday 4 June – 10.30am (and 11 June at 9.30am) – **First Reconciliations.**

Saturday 5 June (and 12, 19 and 26 June) – 12 midday – **First Communions**

### **Advance Warning of our next Baptism Preparation Course**

at 7.30pm in St John's Hall on Thursday **3 and 10 June .... please contact Fr Jock by phone or email** if you wish to have a child baptised and would like to enrol for the course.

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

**Open Evening** - Do you want to deepen your knowledge of education and the Catholic faith? Are you a teacher, an aspiring school leader or simply intellectually curious? Come to an online open evening (Zoom) to hear about courses from St Mary's University, Twickenham, which will be taught at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh this Autumn. It takes place 6-7pm, Wednesday 2 June. Register at [bit.ly/OurOpenEvening](https://bit.ly/OurOpenEvening) For more information about courses visit [stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh](https://stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh)

**Mental Health event** - The Archdiocese is hosting an event titled 'Mental Health and the Pandemic: How can we respond?'. It takes place on Monday 7 June, 7:30-8:30pm and features Fr Tony Lappin and Professor John Crichton (Zoom webinar). Register now at [bit.ly/MentalHealth\\_Webinar](https://bit.ly/MentalHealth_Webinar)

**COP 26** - Scotland's Bishops have announced their intention to set up a 'Care of Creation Office' ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow later this year. COP26 is the twenty sixth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is to take place at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021. It has been widely reported that Pope Francis is expected to attend, though this has not yet been confirmed. A briefing for Faith Communities can be found at [bit.ly/COP26briefing](https://bit.ly/COP26briefing)

# NOTICEBOARD

**The Edinburgh L'Arche Community are looking for a new Support and Care Leader!**

L'Arche Edinburgh is looking for a new Support and Care Leader. Please get in touch with Kirsty or Tom if you would like to have an informal chat about the role, You will find a link to the vacancy page on their website, where you will find more information about the role and how to apply.

**Emma Wood (Steka Skills), Irene Cafferkey (St Theresa's parish, Craigmillar - Mary's Meals) and Catherine Traeey (St Leonard & St Fergus parish, Dundee – Mary's meals) would like to thank St John's parish for the donation of the girls' dresses.**

## **Why not click on to Edition 7 of The Oasis....**

Irene Houston writes: 'Whether in a pandemic or separated in our own homes, workplaces or parishes, sharing faith with each other is important. This is why The Oasis e- zine began and why it continues to grow and develop.

The Oasis explores faith and also how that faith calls us to look out for each other and our world . This latest issue focuses on, for example, the Feasts of Pentecost and Trinity, refugees, human rights, and a review of a book on Julian of Norwich. ...to name but a few. Please click on the link below to take a look yourself. We are always looking for feedback and new ideas

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MgqQ\\_0qklwaS1wIC7eVYWAAwyPO3F5\\_O/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MgqQ_0qklwaS1wIC7eVYWAAwyPO3F5_O/view?usp=sharing)

On Thursday night  
many people from the local churches  
took part in an evening led by Mark Flemming reflecting on what might  
help folk move towards positive mental health

Especially helpful to some  
were a series of comments  
to help open a conversation  
with someone who might need support:  
*'I hope you don't mind but I've noticed...'*  
*'I'm concerned about you...'*  
*'What's happening around you?*  
*how is it affecting you?'*

## An Invitation by Pope Francis to pray the Rosary in May implore the end of the Pandemic.

This can be followed on Facebook and You Tube: <http://bit.ly/May21Rosary>

Also, for the third year, during this month the Rosary will be recited each evening at 8pm around the British Isles - Scotland, England and Wales - at different shrines.

## PARISH REGISTER

Many congratulations to Corinna La Rocca and Enrico Fertini, who celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday 26 May.

