

# THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

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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*

*Parish Administrator: Mr Enrico Fertini*

*(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)*

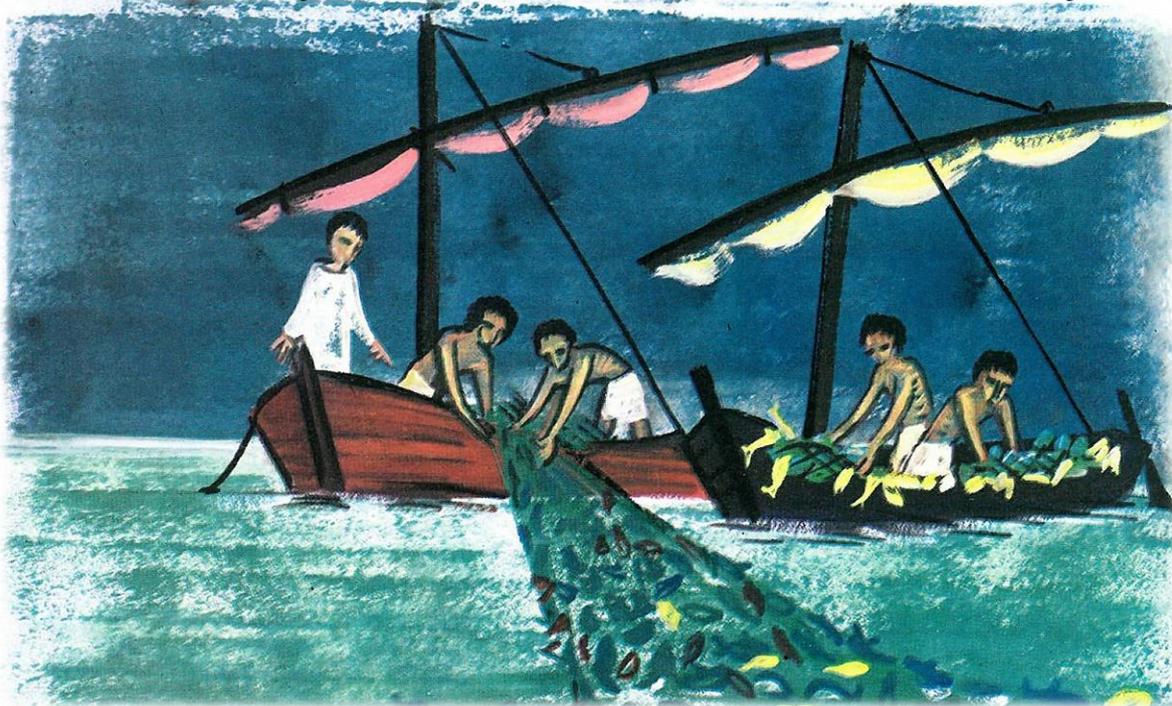
*Web address: [www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)*

*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)*

## *Fifth Sunday of the Year - 6 February 2022*



*(Illustration by Eric de Saussure, friar of Taizé, taken from "Bible Illustree", 1968)*

*"Do not be afraid; from now on, it is people you will catch" (Luke 5:10)*

**We offer our prayers for the Bishop of Galloway, Bill Nolan, who on Friday was appointed the new Archbishop of Glasgow.**

**A warm welcome to our P3 children** preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and **the P4 Do This in Memory of Me Children** preparing for their First Communion – and their families – present at our two Children's Masses today at 9.30 and 11.15am.

**On Monday at 2.30pm our monthly Healing Mass** will take place in St John's Church, with the sacrament of the sick offered after the gospel.

**Pope Francis' great initiative - the Synodal Process - is underway in our diocese...and we are well on the way to formulating our parishes' plans for it** – which will include **a questionnaire** - to be filled in by all who are willing - at the end of our Sunday Masses on the weekend of 26/7 February; **another questionnaire** taken home by parishioners to try to reach those who 'no longer walk with us' as a result of being 'hurt or angry or bored' (and for lots of other reasons too); and **a series of one-off groups** in the week beginning 6 March for those who wish to be listened to at a deeper level.

## **40 HOURS ADORATION (*Quarant'ore*) – Sunday 20 to Tuesday 22 February**

Archbishop Leo has asked us all to participate in 40 Hours Adoration – different parishes each weekend – as a central plank in the renewal of Church Life in our archdiocese after/towards the end of the Pandemic.

**Deacon Eddie writes:** ‘We are just finalising our plans for our Forty Hours Adoration and hope that we now have a structure for the three days.

