

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.

Christian Aid Week Appeal - 10-16 May

Grant Sellar writes: 'Christian Aid Week 2021 is almost upon us, running from 10-16 May. On behalf of the CA Portobello Group (part of PACT) I have created a Just Giving page for donations to go directly to Christian Aid' – see below:

'Drought drives people to the brink. Storms tear families apart. Raging waters show no mercy. In Kenya the climate crisis has made weather more extreme, whether long drought or relentless rainstorms, leaving communities without a reliable source of water. The coronavirus pandemic has only made this lack of water more critical. Without water for handwashing, it is a struggle to stay safe from the virus. If you are able to support Christian Aid in reaching out to our global community to help provide reliable clean water sources, soap, medical supplies and other much-needed assistance, please donate through our Just Giving page below. Thank you from the Portobello and Area CA Group. Your generosity is much appreciated.'

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/portobello-ca-group-or2457991>

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) **on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am to 1pm) until Friday 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 8 May - 6.30pm – St John's - Vigil Mass – livestreamed, a few seats still available

Sunday 9 May

9.30am – St John's – **Mass – fully booked (livestreamed)** with baptisms of Josie and Sonny Stewart

11am – Prayer Room - **Mass** (pre-recorded, streamed)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass – a few seats still available**

Monday 10 May

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

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

7.00pm – **First Communion Parents - Zoom Meeting**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All** - to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87918483442?pwd=a0pLbG5IRmJ3c0N2RWNkM2h1Vlh1UT09>

Tuesday 11 May

6pm – St John's – **First Reconciliation**

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

7.40pm – Zoom – **St John's Pastoral Council Meeting**

Wednesday 12 May

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

7pm – Zoom – **Meeting for Confirmation Parents**

Thursday 13 May – SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** (livestreamed, no booking required)

6.45pm – Zoom – **First Communion Parents’ Meeting**

7.30pm – St John’s – **Mass** (no booking required)

Friday 14 May

10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** - (livestreamed, no booking required)

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’

Saturday 15 May

1pm – St John’s – **Wedding Rehearsal for Andrew Cranston and Iris Cabatu**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Mass (booking required)**

Sunday 16 May

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** (livestreamed) (**booking required**)

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (pre-recorded, streamed)

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

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly Ad Clerum

Ordination to the Diaconate - Congratulations to Josh Moir, 27, a seminarian in Rome studying for our Archdiocese, who was ordained Deacon on Sunday last by Archbishop Arthur Roche in the Scots College Chapel, Rome. God willing, he will be ordained a priest next year.

Safeguarding Training - If you volunteer with children or vulnerable adults, please ensure that you register for the Induction Part 1 safeguarding training. All the details you need can be found at <https://archedinburgh.org/administration/safeguarding-training/>

Save the date - A National Safeguarding Webinar takes place 11am-1pm on 2 October. The session is open to all who play a part in the Church’s safeguarding efforts. Registration details to follow soon.

St Mary’s University - Masters courses in Theology and Education will begin in September at the Gillis Centre Campus in Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, run by St Mary’s University in partnership with the Archdiocese. All information is available on the St Mary’s University website: stmarys.ac.uk/Edinburgh

Laudato Si’ week - SCIAF and Justice & Peace Scotland host an online event titled ‘Everything and Everyone is Connected’ at 7pm on Monday 24 May, “an evening of reflection on Laudato Si’ and the climate crisis”. To register visit eventbrite.co.uk and type the event title in the search bar. Laudato Si’ week takes place 16-24 May as part of the anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical on caring for our common home.

