

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

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Jock Dalrymple:*

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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)*

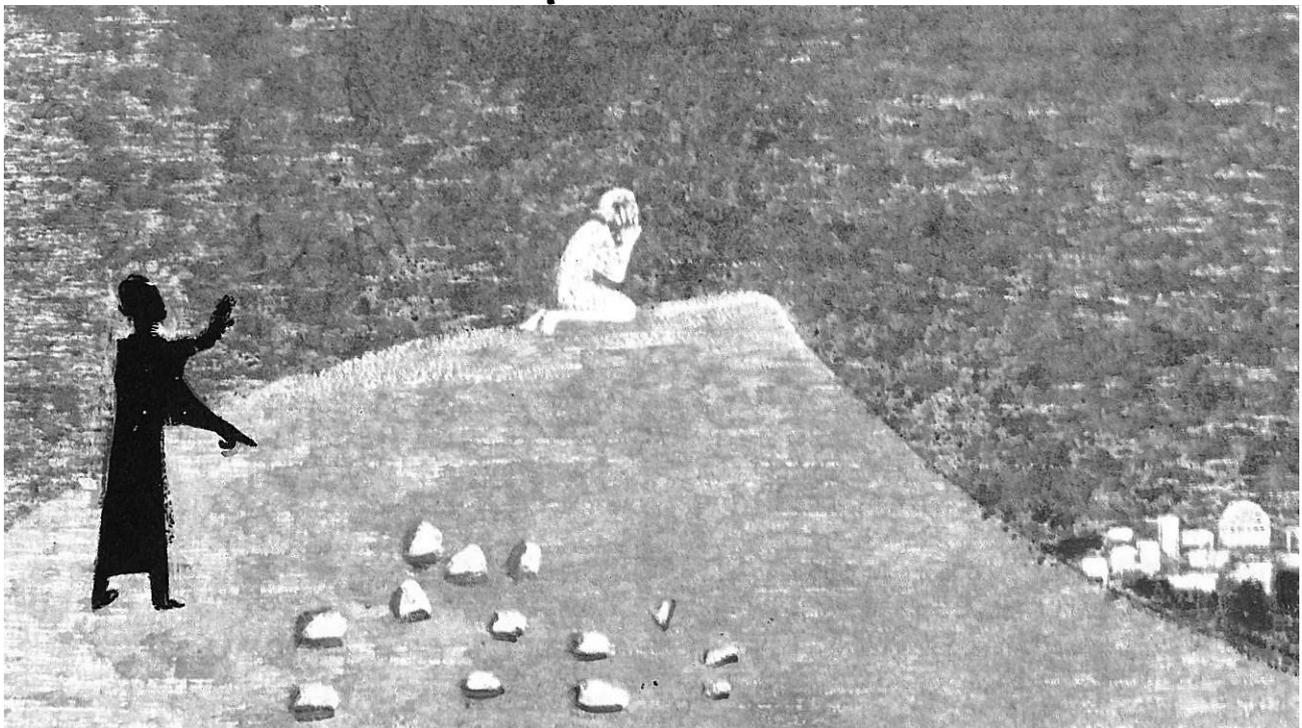
*Web address: [www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)*

*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)*

## *First Sunday of Lent - 6 March 2022* *The Temptation of Jesus*



*(Black and white illustration by Br Eric of Taizé - 'LA TENTATION DE JESUS', from Luke' Gospel)*

### **Russian Invasion of the Ukraine**

We have all been shocked by the tragic events unfolding in the Ukraine this past week, so many people killed and wounded, and the huge numbers of refugees driven from their homes by the violence. There are very limited options to help but here are a few of them.

- **This Saturday morning, St John's Church will be open for private prayer and the lighting of candles from 10am to 1pm** – this time has been chosen to coincide with the Portobello Market in Brighton Park, to allow visitors to the market to avail themselves of the opportunity.
- **SCIAF have issued an appeal for funds to help the million or more Ukrainian refugees driven from their homes by the violence.** Jim Gallagher, who is on the SCIAF board, will speak at all Masses and **there will be a second collection which will go via SCIAF's**

**umbrella body, Caritas International, to organisations on the ground working with refugees.** Donations can also be made at <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/> (To find out how the Catholic Church is helping those in Ukraine see <https://www.caritas.org/>)

- **On Monday night, at 7pm in St John's Church there will be a Service of Prayer for the Ukraine,** organised by our Justice & Peace Group. Invitations to this have also been extended to our fellow Christians in Portobello.