Adoration has a rich history in the Church: this and next week’s newsletter will offer reading material to help offer a background to it. If and when you come to Adoration, there will also be further material available as a help to focus - some prayers and reflections which we can use to help us all get the most out of our time in Adoration. For those who want to come but are worried their young children might be a distraction, there will be colouring sheets and pencils available too. **Everybody** is welcome....

We will be using our 3 chapels for Adoration: both our churches of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's and also the ‘upper room’, the **Prayer Room in the Parish House**. The Prayer Room is a space which became very familiar with many parishioners (near and far!) as we gathered together as a community over lockdown...it is a very peaceful place in which to adore the Lord.

### **Sunday 20 February**

We will begin in St John's immediately after 9.30am Mass with Adoration from 10.30am until 6pm. Then from 6pm to 10pm, Adoration will take place in the Prayer Room.

### **Monday 21 February**

6-10am - St John's  
10am Mass in St John's - All Welcome  
10.30am - Noon, Prayer Room.  
Noon - 4pm - St Mary Magdalene's.  
4pm-7pm St John's  
7pm-8pm Holy Hour in St John's - All Welcome  
8pm-10pm St John's

### **Tuesday 22 February**

(10-11am Requiem Mass in St John's for Margaret Mackenzie)  
11am-10pm St John's

## ***Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Scotland On the Restoration of the Mass Obligation in the Dioceses of Scotland***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The obligation for Catholics to celebrate Sunday as a Holy Day by gathering together for Mass will be restored from the First Sunday in Lent, Sunday 6th March.

Given the easing of restrictions in every other walk of life, the Church looks forward to welcoming Catholics back to Holy Mass. As always, the obligation does not apply to those who are sick and their carers or to those aware of their greater vulnerability to the virus.

May the continuing recovery of our country bring new hope to us all especially those who are ill, those who mourn loved ones, those who are apprehensive and those who have sustained us in so many ways throughout the Pandemic.

We, the Bishops of Scotland, take this opportunity to thank our clergy and our parish volunteers for all their efforts. May our Lenten journey this year lead us to a renewed appreciation of our Catholic faith, of the celebration of the Eucharist and of the presence of the Risen Christ who is always at our side.

**Bishop Hugh Gilbert - President - Bishops' Conference of Scotland**

# An Exhibition of Works - Jesus and the Apostles - by Karl Stern This Saturday and Sunday – 5/6 February – St John's Hall



To be held in St John's Church Hall **this weekend**, Saturday, 5 February, 10.00am-4.00pm, and Sunday, 6 February, after Mass, 11.00am to 4.00pm, with artworks and gift cards available for sale. The work is priced with 10% off gallery prices. 40% of all sales (50% card sales) will go to St John's.

Karl is Edinburgh born and has lived in the Portobello area for over 30 years. He was inspired by the work of El Greco on a visit to El Greco's house in Toledo in Spain. These works are a set of transcriptions and interpretations of Greco's 'Toledo Series'.

Karl went to art-school some 9 years ago as a mature student.

His work has been chosen since for several open exhibitions at the RSA, VAS, RGI and PIA. Exhibiting in Galleries in Edinburgh, Perth, Borders, Ullapool and open studios here in Porty and in

Pittenweem,. he's developed a particular technique and style, drawing with a knife and painting with shellac and pigments. Handmade prints will also be available as well as sets of gift cards portraying The Saviour of The World and his 12 Apostles. Subject to interest, Karl is willing to make a short presentation about the work and his techniques.'



## THIS WEEK

### Saturday 5 February

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Sunday 6 February

9.30am – St John's – **Children's Mass** – livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Children's Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Monday 7 February

2.30pm – St John's – **Healing Mass** – livestreamed

7.00-8.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Tuesday 8 February

5.00pm – Skype – **PEP meeting**

7.00pm – St John's - **Mass** – livestreamed

7.45pm – St John's Hall – **RCIA Meeting**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Wednesday 9 February

10am – St John's - **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Thursday 10 February

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Friday 11 February – WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### Saturday 12 February

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**



## **Sunday 13 February**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

## **IN THE COMING WEEKS**

**Monday 14 February** – 10.30am – St John's Hall - **St John's Charity Coffee Morning**

(**Maria Igoe writes:** 'We will have safety measures in place and will appreciate those coming along observing them. You may wish to bring your own mug, but there will be cardboard cups for those who need them. Please feel welcome to come along and join in this event, which has been regular since 2004.')

