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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after the Vigil Mass (7.30pm on Saturday) or any time by appointment

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, and Chris Vinestock Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, Edinburgh, EH15 1LP Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini (Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

Web address: Joint Facebook page: Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:

https://www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4 December 2022



In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

(*Matthew* 3:11)

Monday is our monthly Healing Mass – at 2.30pm in St John's – with the sacrament of anointing. All welcome...

Thursday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. There will be Mass at 10am in St Mary Magdalene's. (It is not a holiday of obligation but very much one of celebration...)

NEXT SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER - ADVENT CLUSTER RETREAT 10am (Mass) - 1pm

(for the five cluster parishes of St Ninian's, Restalrig, St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith, St Teresa's, Craigmillar, St Mary Magdalene's, Bingham, and St John's, Portobello),

Saturday 10 December – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith with **Fr Tony Lappin**, parish priest of Peebles and Innerleithen.

ALL MOST WELCOME – AN EXCELLENT WAY TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS Please sign up on one of the lists at the back of both churches (or just turn up) Next Sunday, at the 9.30am Mass at St John's, the five 'Enquirers' in our RCIA (<u>Rite of</u> <u>Christian Initiation of Adults</u>) group – Tolu Ariba, Ruth Vizor, Malcolm Aien, Colin Davey and Stefan Durcasz - having completed the Enquiry Stage, will enter the second of the four stages in the RCIA process, the Catechumenate (period of instruction)...

Our Advent Reconciliation Sunday will be 17/18 December with several priests available at the start of all three Masses...in next week's newsletter, there will be a Reflection to help us all prepare...

Jennifer Morris writes: 'The Justice & Peace charity concert on St Andrew's Night raised £1500. The J&P Group have added £500 to make a grand total of £2000 and will send £1000 to the DEC (Disaster Emergencies Appeal) for the flood victims in Pakistan and £1000 to the Wilson Memorial Food Bank. Our thanks go to all those who entertained us so wonderfully and everyone who donated.'

ADVENT INITIATIVES

Prayer at Night

Last week, on the First Sunday of Advent, *Prayer at Night* started. This will be on Zoom each night until Christmas Eve.

The prayer starts at 9.15pm each evening and lasts for less than 15 minutes. This is an initiative of our two parishes, St John's and St Mary Magdalene's, however, because it is online, it is accessible from anywhere with a mobile phone, a laptop and/or Wi-Fi. All are very welcome. Do invite people in.

For ease, the **Zoom link** is the same each evening: **shorturl.at/pvyG0** (type it into your browser)

You can also click on this <u>link</u> (it will be in the parish newsletter each week) and it is also be on the parish website and <u>Facebook page</u>. If you need help in using Zoom to join the prayer, Deacon Eddie or Enrico Fertini will be very happy to help.

Apologies for one or two teething problems during the last week – hopefully these have now been sorted... please do try again if you have been unable to log in...

WARM SPACES

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR FELLOW CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN PORTOBELLO

who are already offering hospitality.... Our two parishes will also be offering a warm welcome to everyone during this cold wintery weather. Please pop in for tea, coffee and a chat.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL Tuesdays 10am-12midday Starting 6 December 2022







Advent Rosary for Life - Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Includes a reflection from a priest of the Archdiocese each Wednesday in Advent, 7:45pm – 8:20pm. Register at <u>bit.ly/archprolifeevents</u> (Zoom event) - this Wednesday, it's Fr Jock reflecting on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.....

Stella Maris are holding a **Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary Star of the Sea**,106 Constitution Street Leith, EH6 6AW, **on Wednesday 7 December at 7pm**. This will be followed by a reception at 8pm. (*Stella Maris – the Apostleship of the Sea – 'is the largest ship-visiting network in the world. We improve the lives of seafarers and fishers through our network of local chaplains and seafarer centres, expert information, advocacy, and spiritual support.'*)

Advent and Christmas GIFT Initiatives - from the J&P Group

SCIAF REAL GIFTS (see extra handout)

Stop worrying about what to get your nearest and dearest – **SCIAF Real Gifts will be on sale after each of the Masses this weekend!** Don't worry about not having cash in your wallet/purse; we will have a card reader – yes, the J&P Group have finally decided to join the 21st Century! A list of the items for sale, with prices, can be found by clicking <u>here</u> or at the back of the church after each Mass.