Freedom to Pray - City of Edinburgh Council is petitioning COSLA, the Scottish local authorities’ organisation, in favour of ‘buffer zones’ at all Scottish abortion facilities. It means peaceful pro-life vigils, a lifeline to vulnerable women considering abortion, are under threat. To protect the freedom to pray you can sign the SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) online petition: <https://citizengo.org/en-gb/201800-protect-freedom-pray-scotland>

EDINBURGH JESUIT CENTRE - 'CANNONBALL CONVERSIONS'

‘The Edinburgh Jesuit Centre is delighted to announce a series of three talks **to mark the 500th anniversary of the 'Cannonball Moment during the Battle of Pamplona in 1521' resulting in the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola.** The first talk of our series takes place a few days prior to 'Laudato Si Week' when we explore 'Ecological Conversion' with the Associate Director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Christina Leño. On the 18th May we welcome The Jesuit Superior General's Secretary for the Service of the Faith, James Hanvey SJ to discuss what the conversion of Ignatius means for us. Our final

talk takes place on the 25th of May and we are pleased to welcome the British Ambassador to the Holy See, Sally Axworthy MBE.

Tuesday 11 May at 7.30pm on Zoom - Christina Leño (Associate Director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement) - 'Ecological Conversion'

Christina's interest in spirituality and social justice began over 20 years ago as an undergraduate at Yale University. While fully engaged in homeless and ecological issues, she co-founded the Social Justice Network and the organisation Salt of the Earth, which held events to explore the role of spirituality in past and modern-day social justice leaders. Christina currently serves on faculty for the Genesis School for Contemplative Living. She is a regular contributor to the Catholic devotional publication Give Us This Day, and recently had a chapter published in the anthology Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis. To learn more about Christina Leño please [click here](#).

Zoom Login Information – Join us 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

**A Mass to mark the 25th Anniversary of Fr Norman Cooper's Death
St John's – Thursday 20 May – 7pm**

Fr Norman was a much-loved assistant priest in St John's in the early 1980's, who tragically fell to his death on 20 May 1996, climbing in the Cuillins in Skye, while away for a short midweek break in Applecross with his 'support group' of priests (including Fr Jock). If you would like to attend, please email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com or ring (0131 669 5447) the parishes' administrator, Enrico to book a place.

NOTICEBOARD

SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE donations

This year we raised £895.00 toward the WEE BOX appeal, thanks to the generosity of our Parishioners and their families. Our contribution will be used to help children with disabilities in South Sudan to access the education and support they need to build a brighter future. All donations to the BIG CHANGE appeal up to 11 May 2021 will be doubled by the UK Government.



Elizabeth McClory writes: “The *sponsorship of the school dresses* has been very successful. An initial target of £900.00 was set, and thanks to the generosity of everyone, it has been increased to £1,080.00.... Well done to all concerned”

Pat Whyte and Lynda Kazimoglu write: “Thanks to everyone who took part in the *treasure hunt* (in spite of the inclement weather!). A lot of fun has been reported and many have learned new facts about Portobello. Donations of £155.00 have been received”.



The draw for the prize winners will take place at the end of the live streamed 9.30 Mass at St John's on Sunday 9 May.

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

An evening of training, learning and equipping

THURSDAY 20TH MAY 7PM-9PM

portobellopmh.eventbrite.co.uk

Hosted by

PORTOBELLO CHURCHES TOGETHER

The churches of Portobello are delighted to host an evening for the community of Portobello reflecting on Positive Mental Health

On ZOOM

Many of us have faced and continue to face challenges with maintaining Positive Mental Health in our current trying times. This evening will be an opportunity to reflect on what Mental Health is, what depression and anxiety are as well as looking at how we create and maintain positive mental health.

This training is suitable for those who wish to strengthen their own mental health, those who want to understand more and those who want to help others around them.

The evening's session will be delivered by Mark Flemming. Mark works closely with the Scottish Football Association and many of its clubs, the Scottish Rugby Union and others in the area of Mental Health training. He also delivers training for the NHS. We are delighted to have Mark come and help us build positive mental health in our community here in Portobello.

The event will run on Thursday 20th May from 7pm to 9pm on Zoom.

It is free but you do need to book your space. <https://portobellopmh.eventbrite.co.uk>

You can learn more about Mark and his work at positivementalhealthscotland.co.uk

Advance Warning of our next Baptism Preparation Course

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

*The tyrant dies and his rule is over;
the martyr dies and his rule begins.*

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-55)

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

 0800 027 1234

AN INVITATION TO SIT AND RELAX

We would like to bring to your attention the sheltered sunny spot with chairs in the grounds, just outside the Parish House, and invite you to use it.. The garden is looking beautiful.