**Sunday 20 February-Tuesday 22 February - 40 HOURS ADORATION (Quarant'ore)** - in St John's, St Mary Magdalene's and the Parish House Prayer Room

**Tuesday 22 February** – 10am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Margaret Mackenzie**

**Thursday 24 February** – 7.30pm-8.30pm – St John's Hall – **Baptismal Preparation. If you would like to participate, please contact Fr Jock**

**Saturday 26 February** – 10am – St John's – **Mass for the Bereaved**

**Friday 4 March** – 11am – St Mary Magdalene's – **World Day of Prayer**

(**Jennifer Morris writes:** Every year on the first Friday in March, Christians around the world gather using the same form of worship. This year' service in our area is in **St Mary Magdalene's**. You are most warmly invited to come along to the service and worship with Christians of all denominations. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards – a chance to meet and chat - something so sadly missed during the worst of Covid.)

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

**National Synod event** - The Bishops' Conference of Scotland (BCOS) hosts '**Synodality in the Life & Mission of the Church**' at 2pm on **Saturday 12 February**. The keynote speaker will be **Cardinal Mario Grech**, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops. This online event will be streamed on the BCOS YouTube channel at [bit.ly/BCOSYouTube](http://bit.ly/BCOSYouTube)

**Called and Gifted Workshop** - You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you at the *Called and Gifted Workshop*. It takes place from 8:30am-5:30pm on Saturday February 19th at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh. To register and for more info visit [bit.ly/calledgifted](http://bit.ly/calledgifted)

**Making Disciples Seminar** - Learn how God is at work in your life and in the lives of others in this three-day seminar. It will sharpen your evangelisation skills and show how each of us can be an instrument in God's hand as we walk as His disciples. It takes place from Friday 25 - Sun 27 February at St Kentigern's Church, 26-28 Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, EH4 7QR. To register and for more info visit [bit.ly/disciplesseminar](http://bit.ly/disciplesseminar)

**Pro-Life opportunity** - Do you have experience in Adobe, particularly in Design and Photoshop? Could you help Stanton Healthcare, a new pregnancy support charity, with their images and brochures? Find out more from Paul Atkin at the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office - [paul.atkin@stated.org.uk](mailto:paul.atkin@stated.org.uk)

## **A WARM INVITATION TO OUR ON-LINE PRAYER AT NIGHT – 9.15pm Every Evening**

The prayer, led very gently by parishioners **Donald Scott and Lesley Reid**, will start at 9.15pm each evening and last for 10 minutes. For ease, the Zoom link will be the same each evening:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9129622900?pwd=b1F1THhtY3NVeGptOWY0VGw2K2xBQT09>

Meeting ID: 912 962 2900 Passcode: Prayer

# NOTICEBOARD

A warm welcome on Wednesday to **Fr Jim Smith**, covering our weekday masses, and **Fr Henry McLaughlin**, with us for next Sunday's Masses, while **Fr Jock** is away on a week's post-Christmas, post-Covid break.

## **The Edinburgh Jesuit Centre - Book Club 2022 - Beginning Tuesday 15th February**

'The book club is for everyone who is interested in books, literature, words, ideas and reading! There is no expectation that you are an expert literary critic - this is for enjoyment and learning. All are welcome.

The book club will meet once a week for six weeks. Each week, you will be invited to read an assigned number of pages and then come to the week's meeting to discuss what you have read. The amount of reading required is not onerous.

**You can choose to attend the weekly book club meeting either in person at the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre at Sacred Heart Church at 11.15am (in the Ogilvie Room) or online using the Zoom app at 7.00pm.**

At each meeting, there will be a short introduction to the section chosen for that week, and an orientation for the discussion that follows, led by Adrian Porter SJ. Participants are invited to share their impressions, insights, likes and dislikes as they choose. There is no pressure to speak but, of course, the book club only works if most people are willing to pitch in and share their ideas. The online meetings will run for one hour from 7.00pm (UK time).

You will need to order your own copy of the book in good time to do the assigned reading for the first week.

Our first book is *The Voyage of St Brendan* (published June 2021) by AB Jackson. You can order a copy by [clicking here](#).

**Join us on Zoom by following the link below. The link will be the same each week!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814> For more information contact [edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk)

## **Request for Invigilators from Holyrood RC High School**

**Joan Daly, Headteacher, writes:** 'Dear Parishioners. We are looking for Invigilators to join us in Holy Rood for the main exams which begins on 26 April 2022. Please use link for more information:

<https://appointeeopportunities.sqa.org.uk/vacancy/invigilator-464682.html>

If you are interested in joining the team in Holy Rood RC High School or if you have any questions about this, please email our Business Manager [Derek.Ferguson@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Derek.Ferguson@ea.edin.sch.uk)

## **St Mark's Episcopal Church are looking for a Part-Time Administrator For Fundraising and Congregational Life.**

Job Purpose: To support the congregation's fundraising for a renovation project, to provide a building serving the community of Portobello; and to provide administrative support to the congregation and Rector, including assistance with communications – internal and external.