Warm Birthday Greetings to Veronica Telfer, 95 next Saturday 29 May

*Please pray for those who have died recently: Martin Leonard, David Maseko (Aged 14 - STEKA Children's Home), Luigi Concedda, Harry Haston, Francis McCluskey and Christiine Pringle*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: David Codling, Anne O'Donnell, Charlie Boyle, Thomas Murphy and Brendan Deignan,*

**St John's May** **May 22:-** Harry McKenna (1988); Archbishop Andrew J Macdonald (1950); **May 23:-** Brendan Deignan (2019); Alice Holligan (1929); **May 24:-** David Codling (2018); John Birrell (2000); Frank Gaffney; **May 25:-** Maureen Leitch (2009); Dorothy Flynn (1988); Mary Foley (1992); **May 26:-** Maureen Anne McElroy (2003); Charles McLauchlan Sen.(1969); Jane Clarke (1957); **May 27:-** Eileen Dean (2018); Sarah Christie (2013); Catherine McCann (2001); Sarah Black (1990); John Gallagher (1981); Jane Sweeney; **May 28:-** Margaret Power (1999); Mary-Ann Donoghue (1980); Wilhelmina Baxter (1974); Elizabeth Birnie (1943);

**St Mary Magdalene's: May 22:-** Fraser R Morrison (1993); **May 23:-** Mary Pelosi (1992); **May 24:** Maggie Henry (2001); **May 25:-** John Laughlin (2000); Mary Hunter (1967); **May 26:-** Michael Rooney (1994); **May 27:-** James McGovern (1991);

**Sick Parishioners - St. John's:** Joyce Martin, Mike Iannarelli, Ernie Moran, Chloe Sutherland, May Thomson, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, James Curnyn, Celia Stone, Eddie Clark, Margaret MacLeod, Sheena Sivell, Catherine Walker, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Susan Cammach, Pauli Walker, Dolores Jones, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

**Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's:** Denis Davidson, Graham Neilson, Sheila and George Service, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Newall, 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 and James Muir.

**Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:** Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, William Barker, Canon Andrew Monaghan, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ray Perrett, William Young, Nick Koning, Kerry Horn, Ann Thorp, John Mackenzie, Alistair Grieves, Tonino Howard, baby Josh Simpson, Maureen McEvoy, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Marina Calanna, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Nan Doig, Rachel Kennedy, Leo Stone, baby Baxter Sweeney, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Billy McPhillips, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Katie Mc Anenny, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, John Walsh, Moira McConville, 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, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Ranier Carpo, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme

### Offertory Collections – 16 May 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£231.21 total including Offertory of £136.21 and Gift Aid of £95.00	£1172.15 total including Offertory of £189.75, Gift Aid of £182.40 and £800.00 Online Donations
<b>Communication Sunday Special Collection</b>	
£ 38.78	£ 143.75

**THANK YOU!**

Next Sunday, there is the Monthly Special Collection for the St John's Tower Fund.

## A REFLECTION ON THE FIRST READING FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY)

### Acts 2: 1-11

Have you ever experienced real fear? Not the fear induced from watching “Silence of the Lambs” on your own in a creaky flat, but the sort of fear experienced from the sound of a burglar moving around downstairs, with your heart pounding to the point of bursting, convincing you that the whole street can hear the thud, thud, thud echoing in your chest. You try to hold your breath; you pray for the burglar just to go. He can take whatever he wants as long as he doesn’t come upstairs. Now think for a moment of the men, women and children huddled together in the land God chose as his home, as rockets exploded all around them bringing down masonry, metal and all manner of dangerous objects. Sirens sound, rockets whine and the air is filled with thick, acrid heavy smoke and dust making every breath an exercise of gargantuan effort. This is fear – real fear. As I write these few words, a cease-fire has been agreed between the state of Israel and Hamas. Only time will tell whether it lasts. I have my doubts - because the injustices remain. It’s difficult to cap an oil well – but this is a walk in the park compared to managing the anger that is rooted in injustice.

The early 1990’s was a very fearful time for me. I didn’t experience the fear of sitting in the middle of a war zone, but I did realise emptiness as my world came crashing around me. It was my world that came crashing down, but it wasn’t God’s world. My world had been built on denial, alcoholic addiction, and deceit. In the chaos and car crash that formed so much of my life I had tried to love and help wherever I could, but the effort required was exhausting, and alcohol and disordered thinking became my refuge. I stress, it was my world, it was never God’s world. As I sat amongst the ruins of my old life, I saw the need to rebuild on different foundations, using different building materials. Last week I suggested we spend some time reflecting on what are the things we value in life, what would be the one possession that you would not want to lose. I also told you that it was my sobriety that I value more than anything else. Sobriety is built on truth and honesty, realistic appraisal of self, constantly doing Step 10 in the 12 Step Programme. I was fortunate in that God, at this time, sent many angels my way. I won’t embarrass anyone by naming them. Some used the brutal medicine of therapy; others held my hand; others whispered words of encouragement. All of them were channels of peace, giving hope and reassurance in equal measure. I wasn’t alone. I didn’t experience tongues of fire but did experience the uplifting comfort of God’ Holy Spirit. I was given a strength unimaginable to my old self, my eyes were opened, I became self-aware as never before, I now had clarity of vision and clarity of purpose. My Pentecost had dawned, and I was reborn.