If you turn up and the seats are occupied there are 8 benches in Brighton Park.
FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS SPOT, SEE THE PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE.....

PARISH REGISTER

Welcome to the World..... Sorley Hugh Michael Haller-Zurowski, born on 6 April, a first child for Elise and Matt, and a first grandchild for Ann and the late Hugh Shannon.

....and **Stanley Alexander John Sivell**, born on 30 April, a first son for Kirsty and Peter, a little brother for Ayda and Emme, and a grandchild for Sheena and the late Mike.

Please pray for those who have died recently: Eddie Walker

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Ena McCann, Bridget McTighe, John Rennie, Martin Gaughan, Rustom Carpo, Angus McIsaac, Anton Krupa, Maureen Henderson, Miro Kolena, Barbara Blackburn and Sandra Elgey

St John's May 8:- Bridget McTighe (2018); John Rennie (2011); Jim Ponton (1986); John Kane (1949); Mary Taylor;
May 9:- Rosanna O'Neill (1970); Bruno Nicora (1932); **May 10:-** Michael McGovern (2004); William Cunningham (1984);
May 11:- Veronica Ginnelly (2001); **May 12:-** Cathie Young (2020); Ian J Berry (2013); Helen McGuire (1991); Kathleen Ogilvie (1970); Ninian Connolly; **May 13:-** John Bonar (2005); Sr.Marie McAllister (2001); Rena Tow (1992); Edward Black Sen. (1985);
May 14:- Cecelia McKenzie (2009); John Gordon Kerr (1994); Sr.Mary Tait (1994); James Waugh (1979); Ann (McCann) Murphy (1956).

St Mary Magdalene's: May 8:- Martin Gaughan (1998); Thomas Murphy (1968); **May 10:-** Samuel Tosney (1999); Patrick Walker (1991); **May 12:-** Dorothy McEwan (1995);

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: Mgr Tony Duffy, Denis Davidson, Graham Neilson, Sheila and George Service, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, 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 and James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Canon Andrew Monaghan, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Audrey Burgess, 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 and Maria Calanna, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Nan Doig, Rachel Kennedy, Leo Stone, Dago Dinis, 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 McAnenny, 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, Janie Low, 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 – 2 May 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£38.07 total including Offertory of £23.07 and Gift Aid of £15.00	£1,382.40 total including Offertory of £295.00, Gift Aid of £287.40 and £800.00 Online Donations
Tower Fund Special Collection - £687.79	



*May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.
 May the soft winds freshen your spirit.
 May the sunshine brighten your heart.
 May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
 and may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.
 (A Celtic Blessing)*

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 15: 9-17

We have had some building work done, converting an old Bothy into a bespoke Pilates Studio and Corrective Movement Centre. A new heating system was installed and as we aren't on mains gas, a modern oil-fired condensing system was the builder's recommendation. That was the easy part. I am still trying to get my head around the extremely substantial and weighty tome that is the 'Bluetooth Remote Programmer Guide'. A programmer that has on/off settings for two or three times per day is well within my capability – and sufficient. This one, on the other hand, seems to come complete with access to fluctuations in the wholesale price of oil on the world market! After two days, I found myself praying for an old-fashioned timer. As is so often the case in my life, things sold as making my life simpler are invariably impossibly complicated.

Today's Gospel sees Jesus in his final discourse giving the simplest of instructions: This is my commandment: Love one another, as I have loved you. If the apostles were feeling anxious as to what the future held, then the simplicity of his message will have brought reassurance. Just as it will have consoled them, it should also console us. The message is simple. The living of it requires effort and it will cost us. Sometimes it will cost us not less than everything. It's the cost of discipleship and therein lies its difficulty.