ONE DONATION, DOUBLE THE BEDS



Jim Roarty and The Bethany Team writes: "Big news! **Every donation to Buy a Bed this week will be doubled by The Big Give initiative**, until we reach our target of £40,000. This year we are seeing more people than ever needing emergency support, can you help someone facing homelessness by Buying more Beds?

Trust For this week only The Together Fund and The Mackie Foundation have pledged to match your donations to Buy a Bed. **This means every £21 you donate will be doubled, enabling the Welcome Centre to provide two people with access to a warm bed, hot food and individualised support to move on into more permanent accommodation**. That's one donation, double the impact! Click <u>HERE</u> to donate. Let's end homelessness, two people at a time!"

THERE WILL BE A STALL FOR STEKA SKILLS, the Children's Home in Blantyre, Malawi, in both church halls after Masses on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent (11 and 18 December).

On **Thursday 22 December**, there will be **Carol Singing** organised by PACT (Portobello and Area Churches Together) starting at St John's at 11am and travelling by the Baptist Church and PJPC before concluding at St Mark's with mulled fruit juice and mince pies.

OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday 24 December 6pm – St John's - Christmas Eve Children's Mass - livestreamed 8.30pm – St John's – Christmas Vigil Mass - livestreamed

Sunday 25 December

10.30am - St Mary Magdalene's - Christmas Children's Mass - livestreamed

,-----

Religion is one of the safest places to hide from God (Richard Rohr OFM)

THIS WEEK

Saturday 3 December

9.30am-1.30pm – St John's Hall – Pamoja Fashion sale

10.00am – St Mary's Cathedral – Requiem Mass for Michael McPhilipps

6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Sunday 4 December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am - St John's - Children's Mass with P4 Do This In Memory Children - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Children's Mass with P3 Reconciliation Children

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Monday 5 December

2.30pm - St John's - Advent Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick - livestreamed

5.30pm – Parish House – St John's Fabric Committee Meeting

7.00pm – Zoom – Gospel Sharing – or type shorturl.at/imE57 into your browser

8.15pm – Parish House – **Baptismal Team Meeting**

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Tuesday 6 December

10am – Baptist Church Café – Holy Huddle

7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass - livestreamed

7.45pm - Parish House - RCIA - Catechumenate Stage 1

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Wednesday 7 December

10.00am – St John's – Mass in St John's - livestreamed 7.45pm-8.20pm – Zoom - Advent Rosary for Life (with a reflection by Fr Jock) 9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

Thursday 8 December – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** - livestreamed 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

Friday 9 December

9.45am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Jean Bonar** – livestreamed 1pm – Mortonhall Crematorium - **Funeral Service for Jean Nelson** (May Thomson's sister) 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

Saturday 10 December

10am-1pm – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith – **Mass and Advent Cluster Retreat** 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed 9.15pm – Zoom – **Night Prayer**

Sunday 11 December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am – St John's –Mass – livestreamed – with Entrance to the Catechumenate for our 5 RCIA 'Enquirers' 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's –Mass

9.15pm – Zoom – Night Prayer

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Wednesday 14 December – 10am – Requiem Mass for Ernie Moran

Contemplative vision is the vision that says "you are good as you are because you are the sacrament of God's love" (Sr Ilia Delio, OFS: Franciscan Prayer)

'SAINT' OF THE WEEK – ETTY HILLESUM Mystic of the Holocaust (1914-1943)

"God is not accountable to us, but we are to Him. I know what may lie in wait for us.... And yet I find life beautiful and meaningful."