## **Synodal Conversations in Groups**

### **The second stage in the Synodal Process initiated by Pope Francis**

**Donald Scott and Bernadette Campbell write:** 'We want to take seriously the Pope's request that we **listen carefully** to each other as an important way to open ourselves as a Church to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The insights will help guide the synod in Rome that Pope Francis has called for 2023 as well as helping us in our sister parishes to discern the next steps for our own journey together in faith.

**We are all invited to participate in one of several group conversations during the 9 days from this Saturday 5 March till Sunday 13 March.** These discussions – each session co-ordinated by a couple of parishioners – will last about one hour and 15 minutes and will be structured to allow space for conversations in 2's and 3's so that people can express their hopes, dreams, fears and any other thoughts about the life of faith and the Church in our times. The themes that emerge will contribute both to what we send to the Diocese and directly to Rome as our contribution to the worldwide synod.

**The dates and times for these meetings are below: they are all taking place in the Prayer Room in the Parish House.**

#### **Times and days:**

<i>Saturday 5 March</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Sunday 6 March</i>	<i>2.00pm</i>
<i>Sunday 6 March</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>
<i>Monday 7 March</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>
<i>Thursday 10 March</i>	<i>2.00pm</i>
<i>Friday 11 March</i>	<i>10.00am</i>
<i>Saturday 12 March</i>	<i>2.00pm</i>
<i>Sunday 13 March</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>

**To sign up, either add your name and a contact phone number to one of the lists at the back of both churches – or ring Bernadette Campbell on 077916 14231.**

**Your contributions - both as a listener, and as someone with their own thoughts and feelings – will be very important.'**

### **Congratulations to the Candidates and Catechumens in our RCIA Group**

Our RCIA group – for those interested in becoming fully initiated Catholics - has been meeting since November. Because of our Covid-delayed start, we have combined the first two stages - Enquiry and Catechumenate. Therefore, the third stage – the Lenten time of Preparation for Baptism or Reception at the Easter Vigil on 16 April – will begin with the Rite of Election at the

Cathedral this Sunday, 6 March, when all the catechumens and candidates from all over the archdiocese gather with Archbishop Cushley.

Please pray for our four catechumens (those who are to be baptised), **Shannon McCaughey, Simon Brown, James Sutherland and Scott Craig**, and for our four candidates, **Agnes Aitken, Jenna Ciancia, Louise Holden and Michelle Dunleavy**, and for **Ethan Scott** of St Ninian's who has also been part of the group.

## **An Invitation to sign up for our Cluster Lenten Retreat**

*A step away from the bustle of life into the invitation and challenge of Lent!  
Saturday 12 March - 10am-1pm – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith*

**Lynda Wright** will be guiding us – parishioners from our five cluster parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St John's, St Theresa's, St Ninian's and St Mary, Star of the Sea. The retreat will begin with Mass at 10am, followed by tea and coffee, and then for the next couple of hours we will be guided by Lynda, an experienced and creative retreat giver (who ran Key House in Falkland for two decades) and who led - and inspired those who attended our pre-Covid Cluster Retreat in Craigmillar in - Advent 2019.

After the retreat, those who wish can remain to eat their packed lunches together... Do come along and enjoy this opportunity to step away from the bustle and spend time with the Lord... The retreat is free (but a small donation would be welcome to help cover costs). **Could people who wish to go sign up on the list at the back of the churches (and if they need a lift).**

### **WHY NOT MAKE OUR 9.15PM ON-LINE NIGHT PRAYER PART OF YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY (LINK BELOW)?**

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

### **Lee Patterson's Tears of the Mother (in the Lady Chapel at St John's in Lent)**



Over Lent and through to Easter there will be small artwork in the Lady Chapel, entitled 'Tears of the Mother'. Inspired by seven traditional prayers to Our Lady of Sorrows (the dolours or sorrows), the seven small vessels are made of salt and water; the stuff of tears. There are prayer sheets that introduce the traditional prayers and also offer contemporary reflections to accompany the work. They offer a way to respond to Jesus' invitation to make a place in our hearts and homes for Mary, His Mother and ours. There is also a short film by the artist (Lee Patterson) available online here <https://youtu.be/AAhUCUcPIO8>.