Responsible to: the Rector Hours of work: 6 hours a week, to be worked in two part days (eg two mornings, or two afternoons) as agreed with the vestry and Rector.

Application: Informal enquiries can be made to [sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org](mailto:sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org)

Please send a CV with covering letter to the Rector, Rev Dr Sophia Marriage, St Mark's Church, 287 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh, EH15 2AR **Closing Date: 6 February 2022**

*Our temptation now and always is  
to trust in our faith tradition  
of trusting in God,  
instead of trusting in God.  
They are not the same thing.  
Often our faith is in our tradition  
in which we can talk about people  
who have trusted God in the past.  
That's a way to avoid the experience itself,  
to avoid encounters with the living God,  
to avoid the ongoing Incarnation.  
(Richard Rohr)*



*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

Michael Smith

Robert Daly

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:*

Rachel Johnston – Jimmy Scoular  
Alan Lugton - Ann Bell  
Margaret Hancock - Betty di Ponio  
Bryan Dockrell - Catherine Chuda  
Winnie Murphy – Lucy Hughes

**Anniversaries:**

**St John’s**

**Feb.4:** Margaret Early (2003); Margaret Blaney (1976); Mrs Hendry (1958); Patrick Rooney; **Feb.5:** Beatrice Crolla (2015); Nora Glancy (2015); Margaret Kelly (1999); Michael Gallagher (1985); Arthur Delaney (1974); Mary Malcolm (1969); Bridget Hanlon (1954); **Feb.6:** Jimmy Scoular (2020); Andrew Robertson (1995); Patrick Ready (Burma, 1943); Thomas D’Arcy; David McCartney; **Feb.7:** Alan Lugton (2020); Michael Devine (1998); David Boyes (1997); Susan McLean (1939); Mary Boyd; **Feb.8:** Betty DiPonio (2015); Sheila Devlin (2000); Ada Iannarelli (1980); Bill McCann (1977); William Anderson; Rose Ann Jamieson; **Feb.9:** Alex. Neilson (1975); **Feb.10:** Edward McCabe (2008); David Young (1985); D V McCaughan (1984); Mary (O’Brien) Callan (1926);

**St Mary Magdalene’s**

**Feb.4:** Mary Doyle (1967); **Feb.7:** Mary Fallon (2008); Joseph O’Neil (1969); **Feb.8:** Norma Weddell (2001); **Feb.9:** Margaret Hancock (2019);

**Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:**

**St. John’s:** Maria Pacitti, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Nessie Cairns, Alf McNamara, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Kim O’Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonar, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

**St Mary Magdalene’s:**

John Newall, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Ray Donnelly, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Clive Davis, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, 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 our Parishioners:**

Melanie Ford, Gerry Mulvenna, Jaroslav Icina, Mary Taygarth,, Pat Mulvenna, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Bernard Traynor, Evelyn Tibbs, Helen Briton, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O’Connell, Robin Butler, Caroline Minto, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Emma Bromet, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Dani Miniette,, Peter Millar, Leo Stone, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O’Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme

**Offertory Collections – 30 January 2022**



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£265.70 total including Offertory of £185.70 and Gift Aid of 80.00	£1572.73 total including Offertory of £219.33, Gift Aid of £453.40 and online donations of £900.00

**Many congratulations to Mary O’Byrne, who won £297.50 at the Tower Tombola January draw that took place Sunday last week after the morning Mass ... and thanks to all those who are still supporting us by taking part in the Tombola!**

# A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - ISAIAH 6: 1-8 AND LUKE 5: 1-11

*(The author of these reflections is a friend of Fr Jock living in Northumberland)*

“People like you make me sick. . . . You’re woke!” If he intended to insult me, the effect was the exact opposite, for I now carry ‘woke’ as a badge of honour. According to the dictionary definition, ‘woke’ means: **aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice)** “Yes, you are right! I am woke, and happy to be so!”, I replied. Nostrils flaring, eyes bulging he came as near to me as COVID protocols would allow and only backed off when I told him that I had tested positive that morning! I hadn’t, of course, but he was not able to take the risk. Like all pointless and fruitless arguments, the tension eventually fizzled out like a fading firework on a wet November evening. I am proud that I am woke. Indeed, to my interpretation of the Gospel, no-one who claims to be a Christian, can be anything other than ‘woke.’ For we must all be actively attentive to the needs of the downtrodden and abused, the homeless girl sleeping in the doorway of Holland and Barrett, the three-month old child in Afghanistan freezing to death in the open air, the black teenager gunned down for no crime other than being black. We are all citizens of the kingdom of woke and must play our part.