Little is known of the external life of Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman who lived in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation and who died as one of the millions of victims of the Holocaust. This obscurity is in contrast with her well-documented internal life. From the day when Dutch Jews were ordered to wear a yellow star up to the day she boarded a cattle car bound for Poland, Etty consecrated herself to an ambitious task. In the face of her impending death, she endeavoured to bear witness to the inviolable power of love and to reconcile her keen sensitivity to human suffering with her appreciation for the beauty and meaning of existence. For the last two years of her life Etty kept a meticulous diary, recording her daily experiences and the unfolding of her interior response. Published four decades after her death, this book was quickly recognized as one of the great moral documents of our time.

Etty maintained a clear sense of solidarity with the Jewish people. But her personal reflection was nourished by an eclectic range of sources,

including Rilke, the Bible, St. Augustine, and Dostoevsky. When a friend exclaimed indignantly that her attitude on the love of enemies sounded like Christianity, she responded, "Yes, Christianity, why ever not?" But in fact, she had little interest in organized religion of any kind. In a time when everything was being swept away, when "*the whole world is becoming a giant concentration camp*," she felt one must hold fast to what endures - the encounter with God at the depths of one's own soul and in other people.

There is an earthy and embodied dimension to Etty Hillesum's spirituality. She described her romantic adventures with no more reticence than she reserved for descriptions of her prayer. For Etty, everything - the physical and the spiritual without distinction - was related to her passionate openness to life, which was ultimately openness to God.

In the meantime, her life was unfolding within the tightening noose of German occupation. Etty's effervescence might seem to resemble a type of manic denial. The fact is, however, that she seems to have discerned the logic of events with uncommon objectivity. In this light, her determination to affirm the goodness and beauty of existence becomes nothing short of miraculous. Her entry for July 3, 1942, reads:

I must admit a new insight in my life and find a place for it: what is at stake is our impending destruction and annihilation.... They are out to destroy us completely, we must accept that and go on from there.... Very well then...I accept it... I work and continue to live with the same conviction, and I find life meaningful.... I wish I could live for a long time so that one day I may know how to explain it, and if I am not granted that wish, well, then somebody else will perhaps do it, carry on from where my life has been cut short. And that is why I must try to live a good and faithful life to my last breath; so that those who come after me do not have to start all over again.

For Etty, this affirmation of the value and meaning of life in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary became her guiding principle. In the midst of suffering and injustice, she believed, the effort to preserve in one's heart a spirit of love and forgiveness was the greatest task that any person could perform. This, she felt, was her vocation.

With increasing regularity, Etty described her compulsion to drop to her knees in prayer. Toward the end of her journals, God had become the explicit partner of her internal dialogue:

God take me by Your hand, I shall follow You faithfully, and not resist too much, I shall evade none of the tempests life has in store for me, I shall try to face it all as best I can... I shall try to spread some of my warmth, of my genuine love for others, wherever I go... I sometimes imagine that I long for the seclusion of a nunnery. But I know that I must seek You amongst people, out in the world. And that is what I shall do.... I vow to live my life out there to the full.

Etty worked for a while as a typist for the Jewish Council, a job that delayed her deportation to the transit camp at Westbork. Eventually she renounced this privilege and volunteered to accompany her fellow Jews to the camp.

She did not wish to be spared the suffering of the masses. In fact, she felt a deep calling to be present at the heart of the suffering, to become *"the thinking heart of the concentration camp."*

Her sense of a call to solidarity with those who suffer became the specific form of her religious vocation. But it was not a vocation to suffering as such. It was a vocation to redeem the suffering of humanity from within, by safeguarding *"that little piece of You, God, in ourselves."*

I know that a new and kinder day will come. I would so much like to live on, if only to express all the love I carry within me. And there is only one way of preparing the new age, by living it even now in our hearts.

On September 7, 1943, Etty and her family were placed on a transport train to Poland. From a window of the train, she tossed out a card that read, "*We have left the camp singing*." She died in Auschwitz on November 30. She was twenty-nine.