It's hard to be a disciple and preach the Gospel of Love because from my perspective, here in the UK we are living through a moral vacuum. It should be easy to preach effectively because nature abhors a vacuum. But it's so difficult to make the Gospel heard. Readers further afield will not necessarily be able to identify with or understand the challenges we face. In England, where I live, there has been a lurch to the right with some parties appearing to morph into each other. Immigrants and Immigration and everything to do with the EU are the enemy, and all are called to rally behind a flag, to be 'British' whatever that means. Politicians of a certain persuasion even wear flags on their lapels, and sometimes they wear them upside down! It's all rather pathetic – but frighteningly effective. How on earth are we to combat the message with no more at our disposal than Love one another as I have loved you. We are up against a lack of integrity, honesty and truth. A few weeks ago, when Pilate asked Jesus: Truth, what is that? He spoke words of prophetic finality; words that will form the basis of our ultimate judgement.

I once had a particularly good friend. He and I had been friends from my early 20's but over the later years he grew to become more and more extreme in his views. I tried to use reason in an attempt to re-awaken his old self but, he maintained that he had moved on and no longer believed 'all of that old tosh'. He was becoming more and more racist in his views and I told him as such. That was the last conversation we ever had. Do I regret the loss of friendship? Of course, I do. Do I wish we had been able to have a more reasoned debate? Again, Yes! From time to time, I hear of him through a mutual friend. If anything, he seems to be more extreme in his views, and this make me even sadder. He was once a good person and I have lost a friendship I valued, but I think I did the right thing. At the end of my life, I will find out for definite. Sometimes we show our love for one another through challenge and correction – even when it costs us dearly. Love will win. Of that, I have no doubt, because even political leaders die and are replaced. Our challenge, as custodians of the Gospel of Love, is to ensure that the message is heard, for all eternity, and that its essence permeates the minds and hearts of the political leaders of tomorrow – some of them are our children and grand-children

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 17 – Wait for the Lord



We may sometimes become aware that the wonderful invitation to enter into the quiet place within is in conflict with our present state of mind or feelings. We hear the invitation, but our mood is contrary. What are we to do?

I remember that once, on a long journey in Ireland with the train running late, I found myself at an unscheduled stop at Kildare. Looking

through the misty window I found myself staring at a poster on the station billboard. It was advertising holidays in Ireland. The picture was one of utter peace. It showed a cloudless blue sky, a still lake, with not a ripple on the smooth water, and blue-grey mountains behind. Standing beside the peaceful lake was a man in a deerstalker hat, a fishing rod in his hand, a little dog at his side, and a hamper a few yards away. The caption read, *'Tranquillity'*.

At that moment, with my view from the carriage window one of grey, louring skies, a steady drizzle, a drab railway station, and a weary feeling of having been already five hours on the train, I found the scene of tranquillity on the poster almost mocking.

When we settle down to our prayer of silence, sometimes the promise of peace and tranquillity may also seem a mockery. Our mood may be one of anxiousness or dogged resistance, or we may be full of anger, or depressed. We try to be true to our prayer word, but there is no easing of the mood we are in.

This is the time to be prepared to wait, to sit still and wait long enough for the clouds of weariness, or rebellion, or worry to lift and our thoughts and feelings to become quiet. In the words of a modern contemplative, *'You must wait in silence from day to day, sometimes from hour to hour. And then the things that are meant to happen will happen. Sometimes there will be straws in the wind, sometimes not even that; you may just have to allow yourself to be carried along by the current.'*

So even if it takes longer than we expect, we wait. Augustine encourages us: *'Wait for the Lord. Be firm. Let your heart take courage and wait for the Lord.'*

Meister Eckhart, in one of his sermons, likens the person coming into prayer to a damp log that is placed on the fire. It takes time for the log to be warmed and catch fire. *'In order that the wood may catch fire and be penetrated completely time is needed, because the wood and the fire are so dissimilar. At first the fire warms the wood and makes it hot. Then the wood starts smoking and spitting and crackling, because the two are so dissimilar. But as the wood gets hotter it gets quieter. The more the wood gives up to the fire, the more peaceful it is, until at last it really turns to fire.'* (Sermon 12).

Sometimes it is in our darkest moments, if we are able to wait, that we catch fire.