I cannot even remember what the argument was about, so insignificant was it, but I’m pretty sure it will have started with either a statue or some other witness to heritage. I’m not really into statues so do not get excited by the statue fetish, which, like the flag fetish seems to be a feature of so much of contemporary debate. There is, however, one statue that has left a lasting impression on me. It’s a statue simply called: ‘Tommy’. Tommy stares out across the North Sea from a place called Seaham, a small harbour town in County Durham. Tommy is anonymous and ordinary, just an infantryman recruited to fight in World War One. He put his life on hold so that others might have a life. He is weighed down with the paraphernalia of the type of war that was waged in 1914. Of indeterminate age, he is weary and hunched. He made a difference. And this perhaps explains his attraction. I have been to see him a few times now. At times the frequent sea fret rolling in from the North Sea swirls around his feet and head, threatening to suffocate him, just as the clouds of mustard gas suffocated those who fought in the trenches of the first World War. Tommy teaches me that just because we are ordinary doesn’t mean that we are unimportant. I may be more Private Baldrick than Colonel Melchett, but my importance will not be ignored by the only judge who matters.

The theme running through the first reading and the Gospel passage this weekend, is that same idea of ordinariness. Isaiah refers to himself as a man of unclean lips. A seraph flies towards him, a live coal in a pair of tongs, and touches Isaiah on the lips: *See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away.* Last Saturday I burnt the tips of all four fingers of my right hand on the door of the log burner. Six days later, the nerve endings are showing a distinct reluctance to heal. Purging by heat is a regular theme in Bible stories, and the idea indicates the lengths to which we will sometimes have to go to prove our worth. *He has tested me like gold in a furnace.* (Wisdom 3: 5-6). The idea of a burning coal touching our lips – one of the most sensitive parts of the body – gives a powerful insight into the dramatic change needed, in all our lives. The transformation in his life was dramatic and purifying, just as it was in the lives of the fishermen by the lake of Gennesaret. Luke tells us quite simply: *then bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.* There is an urgency here. They had spent years saving enough money to buy the boats, or hours sourcing the wood for their manufacture. These boats were their livelihood. Wives, parents, and children would not be impressed by their recklessness. It was no small ask. No going back to ‘lock the boatyard’ or explain what they were up to, no helpful explanation like: ‘I don’t know when I’ll be back - don’t wait up’. Their change in attitude was as dramatic as the burning coal brushing the lips of Isaiah.

Could we cope with such a dramatic change? Could we be as generous as Tommy, feeling the weights of war pressing down on us, both figuratively and literally? Discipleship, the following of Jesus, is not without personal cost. It will involve purification, being tested by heat. He calls us precisely because of our ordinariness, and there is comfort to be found in that. We might not have a statue in our honour – but like Tommy we will make a difference when we do as God bids and live like reckless fishermen.

# PAT DISHON'S VIEW FROM THE PEW – A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER.

*(Pat is long-term parishioner of both St John's and St Mary Magdalene's parishes, who has recently moved to Gullane)*

I first discovered this prayer when I was in my twenties, and I have used the last three lines as a daily mantra ever since. I have sat at many funerals, over the years, and heard sincere tributes to the deceased about how much they were admired and appreciated. Yet I have known that the person never knew how much they were admired, when they were alive. *Because nobody ever told them.*

It is only now that I myself have 'grown older' that I fully appreciate the wisdom, and truth, of the rest of the prayer. Every time I say it I laugh out loud! I went online to try and trace the origins of the prayer but the author was anonymous. However, I did discover a comment on it from a Fr Ignatius Waters CP. He said that in the Baroque period (1600 – 1750 approx.) the liturgy used to include what was called the 'risus paschalis' -the Easter laughter. The Easter homily had to contain a story which would make people laugh, so that the church resounded with joyful laughter. How lucky are we, as parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary Magdalene's parishes, that laughter is a regular part of our liturgies!

## SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

*Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and some day will be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.*

*Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details: give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.*

*I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and lessening cock sureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint; some of them are so hard to live with. But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.*

*Give me the ability to see the good things in unexpected places  
And talents in unexpected people.  
And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.*