## THIS WEEK

### **Saturday 5 March**

10am-1pm – St John's – **Open Church to Pray for the people of the Ukraine**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Sunday 6 March – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

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

12 midday – St Mary's Cathedral – **Mass with Rite of Election**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Monday 7 March**

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

7.00pm – St John's – **Inter-Church Service to pray for the people of the Ukraine**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83492366520?pwd=T2RXNEsweThPWHJTWDNyTDAyS1dydz09>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Tuesday 8 March**

6.15pm - Skype – **PEP Meeting (NB The PEP - Parish Emergency Planning Group – hope to be able to disband at the end of this month)**

7.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass (Open to all)**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Wednesday 9 March**

10am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Francesco Crolla** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Thursday 10 March**

**10.15am (NB Change of Time)** – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass (celebrated by Fr Henry)** – livestreamed

7.00pm – Sacred Heart, Lauriston – **MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOHN OGILVIE (Preacher – Fr Jock)**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Friday 11 March**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Saturday 12 March**

10.00am-1.00pm – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith – **Cluster Lenten Retreat**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Sunday 13 March – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

## IN THE COMING WEEKS

### **Monday 14 March**

2.30pm – St John's – **Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick**

7pm – St John's – **CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION**

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

**THIS SUNDAY: Holy Hour for Married Couples** - Archbishop Cushley invites married and engaged couples to a Holy Hour at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh **this Sunday 6 March at 4pm**. It is for couples to come before the Lord in reflection on the beautiful Catholic vision of marriage and family life, thanksgiving for the gift of this calling and prayer for the blessing of their love. Register at [bit.ly/ArchEventbrite](http://bit.ly/ArchEventbrite) or simply turn up on the day.

**Returning to Confession** - The Archdiocese is inviting Catholics to experience the healing embrace and forgiveness of Jesus in the Sacrament of Penance this Lent. *Returning to Confession* is a 45-minute event on YouTube led by Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. It is on **this Monday (7 March) at 7:30pm**. No registration required - watch live at [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

**Lent – Stations of the Cross** - The Archdiocesan Pro-Life Stations of the Cross takes place online throughout Lent, each Tuesday on Zoom at 7:45pm. It begins on 8 March and will feature a reflection from Archbishop Cushley. Pray with clergy and parishioners from across the Archdiocese for mothers, unborn children and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/prolifeevents](http://bit.ly/prolifeevents)

**Lent with St Paul** - The Archdiocese is hosting *Lent with St Paul – a Saint's guide to making the most of Lent*. It's a 30-minute talk at 7:30pm on 14, 21, 28 March and 4 April. Fr Andrew Garden (St David's, Dalkeith) explores insights and advice from St Paul to help us prepare for Easter. No need to register, watch live on the YouTube Channel of the Archdiocese at [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

**Catholics in health and social care** - A training day about the ethical challenges of work in the health and care sector takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 19 March from 9:30am to 3:30pm**. Speakers will lead discussions on assisted suicide, accompaniment of the dying and conscientious objection. This event is targeted at health/care workers, and anyone motivated by their faith to care for others. Register at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/03/catholics-in-health-and-social-care>

**Pilgrimage** - The inaugural Brecbannoch Pilgrimage will take place 11-13 June 2022. The Brecbannoch is a 50-mile pilgrimage undertaken on foot from Oban to Iona, with the special purpose of praying for the renewal of the faith in Scotland. Along the way, the relics of St Columba, St Andrew and St Margaret will be carried, invoking their protection over the Church in these isles. Sign up at: [www.brecbannoch.org/sign-up](http://www.brecbannoch.org/sign-up)

**March update** - The Archdiocese's March update outlines events happening in Lent to help us in our prayer, penance and fasting. View it at <https://bit.ly/archmarch22> To receive updates, subscribe at the news-events section of the Archdiocesan website: <https://archedinburgh.org/>

## NOTICEBOARD

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is available every Saturday evening after the Vigil Mass – and at any time by appointment with Fr Jock

The Redemptorist magazine **LENT EXTRA** is on sale this w/e – for a donation (or £2 if we are to cover our costs) ...

**In the near future, we are hoping to start opening St John's Church again** so that people can pop in at any time – however, to do so we need people willing to close the church at 6pm – all volunteers, please contact Chris Vinestock or Fr Jock (669 5447) – support would be much appreciated.

## SCIAF WEE BOX 2022



**‘Hello again from the SCIAF family** - This Lent, we’re asking you to act and pray in hope, to fight the Climate Emergency and help build God’s Kingdom here on Earth. Use these prayers and reflections as part of your Lenten worship. Across the world, extreme weather is flooding homes, destroying crops and leaving people with little or no food to eat. More than 800 million people go hungry each day.

