

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Jock Dalrymple:*

0131 669 5447

Deacon – *Revd Eddie White:*

07986 015772

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Mr Enrico Fertini

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

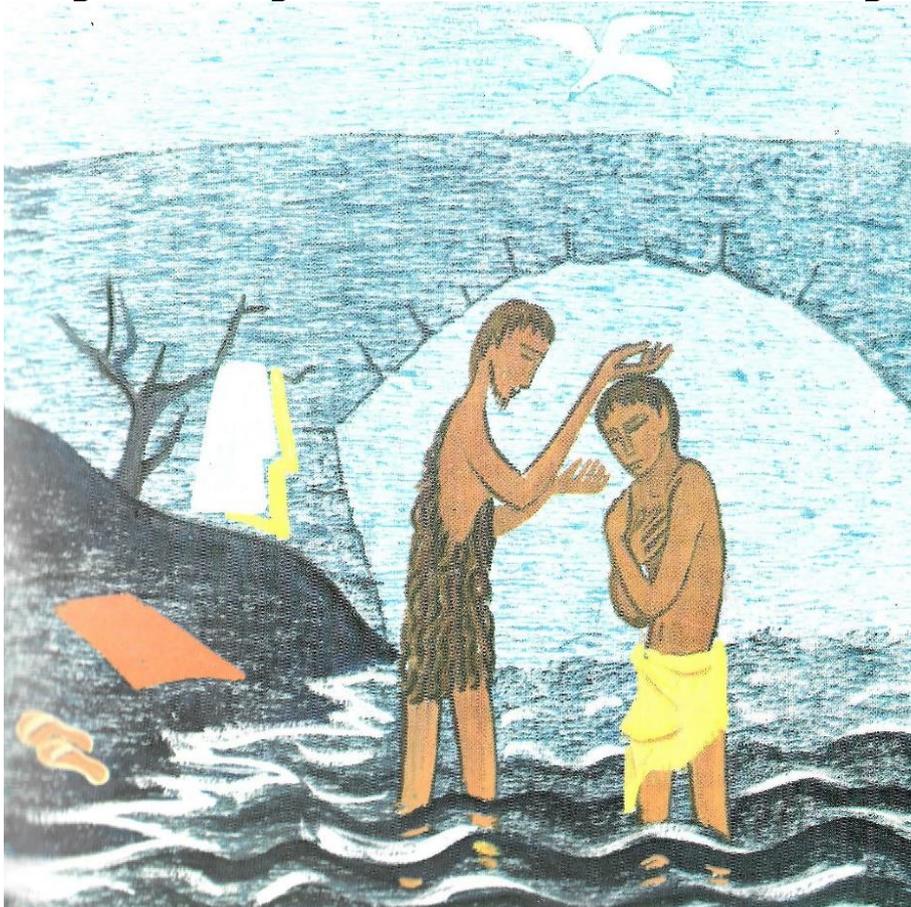
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

The Baptism of the Lord - 9 January 2022



*And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."
(Luke 3:22)*

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the last day of the Christmas Season. On Monday we return to Ordinary Time...and at 2.30pm, in St John's, we will celebrate our monthly Healing Mass, with the sacrament of the sick – all welcome.

THIS SUNDAY THERE ARE TWO CHILDREN'S MASSES

Arlene Lauder writes: 'Today Sunday 9 January at St John's at the 9:30am Mass, we welcome our P4 'Do This In Memory of Me' children preparing for First Holy Communion. Then, at 11.15am at St Mary Magdalene's, there will be another Children's Mass, focusing on the P3 children preparing for First Reconciliation, with a 'Rite of Illumination'.

Please welcome all our young parishioners and their families warmly. **At both these Masses we will repeat what worked well last month by encouraging the children and their families to sit at the front of the Church. These reserved pews will be clearly marked.**

If anyone has concerns around mixing with young parishioners in a fuller church at these Children's Masses, please do feel free to take the opportunity to go to the Vigil Mass on Saturday 8 January at St John's.'

A Vigil of Prayer for Alice Byrne

Sunday 9 January at 1-3pm at St Mark's Church, 287 Portobello High Street

The Churches of Portobello are praying for the family and friends of Alice Byrne. Together we will hold a vigil of prayer, of silence, of yearning, on Sunday 9 January at 1-3pm at St Mark's Church, 287 Portobello High Street. **Everyone is welcome**, a space to sit, a place to light a candle, a place to cry, a place to gather support and hope

The RCIA Enquiry Group will meet again **this Tuesday at 7.45pm** in the Hall in preparation for a Tour of the Church.