See: An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943 (New York: Pantheon, 1983).



My son has lived through four chancellors, three home secretaries, two prime ministers and two monarchs. He's four months old.



From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

Let Us Pray - Rediscover prayer as we await anew the gift of life in Jesus. Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM leads this series of three 30-minute online talks on different forms of prayers - vocal, meditative, contemplative - on Monday 5, 12, and 19 December at 7:30pm on Zoom. No registration required, just use the following link on the night to join any of the talks: <u>bit.ly/adventtalks22</u>

Light from Light: choral music for Advent by candlelight - This December be uplifted with a candlelit Advent music concert from the Schola Cantorum of St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. They will sing at the following churches: St Francis Xavier's in Falkirk on Wednesday 7 December; St Patrick's in Kilsyth on Saturday 10 December; St Margaret's in Dunfermline on Friday 16 December. All concerts 8pm. Pay at the door on the night or get your £5 ticket (family ticket £10) at <u>bit.ly/3T7wRRY</u>

Advent reflections - Reflect on the meaning of Advent with two special online talks from Canon Hugh White of Bathgate. They are available to watch now on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel at <u>bit.ly/reconnectingtogod</u> and <u>bit.ly/respondingtogod</u>

Catholic Education - Make sure Catholic voices are heard in the national discussion on the future of education in Scotland! Submit your response to the Scottish Government's 10-question survey by 5 Dec at <u>bit.ly/scotedsurvey</u>

Bookshop - St Paul's Bookshop is open at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. It has a wide range of Christian books as well as gift items. Find your perfect stocking filler there! Opening hours are 10:00am to 5:30pm, including weekends (closed Mondays).

Youth Safeguarding Forum - The new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is developing a forum for young Catholic adults. It will look at the current safeguarding training and resources for people in youth ministries, discuss ideas and create a package of training and resources for ministries involving young people. If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and would be interested in joining please contact Helena Rameckers by emailing training@scssa.org.ukor phoning 07394 862 279 by Friday, 9 December.

May today there be peace within

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born from faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us
(St Teresa of Avila)

NOTICEBOARD

Welcome to the world...Alba Giaccone, born on 30 November, the feast of St Andrew, a first child for Stella Pezzilli and Alberto Giaccone





A Request For a Home to Rent I – Veronica Kinane writes: 'As many of you may know our Ukrainian family – Zinia, Taras, Olya and little Marta and Dorina - lived with us for 6 months. They are now keen to live independently and have therefore sadly had to move to the liner in Leith. They are seeking a 2- or 3- bedroom rental property in the Portobello area or within a bus journey from St John's primary school. We are so grateful for the welcome and support the parish and the school has given them over the past 6 months. If you know of any such properties in the area could you please contact me on 07902 941675 or on email mvkinane@hotmail.co.uk. We thank you in advance for your thoughts and we would ask you to pray that this family might find accommodation so they can start their independent life here in Portobello where they have felt so welcomed.'

A Request For a Home to Rent/Temporary Accomodation II – Catrina McGillvray writes: 'New assistants arriving to work in the L'Arche Community in Leith are seeking temporary accommodation in the Edinburgh and Portobello area. If you have or know of accommodation available to let, please contact L'Arche Community Leader Kirsty MacCrimmon on phone: 031 553 3478, email edinburgh@larche.org.uk or L'Arche Edinburgh, Davidson House, 57 Queen Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH6 7EY

Maria Igoe writes: "The **November Charity Coffee Morning** raised £340 for the 'Smile Train'. This will make a big difference to the children, who have a cleft, which prevents them from eating, drinking, talking etc. Corrective surgery will change their lives. Many thanks to those who gave with such generosity.

The December Coffee Morning will be held on Monday 12 December in St John's Hall after 10am Mass. Donations will be given to 'Aid to the Church in Need' (https://acnuk.org/). Please come along and support this wonderful charity."