In January, this reality was clearer than ever as Cyclone Ana hit Malawi and caused widespread devastation, affecting almost one million people and killing 46. Crops and animals were washed away in an instant, destroying livelihoods. That's why this Lent we need your love and generosity, to prevent families from going hungry, help people grow more food, and heal their local environment. Families urgently need your help today. Please watch this video, <https://youtu.be/KZ2LDi8cqGs>, a story from Malawi, one of the world’s poorest countries.

*“Julius and his family are on the front line of the climate crisis. In southern Malawi, extreme weather events are destroying crops, flooding homes and leaving people hungry. But you can Act in Hope this Lent, fight the Climate Emergency, and help build God’s Kingdom here on Earth. We must not forsake them”.*

Please take home one or more wee boxes at the back of the churches and donate to help them fight famish and poverty, or donate here: <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/726-wee-box-2022/donate>. Thank you’.

## Parish Pilgrimage to Iona

**Maria Igoe writes:** ‘A group of 9 will be travelling to Iona on Sunday 6th March. The group includes Fr Jim Smith and 8 lay people, 6 from St John's, 1 from St Teresa's and 1 from the Cathedral. On Sunday we will spend the night in Oban. On Monday morning we will board the ferry for Mull, then take a bus across Mull and finally take the 10-minute ferry journey to Iona.

We will stay at the Roman Catholic House of Prayer for 4 nights, travelling home on Friday 11th March. Catholics on Iona will welcome Fr Jim, who will say Mass every day. This is something they do not get regularly. We will make the best of the weather, wrapping up well and exploring as much of the island as we can. We are all looking forward to it.’

### FOR THOSE WHO FEEL A CONNECTION WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE UKRAINE AND WITH L'ARCHE COMMUNITIES IN EDINBURGH AND ELSEWHERE....

‘Dear friends,

We are Ukrainians from the Faith and Light and L’Arche Kovchek communities. **We pray every evening for the end of the war.**

We are glad you want to pray with us, and we want to be as inclusive as possible. But we also want our prayer to be accessible to our members who understand only Ukrainian.

Our prayer is not entirely predictable. Because of the war, we don't know who of our members will be able to come or how long they are able to stay.

We will pray in Ukrainian, using psalms, that you can follow in your own language. -- There will be a few prayers on slides with some translation, (but we will read the prayers in Ukrainian).

There will also be opportunities when you can add your prayer intention or a song. Please choose between yourselves who will sing or speak.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85425574747>

Meeting ID: 854 2557 4747 Passcode: 797725

The prayer starts at Ukrainian 8pm / 6pm UK time and lasts for about 90 minutes.

You are welcome to join us for all or part of the meeting.’



*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

**Michael Cockburn – Georgie Amos  
Kitty Maxwell - Mark Collier  
Margaret Kennedy**

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

**Bruce Paton – Alison Thompson – Chris Mann -  
Frank McKenna – Lindsay Thomson – Maureen  
Sime - Jean Greig – Alf O’Brien**

**Anniversaries:**

**St John’s**

**Mar.5:** Elmar Begg (1989); Thomas Rooney (1959); Elizabeth Forsyth; **Mar.6:** Patrick J (Joe) Ward (1999); Agnes Boyle; Conal Boyle; **Mar.7:** Maureen Sime (2018); Anne Holt (1981); **Mar.8:** Jean Greig (2020); Thomas Connor (1998); Annie Tunley (1952); **Mar.9:** Margaret McMillan (2011); James Docherty (2008); James A McGrory (1976); Michael Murphy (1975); Charles McCole (1973); Joseph F Gallagher (1966); **Mar.10:** Alison Thompson (2020); Mary Teresa Glancy (2019); Alfred O’Brien (2009); Mary D’Arcy Hughes (2007); Edward Quin (2007); Michael D’Arcy;

**St Mary Magdalene’s**

**Mar.4:** Edward Grant (1999); **Mar.5:** Bernard Halliday (1983); **Mar.7:** John Hughes (1967); **Mar.8:** Michael Watt (2008); Vincent Dobie (2001); Alistair N Sibbald (1994); Stuart King (1991); **Mar.10:** John McPhee (2004); Annie Dalgleish (1997); John Barrett (1995).