Keeping Safe at Mass in our Churches

With the rapid spread of the Omicron Variant, the Scottish Government is recommending we take **frequent lateral flow tests**...in order to keep each other safe, **can we gently suggest that we take a test before we come out to Mass....?**

- *1 metre distance should be maintained at all times*
- *Hand sanitizers to be used on entry and exit*
- *QR codes (for NHS Test and Protect program purposes) to be used where possible (available at the front doorway and on each bench), or welcomers will record details*
- *Please try to avoid queues at the front door as much as possible*
- *Ventilation is essential in our effort to contain the spread of the virus*
- *The Church doors will remain open during Mass*
- *The heating system will be switched off prior to commencement of Mass, as it circulates warm air (and carries the risk of spreading the virus)*
- *Sanitizing of the seats is advised after each Mass (helpers greatly appreciated for this task- please please can we have some new volunteers....)*

TOGETHER LET'S ENTER THE NEW YEAR – SAFELY...

THIS WEEK

Saturday 8 January

6.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** – Pre-recorded, streamed

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 9 January – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with P4 'Do This in memory of Me' children** – livestreamed

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Monday 10 January

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

7.00pm – **Gospel Sharing via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84882085406?pwd=cHR3NXovUHgxT080dHhPRW1SN3p1QT09>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Tuesday 11 January

6.05pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

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

7.45pm – St John’s Hall and Church – **RCIA Enquiry Session 4**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Wednesday 12 January

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Thursday 13 January

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

4.30pm – Pentland Chapel, Mortonhall – **Funeral Service for John Waugh**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Friday 14 January

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Saturday 15 January

11.30am – St Theresa’s, Craigmillar – **Memorial Mass for Tom Sutcliffe**

6.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** – Pre-recorded, streamed

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 16 January

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

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

In the Coming Weeks

Wednesday 19 January - 10am – Requiem Mass for Joe Kane

Tuesday 25 January - 10am – Requiem Mass for George Service

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

Diploma in Catechetics 2022 - Get ready to explore the richness and depth of the Catholic faith with course leader Sr Anna Marie McGuan from the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. She and a range of guest speakers bring you online lectures each Thursday, guided reading, one-to-one support, retreats and supplementary courses on Zoom and YouTube. The Diploma in Catechetics lasts one year, begins at the end of this month (January) and costs £200. Students £150. Other concessions are available. Email sranna.marie@staned.org.uk for more information. Register at bit.ly/DiplomaCatechetics2022

Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love. There will be three talks explaining this important document, an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, **beginning** this Monday **10 January** and led by Sr Anna Marie, the Archdiocese’s Catechetics Advisor, and Fr Nick Welsh, vice rector of the Scots College in Rome. Details to follow soon.

Save the date - Music Day. This takes place on **Saturday 22 January** at the Gillis Centre, Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, 10:00am-3:30pm. The theme is *Liturgical Music Making in a Post-Pandemic World*. The day is open to everyone, especially those involved in leading and playing music, as well as singers. Details to follow soon.

NOTICEBOARD

Will anyone save the St Mary Magdalene's 200 Club?

Last Sunday the December monthly draw for £30 was won by **Grace Pettigrew (200)** and the £200 was won by **Nessie Cairns (105)**. These prizes signify the end of the 2021 year....However, in the aftermath of Madge Moyes' moving away from the parish, we have been searching for somebody (or bodies) to take over the running of this Club – so far without success. **This is our last appeal for volunteers to take on running the 200 Club....PLEASE** if you might be open to doing so, contact Fr Jock asap.....

2022

is an important year for the Universal Church and for the Faith Community of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's

'The time is ripe for a wider participation of the People of God in a decision making process that affects the whole church and everyone in the Church.'

(Cardinal Mario Grech)

IN PREPARATION FOR THE SYNOD - TUESDAY 18 JANUARY AT 7.00PM – AN EVENING WITH RAPHAEL LUCIANI (Organised by the SLN)

'As you know Pope Francis has invited Catholics throughout the world to participate in what is called a 'synodal journey'. Throughout the world Catholics are coming together to engage in that wider participation that Cardinal Grech speaks about.

To get an understanding of the thinking and the theology of Synodality we invite you to a conversation, organised by the Scottish Laity Network, with Raphael Luciani who is one of the theological advisers to Synod of Bishops.

Rafael is a Lay Venezuelan theologian, appointed as Expert of the Theological Commission of the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. Also, Expert of CELAM (Latin American Bishops Council) and Member of the Theological Advisory Team of the Presidency of CLAR (Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women).

The session will take the normal format of presentation followed by Q&A and then we have added the option of joining breakout rooms based on diocese or parish.

The format for the evening, which will be on Zoom, is:-

- 7.00pm Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 7.05pm Presentation by Rafael Luciani
- 7.35pm Q&A
- 8.25pm Closing Prayer
- 8.30pm Opportunity to meet as a Parish Group.

