

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

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## ***Second Sunday of the Year – Sunday 17 January 2021***

This week is **the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, which takes place every year between 18 and 25 January (the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul). Inevitably, the lockdown makes it more difficult to celebrate it together with our fellow Christian churches locally but, as you will see later in the newsletter, **we are continuing our regular practice of praying together at noon on each day from Monday to Friday**. Each 10 minute time together will be led by a different Portobello based minister or priest. Sadly, because this will be on Zoom, there will not be the chance to share soup and sandwiches as we normally do. Please pray during this week for the unity Jesus desired for all of his followers – ‘that they all may be one’. (John, 17:21)

### **A New Initiative for Lockdown - Night Prayer/Compline over Zoom**

Join us for 10 minutes at the end of the day

**....at 9.15pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week for Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church.**

The prayers for all seven nights are available on this link:  
<http://stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com/news/night-prayer/>

Night Prayer is a beautiful and peaceful way to end the day. The words will be available on the screen in the Zoom call, or you can print them off from the link above. Donald Scott and Tracy Burgess will lead us. You are invited to say the prayers with us, or just experience Night Prayer without saying a word.

If you are able to join us for these ten minutes on Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday then please follow the zoom link below or email Deacon Eddie on [ewhite@outlook.com](mailto:ewhite@outlook.com) for the link.

**Compline St John's & St Mary Magdelene's**

**Passcode:** compline

**Link to Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83916544352?pwd=VGIVSnZ5dDhwMG1CMU0eUJscTd1Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 839 1654 4352

**Passcode:** compline

There is also this week the delayed **Second Collection for the work of the Scottish National Justice and Peace Commission** – if you would like to make a donation, please hand it in to the Parish House (or if you prefer, make a bank transfer but specify that it's for J and P).

### **St Mary Magdalene 200 Club Draw – Six Prizes to be won (2x£200, 4x£50)**

As there is no 'public' Mass on 24 January, the St Mary Magdalene 200 Club draw for the six prizes since our last draw in February 2020 will be made by Father Jock and members of the Parish Team after the livestreamed Mass on Thursday 21 January. The results will be announced in next week's newsletter and repeated in the newsletter for the following week. Cheques will be sent to the lucky winners.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2021**

### **Prayer at Noon**

There will be a simple prayer, reading, meditation and music at 12 noon every day (Monday 18th to Friday 22nd) on Zoom.

The prayer will be around 10mins long and is around the theme 'Abiding in Christ.'

A worship leader from different churches will lead each day, but the Zoom ID will stay the same throughout the week:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87015535450?pwd=T0prazF0NzIvRWVJekZqTis4NWRGdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 870 1553 5450

**Passcode:** 8347

Also – on Wednesday evening, 20 January, at 7.30pm, **Edinburgh Churches Together are holding their annual service** – it will take place via Zoom. 'The theme is *'Abiding in Christ'* and this year is prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland.

Please all bring a candle with you to be lit at a point in the service

Please register in advance for this meeting by clicking on the link below and following the instructions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sfuGgqzIjHt3WoK0qCrJtTNkg8WAh6qtZ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting'.

## **THIS WEEK**

**(NB It is only possible to attend Mass online)**

**Saturday 16 January** - 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)

**Sunday 17 January** - 11.00am – Prayer Room - **Mass** (livestreamed)

### **Monday 18 January**

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

4.30pm - Skype – **PEP meeting**

7-8.15pm – Zoom/Google Meeting – **Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

To join in over Zoom, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84415174383?pwd=bFBhMGpodDZUQ3JpZlI1TY0tDS0g2UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 1517 4383

Passcode: 804453

**Tuesday 19 January** – 7.00m – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)

**Wednesday 20 January**

9.20 – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** (livestreamed)

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

**Thursday 21 January**

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** (livestreamed) followed by **St Mary Magdalene’s 200 Club Draw**

3pm – Seafeld Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Alan Halliday**

6pm – Zoom – **St John’s Tower Fundraising Group Meeting**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

**Friday 22 January**

12.00am - St John’s – **Funeral Mass for Conan Murie** (livestreamed)

6.00pm – **Bells ring for passing into law of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

**Saturday 23 January** - 6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** (livestreamed)

**Sunday 24 January**

11.00am – **Mass** (livestreamed from the Prayer Room)

## NOTICEBOARD

**Fr Jock writes:** ‘Sadly, we are back in lockdown, and in the second week of our churches being closed for Masses with normal congregations. However, we intend to continue to try to celebrate our faith together – and to support each other as best we can – it’s never been more important to do so! All our Masses will be livestreamed, the weekday ones sometimes from St John’s and sometimes from the Prayer Room – and we will now offer two rather than one Sunday Mass, a 6.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday in St John’s, and the 11am on Sunday from the Prayer Room. (No more 5 minute homilies either...!)