PIANO CONCERT IN DUDDINGSTON KIRK - Tricia Whyatt writes: "An end of term piano concert by pupils of my music school will take place in Duddingston Kirk on **Friday December 16th at 6.30pm** (approx one hour). All are very welcome. Cash donations will be collected in support of Richmond Craigmillar food bank."

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Erníe Moran Jean Bonar - Andrew Fyffe Joseph Zajaczkowski

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Ann O'Bríen - Mary Salvona -Kathleen Codling - Jenny Wormald -Denis Davídson - Stan Tweedie -Bill Brogan - María Juska Mary McLauchlan - Margaret Rísi Roy McGillívray - Stan Tweedie Evelyn Ostrowska Elisabeth Foster Mellíar

Please pray for those Paríshíoners who are síck:

St. John's:

Gerry Gallagher, Carol Simpson, Pat Dickin, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, John Freeman, Kenny O'Connor, Alex Cranston, John Cregan, Kim O'Neill, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Bob Kelly, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme. **St Mary Magdalene's:**

Anne Carruthers, Ann Dockrell, Isobel Philipps, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and Mary and James Muir.

Anniversaries:

<u>St John's:</u>

Dec.3: Jean Tunley (1997); Andrew & Mary Malcolm; Patrick McLory;
Dec.4: Ronnie Smith (2017); Sarah Jessiman (2003); Robert Kerr (1999); Hugh Walsh (1994); Ronald Godley (1988); John Lawler (1970); A Duffy (1950); John Scollon; Dec.5: Helen Cassidy (2004); Mary Bisset (2001); Bill Brogan (1996); George Forrest (1988); Neil Donoghue (1987); Elizabeth Quinn (1980); Edmund Z Schmelter (1970); Nancy Syme; Dec.6: Patrick Butler (2007); Winifred Adamson (2000); Grace Spencer (1980); Mary Meehan; Dec.7: Charlie DiCarlo (1997); Thomas Holt (1972); John Tweedie; Dec.8: Margaret O'Brien (2001); Robert Taylor (1998); Kathleen M Codling (1977); James Waldie; Dec.9: Mary Salvona (2017); Jenny Wormald (2015); May Maclean (2007); S. M. Nelson (1985); Frank McGuire (1979); Bridget Lawrie (1990);

Dec.10: Jimmy Duke (2014); Vincent Kelegher (2003); Margaret T Ward (2001); Mary McLauchlan (2000); Joseph Dykes (1985); Maggie Bonner (1982); Michael Keogh (1948); James Anderson; **Dec.11:** Stan Tweedie (2014); Mary Meehan (2006); Bridget & Michael Meldrum; Annie Shrivener;

St Mary Magdalene's:

Dec.3: Leonora Hanlon (1990); **Dec.5:** Denis Davidson (2021); **Dec.5:** Denis Davidson (2021); **Dec.6:** Maria A Langlands (1997); **Dec.7:** Thomas Burdell (2000); **Dec.9:** Richard Sheppard (1973); Mary MacDougall (1969); **Dec.10:** Maria Juska (2015); **Dec.11:** Winifred Graham (1981);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Rita Noonan, baby Lucas McCourt, Ava Simpkin (aged 12), Baby Tommy Moran, Ellen Dow, Chris White, members of the McGrath Family, Maureen Hutchinson, Hans Zaunbrecher, John O'Donnell, Judith Franklin, Elizabeth Walker, Baby Jamie McBride, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Baby Josh Simpson, Keiron Smart, Michael Doherty, Carol Turnbull, Ethan Slaney, Paul Madden, Francis Joseph Palmer, Jean Wylie, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, George and Ann McDermott, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Sheila White, Jessica Haggerty, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Seval Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Colin Raasch, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Michael Igoe, Clare Richardson, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.



Offertory 27 November 2022

St Mary Magdalene's, £189.91 total, including £129.91 Offertory and £60.00 Gift Aid

<u>St John's</u>, £1462.91 total, including £474.51 Offertory, £242.40 Gift Aid and £746.00 online donations