To register please complete Registration Form:
<https://forms.gle/wJRWH1K2GNtEiseZ7>

The Opening of Another Year

'We struggle and strive to read You, to hear Your melodies and hum in harmony. Your song infiltrates our dreams and shadows our wakefulness. We are never away from you. You put strength in our hands and resilience in our backs. Before us lies the ancient Way, bespoken Wisdom, enfleshed Hope, courageous Love. Your light leads us on. Keep us from arrogance and vanity, and root our desire in your goodness. May our thoughts, our words, and our deeds be worthy of the name you have given us, the name that gives us life.'

(Carla A Grosch - Miller: Psalms Redux – Poems and Prayers. Canterbury Press, UK, 2017.)

WHY NOT TRY 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 less than 15 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

Christian Meditation

‘Experience how Christian Meditation with others leads you to the joy of God’s healing. We meditate in person at 63 York Place on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. Afterwards you are welcome for refreshments and to socialize. On Wednesdays at 7 p.m. we meditate online on Zoom. The up-to-date schedule is here: <https://www.meetup.com/Christian-Meditation-Group/events/>

Contact info - mobile: 0771 777 2614 Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1cuO5QJ>

The joyful mind: (Words of wisdom from Fr Richard Rohr)

I invite you to practice daily with a joyful mind. What might a “joyful mind” be?
Here are some suggestions:

When your mind does not need to be always right.

When you no longer need to compare yourself with others.

When your mind can be creative but without needing to tell others.

When you can live in containment with whatever the moment offers.

When you follow the intelligent lead of your heart.

When your mind is curious and interested, not suspicious and interrogating.

When your mind does not brood over imagined injustices.

When your mind does not need the future to be better than today.

When your mind can accept yourself as you are, warts and all.

When your mind can wait, listen and learn.

When your mind can live satisfied with resolution or closure.

When you can find God in all things.



Welcome to the World...Peter Michael Young, born on Monday 20 December, a younger brother for Joseph, a second son for Laura and Keith, and a seventh grandchild for Maria Igoe (six boys, one girl!).

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Ant Ridge – Pauline McLaughlin (Mike O’Donnell’s sister) - Betty Glancy – Shoky Trivelli (aged 6) Larry Whelan - Bill McLaughlin

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Giuliano Crolla – Evonne Taylor - Elizabeth Wynn - Eddie McGovern Ed Collins - Des Farmer -Leo Stone - Andrew Nielsen – Alec Linton - Canon Hugh Gordon – Annie Harris

Anniversaries:

St John’s

Jan.8: Brigid T Stuart (2005); Hugh Robertson (2003); William Birrell (2002); Charmaine McIntyre (1997); Alexander Gilroy (1974);

Jan.9: Les Garvin (2015); Anne Hughes (2011); Leo J Stone (1958);

Jan.10: Frank Davey (1999); Andrew Durkin (1991); Andrew Blaney (1958);

Jan.11: Betty Peddieson (2007); Donald Montgomery (2004); James Clarke (1933);

Jan.12: Elizabeth Doherty (2009); Maureen Molloy (2002); Canon Hugh Gordon (2001); Arthur J Cockburn (1980); James Marshall;

Jan.13: Andrew Neilson (2001); Lizzie Waugh (1997); Veronica Black (1992); Bridget Meldrum (1986); Anne Wood (1963); William Smart (1945);

Jan.14: Annie Harris (2016); John McLoughlin (2012); Jean Holligan (2006); Richard Watt (1995);

St Mary Magdalene’s

Jan.8: Daniel McGlynn (2003); Marco DeMarco (1975);

Jan.10: Alex. McEwan (1997);

Jan.12: Maureen Fairnie (2009); Peter Fergus (1997);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John’s: Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Nessie Cairns, Alf McNamara, Margaret MacKenzie, David Dowie, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O’Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Mike Iannarelli, 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:

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

Baby Connall Tierney, Mary Taygarth,, Pat Mulvenna, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Bernard Traynor, Evelyn Tibbs, Helen Briton, Robert Daly, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O’Connell, Robin Butler, Caroline Minto, Henrietta Fraser, Pat Mulvenna, 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, Jaroslav Icina, 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 – 2 January 2022

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£204.80 total including Offertory of £109.80 and Gift Aid of £95.00	£1347.75 total including Offertory of £202.75, Gift Aid of £365.00, and £780.00 Online Donations
Justice & Peace Special Collection	
£130.43	£181.30



A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS OF THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

Between Christmas and New Year, I was in the Freeman hospital, Newcastle, for another attempt at catheter ablation – the cardiac procedure which promises El Dorado’s gold. This one involved a seven-hour general anaesthetic and, like the ones that preceded it, wasn’t successful. This was to be the last attempt, so we’ll have to think of a different tack. My inclination had been to ask for the operation to be postponed, fearful as I was of contracting a COVID infection. My GP, who has a very gentle, almost laconic delivery, reassured me, pointing out that I was more likely to contract the disease from the supermarket queue at Waitrose. The share price of Waitrose plummeted once word got out!!