We are very much hoping that many of our former FOLK (folk offering logistical kindness) have made contact again with some of our PIPS (possibly isolated parishioners) to ensure that anyone who wants a hard copy of the newsletter or a DVD of the previous week’s Sunday Mass will receive one. Please let us know if you want either by making contact with the Parish House and Office. And likewise, if anybody else is willing to offer their help...

And if anyone has any creative ideas of ways to increase our care of each other, or of deepening our faith and developing our praise and worship of the Lord, please do email or give a ring...’

**Living Faith** – the Redemptorist booklet with a reflection for each day in the next three months is available at the door of the parish house for anyone who would like a copy...for those who are housebound or shielding, just ring the parish house and we will post out a copy.

## From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly Ad Clerum

### Coronavirus updates

The latest news on the impact of Covid-19 on the Archdiocese, along with resources, can be found at <https://archedinburgh.org/update-coronavirus/>. Please also see the Bishops’ Conference website: [www.bcos.org.uk/](http://www.bcos.org.uk/)

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This takes place from 18-25 January. Resources are available at <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

## Sacramental Talks

**Rediscover the power of the Sacraments in the *Fire & Water* series of talks, covering confirmation and baptism.** Sign up for your deanery area by emailing [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk). All talks on Zoom. Mid/East Lothian & Borders: **Mon 18 Jan 2:00pm** | **Edinburgh:** Mon 18 Jan 7:30pm | Falkirk & Stirling: Mon 25 Jan 7:30pm. If you missed the talk for your deanery area, simply join a forthcoming event of your choice.

### Fail!

Fr Augustine Wetta, a monk of the Order of St Benedict, hosts a talk titled 'FAIL! Life Lessons from Losers, Has-Beens, Nobodies, and Other Great Saints'. It takes place on Zoom at 6:30pm, Monday 18 Jan. No registration required. Join from 6:20pm using this link: [bit.ly/ArchEvent\\_Fail](https://bit.ly/ArchEvent_Fail)

### Human Fraternity for Peace and Living Together

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the Ahl Al-Bait Scotland Society host this online conference to mark the signing of the document on Human Fraternity by Pope Francis and Sheikh Al Azhar. Keynote speakers are Dr Mohammad Ali Shomali and Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald. Monday 01 February 2021, 5-7pm. To register, search 'Human Fraternity for Peace and Living Together' on Eventbrite.

Sincerely in the Lord,

+Leo Cushley - Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh

### A Reminder for those who do not have the Internet but would like to 'access' Mass....

**Maria Igoe writes:** 'Dial-a-Mass offers those who are unable at this time to get to Mass and who do not have the Internet, the opportunity to hear a short Mass daily on the phone. This was started by Fr Stephen Baillie, who will now share this service with 4 other Priests, including Bishop John Keenan. It is greatly appreciated by those who have no other way to partake in the prayers of the Mass and the scripture readings. Access this by phoning 0141 473 4869.'

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

☎0800 027 1234

## PARISH REGISTER

***Please pray for those who have died recently: Chrissie Dickson, Mary O'Dell, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Fr Terry Fellows, Peter Sheridan, Bishop Vincent Logan and Paul Kinghorn***

***Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mary Service, Vincent McDevitt, Barbara Devlin, Mary Greenan and Liz Saddler***

**St Jan.16:-** Nancy Hancock (1997); Cyril Gorman; Angus McKinnon; Mary Scollan; **Jan.17:-** James Gilchrist (1995); George Tunley (1933); **Jan.18:-** Elizabeth McGrory (2003); Margaret McGuire (1963); **Jan.19:-** Francis Meehan (1994); Roseanne Hunter (1991); Vincent McDevitt (1991); Annie Young (1984); Neil Hanlon (1937); **Jan.20:-** Mary Greenan (2000); Jack Shaw; **Jan.21:-** Barbara Devlin (1988); Mary McGuire (1969); Joan Knox; **Jan.22:-** Antonio Pacitti (1997); Andrew Donoghue (1966);