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

**St. John’s:** Maria Pacitti, Kim O’Neill, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Nessie Cairns, Alf McNamara, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, 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:**

Maureen Forsyth, 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:**

Jan Meise, Margaret Thompson, Michael Durkin, Melanie Ford, Jaroslav Icina, Mary Taygarth., 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 – 27 February 2022**



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
<b>£106.80</b> total including Offertory of £61.80 and Gift Aid of 45.00	<b>£1065.81</b> total including Offertory of £196.01, Gift Aid of £149.80 and online donations of £721.00

**Many, many thanks** to those who coordinated and supported our **Forty Hours adoration (Quarant’ore)** and made it such a moving three days.

**Thank you to the Legion of Mary** for a donation of £300.00 from sales in the St John’s Church shop.

**The winner of the February Tower Tombola draw was Irene Flynn** (ticket 112) who won an amazing £285.00. Congratulation to her and thanks to all those who are still entering the monthly lottery.

**The Archdiocesan Catholic Directory 2022 is on sale at the back of Both Churches – price £3** and excellent value for that!

# A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – LUKE 4: 1-13

When I was in the middle of my addiction, there were occasions when my inner voice gave me a hard time. It would do so, even though alcohol not only depresses the senses but also the conscience. Catching a glimpse of my bloodshot eyes whilst shaving and noticing the hand tremor as I attempted to glide the blade across my face, my conscience got the better of me; my inner voice spoke out. ‘You have a problem’. Deep down, I realised that I needed help. So where should I go? Invariably I sought advice from others, who I knew, also had an issue with alcohol. There was method in my madness. ‘Do you think I might be an alcoholic?’ They were caught on the horns of a dilemma. They couldn’t reply ‘Yes, you are’, without bringing their own substance abuse into sharp focus – so their usual response ran along the lines: ‘No! You’re just a heavy drinker’. Fortified by their soothing words, I went home and opened another bottle. I had listened to my inner voice, but then having taken the advice of others, convinced myself that I could ignore that little voice, the gentle voice, the non-condemnatory voice – but the voice that had my best interests at heart, for it was the voice that came from God, from that inner place where God dwells.

Now I am in recovery – and I still seek the company and advice of other addicts and alcoholics. This time it is those that are ‘clean’ and who are also in recovery. They really do know what it is like to be ground down by their addiction and to rise victorious from the ashes of self-destruction. When things are getting on top of me, it is to them that I turn for encouragement and advice. They are invaluable.

Our inner voices are always there. Sometimes they give us a hard time, sometimes they push us to do evil or bad things, to act selfishly; sometimes they inspire us to act selflessly and generously. They are a part of who we are. This weekend’s Gospel tells of Jesus being subject to the same voices and external prompts. *‘If you are the Son of God....’* ‘goads Satan, akin, perhaps, to: ‘it’s your money – you’ve earned it. It’s up to you who or what you spend it on....’

Like many, I have shed a great number of tears this week. News coverage has been a difficult watch. I had been struggling to muster enthusiasm for Lent this year – my energy seemed to be centred on self as I looked to try and develop coping strategies for the increasing cost of energy, rising inflation and heightened taxation. Life is going to be difficult enough in the weeks and months ahead. Why add to the burden? The last thing I need is 6 weeks of extra prayer and fasting! Then I looked back at the TV screen. I saw displaced children, the horrors of refugees of pensionable age who should have been able to enjoy their twilight years, compelled to pull tiny weekend suitcases behind themselves containing all that they now possess. I see the ‘stuff’ that clutters my life. And my little voice is back: this time, back with a vengeance. What is 6 weeks of privation in comparison to their suffering? What is one day of self-enforced hunger, one day of fasting or an extra hour spent in prayer? Am I really deluding myself into thinking that I couldn’t cope with the hardship or discomfort? This is as mad a thought process as the one that used to say to me: ‘Where is that bottle – the night is still young?!’ And I am reminded of another part of the Gospel - *In so far as you neglected to do this for one of these, the least of these brothers and sisters of mine – you neglected to do it for me.* (Matt 25:40). Can we continue to stand by, silent and mute, watching a political system that offers citizenship to those with a spare £2 million in their back pocket but refuses a temporary visa to a mother, babe in arms, who has nothing, save her carrier-bag of clothes– and certainly not the correct paperwork?

We should be grateful for our inner voice. In hindsight, it was my inner voice that ultimately saved my life. The problem was that I was deaf to it for so long. It is my inner voice, with encouragement from brave reporters, that shook me out of my Lenten indifference, encouraging me to greater effort and deeds. There is one voice that awaits me. It will coincide with my last breath, it will be the voice, not of my conscience, but the voice of God. He will ask, quite simply, ‘What did you do?’ ‘What difference did you make?’

*(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock living in Northumberland)*