My stay contrasted markedly with previous ones. The light had gone from the eyes of the nursing staff and there was a discernible level of irritability. Those responsible for Government love to convince us that the NHS is not overwhelmed: my short stay in the Freeman suggested otherwise. The staff were worn out, but still they went about their calling with care, diligence and as much energy as they could muster. There was an air of dogged determination, of putting one foot in front of another, of getting the job done. It was a weary compassion and attention that greeted me and tended my care. Weary, but retaining warmth and gentleness. I was put in a side ward so that they could ‘keep an eye on me’. The call button didn’t work but as I listened to the sound of the staff rushing back and forth, I was uncomfortable at the thought of shouting for attention. I opted instead for a policy of waving as someone, anyone, passed the open door. I would have enjoyed greater success had I tried to flag down a passing Airbus A330, but I was determined not to add unnecessarily to the workload. A little bit of discomfort has never heralded the end of the world.

There’s a gentleness and a calmness about this weekend’s first reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. He is foretelling the day when God would send his messenger to visit his people. *Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations.... He does not cry out or shout aloud...he does not break the crushed reed nor quench the wavering flame...faithfully he brings true justice, he will neither waver, nor be crushed...* Isaiah is always one of my favourite books of the Old Testament. The servant that Isaiah is referring to is, of course, Jesus Christ, God’s Word made flesh. The phrase that leaps of the page at me today is ***in whom my soul delights***. Let that thought linger for a-while. Let it flow over you, ebbing and flowing like a gentle tide across the pebbles on the seashore. Imagine the ‘soul of God’. Feel it. Absorb it. Now let your mind move to your own soul, the very core of your being and reason for living. God has a soul like you and me. He is more like us, and we like him, than we can ever care or dare to imagine. God is gentle and caring, challenging us but never condemning us. Nursing staff may tire; more and more effort may be required to keep putting one foot in front of another, but God never tires of me, no matter how much I might disappoint him and me.

We are at the end of the Christmas season. The Gospel narratives have been marked by a spirit of gentleness and calmness from Gabriel to the visit of the three wise men. Save for the time when he drove the money lenders from the Temple, Jesus too, is clearly someone of gentle compassion. And this same gentleness and compassion is demanded of us. We may be angered by the obscene lack of kindness shown to refugees who cross the Channel, we may be frustrated by the levels of lying and corruption displayed by some ministers and officials, but we confront their behaviour - not with aggression but with words that gently challenge: *We do not break the crushed reed*. We act in such a way that ensures that the words of the Father addressed to the Son in today’s Gospel, will be addressed to us too: *You are my Son, the beloved; my favour rests on you*.

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

(The Way of Silent Prayer, Darton, Longman & Todd LTD)

Chapter 52 – The Splendour of Eternity



Augustine tells us very simply that if we can call our mind home and keep our mind still, we will get a glimpse of God.

'If only our minds could be held steady, they would be still for a while, and for that short moment we would glimpse the splendour of eternity, which is forever still.'

In his **Confessions** he recounts sharing such a glimpse with his mother, Monica, as they rested on their journey back to Africa after his conversion. They were staying with friends in Ostia, near Rome, and it was there a few days later that his mother died.

'Not long before the day on which she was to die,' Augustine recalls, 'my mother and I were alone, by the window which overlooked the garden of the house at Ostia. We talked a long time together and our conversation was full of joy and peace. It seemed as if our hearts were fed from the stream that flows from your fountain.

'We talked about the joys of life and its pleasures, and we were sure that no matter how great they were they could not compare with the life of the world beyond death. We seemed to pass beyond all the wonders of your world, even beyond our very selves. And we came to that place of plenty, where you feed us forever with your truth.

'And while we spoke of the eternal wisdom, longing for it and straining for it with all the strength of our hearts, for one fleeting instant we reached out and touched it.

'Suppose, we said, that the noise within were to cease ... Suppose that the heavens and even our own soul were silent, no longer thinking of itself but passing beyond. Suppose that our dreams and our imagination spoke no more. That every tongue and every sign and all that is transient grew silent - for all these things have the same message to tell, if only we can hear it, and their message is this: We did not make ourselves, but he who abides for ever made us.

'Suppose, we said, that after giving us this message and bidding us listen to him who made them, they fell silent and he alone should speak to us, not through them, but in his own voice, so that we should hear him speaking. Suppose that we heard himself, with none of these things between ourselves and him, just as in that moment my mother and I had reached out and touched the eternal wisdom that abides over all things. Suppose that were to continue.

Would this not be what we understand by the words
Come and share the joy of your Lord?