**St Mary Magdalene's Jan.16:-** Thomas Farrell (1969); **Jan.17:-** Mary Gilhooley (1982); **Jan.19:-** James N Morrison (1981);

**Jan.20:-** John Keating (1976); Mary Wilson (1976); Pearl O'Gorman (1972); **Jan.21:-** Martin Forbes (2005); **Jan.22:-** Jane Graham (2000);

***Sick Parishioners - St. John's:*** Giulio Crolla, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Dolores Jones, Alex Telford, Molly Lugton, 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:*** Jim Gallagher, Chris and Louise English, Jacqueline Marinello, Sheila and George Service, 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:** Baby Baxter Sweeney. Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Billy McPhillips, Peter Von Schenk, Anthony Finnerty, 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, Hazel Yeoman, 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, Mike Enfield, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Rokszana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden and young Ray Donovan Syme



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
10 January 2021	£195.00 Gift Aid - <b>£195.00 total</b>	£539.80 (including Gift Aid of £429.80) and £794.00 Online Donations – <b>£1333.80 total</b>



### ***Richard Rohr - Prayer and Preference***

*...Prayer lives in a spacious place,  
free of personal needs or meanings  
or even interpretations.*

*Life does not care what I like or don't like.  
It doesn't matter a bit.  
If we stay in the world of preference,  
we keep ourselves as the reference point.*

*No wonder people have identity crises.  
No wonder people have a fragile self-image...  
"I choose therefore I am."  
That's not a solid foundation to build on.*

*The real question is  
"What does this have to say to me?"*

*Those who are totally converted,  
come to every experience,  
and ask not whether or not they liked it,  
but what does it have to teach them.*

*"What's the message or gift in this for me?  
How is God in this event?  
Where is God in this suffering?"*

*This is a prayer of unveiling...*

## MARIA IGOE – (THE FIRST FIVE OF) ‘TEN OF THE BEST’

During this time of ‘Lockdown’, many of us find ourselves watching more TV. Often it is not easy to find a programme we like. It made me think of the ‘gems’ I have seen on ‘You Tube’ over the last few years. So I thought I would share these treasures and hope that others will enjoy them. I have chosen ten of my favourites - videos I watch over and over because they lift my spirits. I will give 5 this week and 5 next week. Happy viewing!

(1) **‘Medjugorje - A Call to Priesthood’**. This is the conversion story of Father Donald Calloway, which rivals the conversion of St Paul. I chose this video because it was filmed in 2004, a year after Fr Don was ordained. The quality may not be as good as more recent ones, but it tells the full story. He was born in 1972, when his mother was 17. Through his mother’s prayers and reading a book about Medjugorje he became a Catholic in 1993. At that time he had little education and so he studied for 10 years, before he was ordained in 2003. He is the author of 14 spiritual books.

His book ‘Champions of the Rosary’ became a best-seller, as have the others. His latest book, ‘Consecration to St Joseph’, is epic. It resulted in him and some others requesting that Pope Francis proclaim a ‘Year of St Joseph’ to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Pius 9<sup>th</sup> declaring St Joseph ‘Patron of the Universal Church’. This man whose first 21 years of life were so wild that he could see no future, was infused with Faith by the Holy Spirit during the first Mass he attended. So watch his conversion story and, no doubt, you will be led to watch other videos about this amazing man of Faith.

(2) **‘A Time for Miracles - Medjugorje’**. I love this story of healing and conversion. The physical healing is Artie Boyle’s, but the three friends all received spiritual healing. The Priest they particularly praised in Confession is Father Simon Cadwallader from Liverpool. I do not think I have ever met this priest, but he is leading the Rosary Evenings from Medjugorje on behalf of Joe Walsh Tours at this time.

The story is wonderful and uplifting - have your hankies ready!

(3) **‘The Little Angle of Colombia’**. A great story of a 9 year old boy making a difference to people’s lives. Watch Albeiro Vargas in 1991 and then follow him aged 26, still working for the poor. I have attempted to get others to watch this, without success. Please watch, and it may be a story that children can also watch. It might make them think. Age is no barrier to helping people.

(4) **‘All or Nothing’**. This is a proper film - the story of Sister Clare Crockett, who was born in Derry, Northern Ireland. It is a very joyful story, tinged with sadness.