Today we celebrate the birth of the Church. Gospel Tradition reminds us that the emotion of fear was experienced by His early disciples, too. We wrongly assume that the episode recounted in today’s first reading only affected his closest disciples, those who would be later described as Apostles. You should spend time reading all of Chapters 1 and 2 of Acts of the Apostles. A closer read leaves us in no doubt that there were many followers, all of whom will have moved around cautiously. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke speaks of *‘many followers who were women, including Mary his Mother as well as his brothers’*. Self-survival dictated that the early Church had to move cautiously. Its members could trust only a few; they sought the support of those who were like-minded. It was all of these who experienced that huge outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit into their hearts. Some weeks back, we read how public opinion had been whipped up and the crowd had been inflamed to such a degree that the crucifixion was inevitable. His followers were equally wary of that same power of public opinion. They found themselves living in something of a tinder-box. They were nervous and fearful, and that fear imprisoned them, freezing them into inactivity. Fear of public opinion can be tremendously debilitating. God’s Spirit emboldened them and helped them to cast off those fear-filled shackles.

We are today’s witnesses. We leave it to the priests and bishops to preach through their words of wisdom, but we preach through our lives and lifestyles, our witness and our conviction. Often our preaching is the more eloquent - once we have overcome our fear.

# FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

## Chapter 19 – Quelling the Tempest



If our lives are in turmoil, we may feel that there is no way to quieten the din in our mind. But we are wrong. Even though the surface of our lives may be deeply disturbed, there is always a place deep within where there is calm. Getting in touch with that deeper place takes time. But that is all it takes. A time to be still, to be quiet until the turmoil within begins to ease. If we allow him, Jesus is as willing to quieten the storms in our lives as he was willing to quell the tempest on the Lake of Galilee when his friends battled with an angry sea.

Jesus and his disciples were in a boat, Matthew tells us, when suddenly a storm broke over the lake, so violent that the boat was being swamped by the waves. Jesus was asleep. *‘So, they went to him and woke him saying, “Save us, Lord, we are lost!” And he said to them, “Why are you so frightened, you who have so little faith?” And then he stood up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm’* (Matthew 8:24-27).

Augustine has this advice for those who feel they are being swamped by the storms of life:

*For Christians who fear they are drowning in the world’s business,  
the worst thing they can do is panic.*

*There can be no question of escape from the situation;*

*We are many miles from land and there is no help near.*

*The one thing we can do is to withdraw, as it were, into ourselves,  
to find the Christ within, who is as powerful to still the inner tempest  
as He was to subdue the waves on the Lake of Galilee.*

Our prayer of silence takes us down to that stillness at the centre of our being, to that innermost self where there is always peace. When we become quieter, we find the peace that is hidden in the depths of our being but is submerged under the agitation of everyday life.

So, in the words of a beautiful prayer by David Adam, Canon of York Minster, from his book “Edge of Glory”:

*‘I weave a silence around my lips, my mind, my heart.’*

*‘Calm me, Lord, as you stilled the storm.*

*Still me, Lord, and keep me from harm.*

*Let all the tumult within me cease.*

*Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.’*

It is a long way from the surface of our lives, a long road from the troubled mind to the place of peace in the centre of our being. *‘The longest road,’* wrote Dag Hammarskjöld (a Swedish economist, Secretary-General of the UN and Nobel Peace Prize posthumous winner), *‘is the journey inward. Between you and him lie care, uncertainty, doubt.’*

To reach the place where Christ awaits us, we need to be prepared for long periods of silence and quiet, long enough for our doubts to dissolve, our cares to lose their urgent pressures, our uncertainty to give way to trust. To wait in silence for as long as it takes is to be taken eventually to the still centre where we find that the mind has become quiet, and the heart is at peace.

And, in the stillness, we find God.



“Pentecost” by Nora Kelly (2002)

“The Apostles all gave themselves single-heartedly to prayer, with the women, including Mary, Jesus’ mother, and his brothers”. (Act 1:14)