(5) **Father Leon Pereira** - shares his personal experience and the messages of Medjugorje. Fr Leon is pretty amazing! He studied at Oxford, became a medical Doctor and then a Dominican Priest. He did his noviciate in Edinburgh at the Chaplaincy here. I love that he has an Edinburgh connection and remembers people I know. He is now Chaplain to the English speaking Priests and pilgrims in Medjugorje. He has a great story to tell and he is very humorous. This clever man is very down to earth and is very watchable.

I realise that not everyone has ‘You Tube’, but I hope those who can access it will watch my recommendations. I will certainly be watching them again and again.

## A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19 John 1:3-42

Yesterday Snowflakes were dancing outside of the window. Tiny snowflakes – the sort of flakes that would hardly register on the most sensitive of weighing scales but enough in number to blanket everything. It snowed all day. Everything was white, tree branches grew heavy straining under the weight of their new garb, pure, soft, wet whiteness. The view was breathtaking. The gentlest of breezes, the eddies and air currents running along the walls of the house sent the tiny delicate flakes scurrying in every direction. They were at the whim of the vectors. We have heard a great deal about vectors recently. When it comes to the Corona virus, schools have become vectors of transmission in the mind of the Prime Minister. The snowflakes yearned to be grounded but they must fight against currents of air that were intent on thwarting their passage. I stared at the scene unfolding before my eyes for ages. Working from home during lockdown has its liberties and advantages. It's not all hardship and frustration.

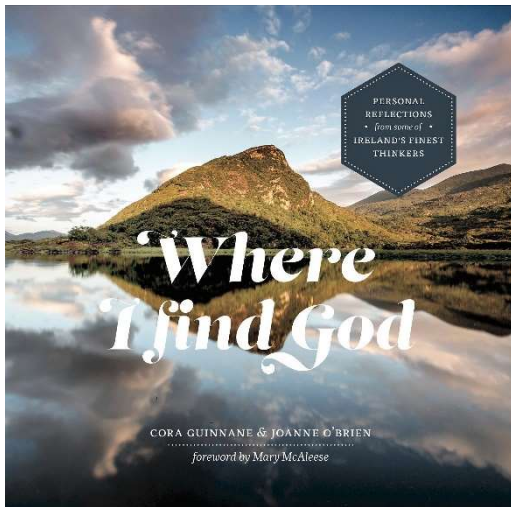
When I think about my response to God's calling, I sometimes feel like a snowflake battling the eddies that surround me. Sadly, 'snowflake' has become a derogatory term used to describe someone who is easily offended. This is sad. Snowflake is a much richer word. My science lessons in Junior School taught me that no two snowflakes are identical. Each is made up of tiny frozen water crystals, each unique, each beautiful. You and I are equally unique, made as we are in the image and likeness of God, and each called to answer a unique calling. Our paths will sometimes coincide, sometimes diverge but our common destination is the same. We will arrive at different times and different days. For some our journey will last four score years, for others it will be shorter; some will achieve holiness quickly, others will be pushed this way and that, struggling to find purchase and foothold. We are all on a journey, all subject to the vectors of fate. We are like Samuel in today's first reading. Three times Samuel was called, and it was only on the third occasion and following the encouragement of Eli that he realised whose voice it was that he heard. He responds with great generosity: *Speak, Lord, your Servant is listening.* He is now able to ground himself on the firmest of all surfaces, the person of God and he forms a relationship with Him. This is our common calling. God himself is our destiny. All acts of kindness and generosity, forgiveness and encouragement are secondary to that grounding. It is that grounding that is the foundation of our discipleship.

The theme of 'calling' or vocation is repeated in this weekend's Gospel. John is talking to his own disciples and although he has nurtured them and formed them, he is generous to a fault and points them away from himself and towards Jesus. *Look, there is the Lamb of God.* Of my many faults, the need to be important and recognised is an ever-present character defect. I'm not the sort of person who will readily do a 'John the Baptist'. Today's Gospel contains much food for thought. There is an equally important aspect to the notion of 'calling'. Do you ever stop to wonder about the ones who said 'No' - there must have been some? Or who came before Samuel and couldn't hear the call of Yahweh because he was too busy, or too self-conscious, or too frightened. We cheapen the notion of free-will if we deny the right of Samuel and those who went before him to decline God's invitation. Some of the Baptist's followers may have preferred to remain with John rather than take yet another step into the unknown. We cannot be certain. The philosophy of free will demands that some will have declined, some will have been too busy to take a stand, too pre-occupied to make their own voice heard. And so, we come to our own fork in the road. Do we take the right fork or the one on the left? The one will involve discomfort and the other an unchallenging, easy life. If we have no idea where we are going then any route will take us there. For evil to thrive, all that is required is for good (wo)men to do nothing – or to use my idiom today, for evil to thrive all that is required is for everyone to take the easier fork. Determining the route we must follow demands that we listen, that we learn how to read the signs, and that we are ready to put our own interests behind those of an authentic response to God's word. John the Baptist knew that God's Word, **the** Word, would only take centre stage once he was prepared to stand back; Eli had to diminish in his role if Samuel was to become the great figure of his time. *He must increase even as I decrease (Jn 3:30).* So, today, I resolve to learn the importance of not being important and, equally essentially, I resolve not to remain silent, lest evil is allowed a voice instead.



# WHERE I FIND GOD' – Cora Guinnane and Joanne O'Brien

For the last three months, we have offered a series of moving – and diverse - reflections on where people 'find God' collated by Cora Guinnane and Joanne O'Brien, two Irish secondary school chaplains. This what they wrote in the Introduction to their book.



*It has been said that people come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. While we have known each other for many years, working as Secondary School Chaplains in Co. Clare, our life journeys intersected at a crossroads. Stepping away from school for a while, taking a career break allowed us the opportunity to meet more regularly. When we met we chatted about faith, God, life and the challenges Irish society is facing. We decided to take on the challenge of the Gospel and travel together to school and parishes sharing our faith through talks, workshops and retreats. We came across many people who inspired us with their questioning faith. We were touched by the images and experiences of God they shared with us.*

*This book is an effort to combine many lived experiences of God. For each of us the encounter with God is deeply personal, yet there are recurring themes among the various contributions. Nature, love, suffering, and serving the poor are all mirrors of the divine. "Where I find God" is a collection of images, reflections and sacred moments from a wide variety of Irish people. Some of the*

*contributions are from people we met on the road as we gave talks. Others you may recognize for being successful in their own field.*

*Jesus always looked out for the most vulnerable in society and in compiling this book we felt we should too. The homeless crisis in Ireland is at all-time high. Homeless people have nowhere to call home; most do not know where their next meal, shower or quiet moment will come from. All the royalties from the sale of "Where I find God" will be shared between Focus Ireland and the Peter McVerry Trust.*

*"Where I find God" is the kind of book that you can delve into a regular interval. We hope this book allows you to slow down a little, find some quiet time and the opportunity to reflect on where you find God. May you the reader be blessed with an abundance of God-filled moments.*

**Cora says:** As I contemplate and reflect on where I find God, there is no one place or time that I associate as being the place where I encounter God. However, there are some occasions when I feel God's presence even more in my life. The sense of peace and acceptance in my heart during difficult times in life assures me that God is present. I have a deep conviction that God has a plan for me and my family. During the most difficult times and despite being upset or disappointed, I have a strong sense that all will be well, God has a plan ! I am very aware of God's presence when I take time out to sit on the wall in Lahinch and reflect on all that is going on in my life, when I am driving to Dublin with only the radio for company, when I pop into the church on my way to or from the shop just to have a quick chat with God. I see and feel God when the tiny hands of my daughter wrap around my neck, and at night when I stand by my daughter's bed and marvel at their perfection. These sacred moments remind me that the miracle of life is so precious.



**Joanne says:** I see God as the architect of the universe and God's spirit, therefore, is present in all of creation. On my drive to work, I pass through an area aptly named Paradise, where a winding road meanders through an area of vast beauty. Beech trees tower and drape over beautiful built stone walls and I'm reminded of the creator every time I pass through. I continue to look for God's spirit throughout the day: in each and every person I encounter at work; in listening to the words of wisdom that come from my children; in the love and kindness of my husband; in the goodness of my parents.

I see God at work when I look back upon a period in my life that was challenging, and I begin to understand what God was up to, pushing me (sometimes gently, sometimes not) to become more, to grow more. I am deeply nourished when I connect with the divine within. 'For in him we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28). When I slow down and enter silence, I discover the sacred space of soul, where God speaks, and it is where the worries and concerns melt away.