

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

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Jock Dalrymple:*

*0131 669 5447*

*Deacon:*

*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:*

<https://www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com>

*Joint Facebook page:*

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

*Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:*

[stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)

## Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year 9 October 2022



*On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him... (Luke 17:11)*

**This Sunday, there will be a special focus at all our Masses on the St Vincent de Paul Society.**

**A Warm Welcome to St Mary Magdalene's this Sunday after the 11.15am Mass to Hans and Michael Zaunbrecher and Karl Schöbben.** Michael wrote recently to describe how his father, the sculptor of the lifesize statue of St Mary Magdalene in the porch there, is terminally ill with a brain tumour and wishes to see and touch the statue again before he dies. The three of them are coming to Edinburgh to make this possible. They arrive by boat at Newcastle at 9.15am on Sunday and will be driving straight to St Mary Magdalene's.

Michael gave the life-size carved Mary Magdalene as a gift to St. Mary's Cathedral 11 years ago. A few years ago, it was passed on to our own parish of St Mary Magdalene's as an appropriate final home.

### **A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP CUSHLEY - Oppose Assisted Suicide**

Care Not Killing (CNK), supported by the Catholic Parliamentary Office, has launched a petition which aims to stop plans to legalise assisted suicide. This bill risks undermining the provision of palliative care and efforts to prevent suicide. It may make the most vulnerable people, including the elderly and disabled, feel like a burden. The current law is the safeguard - it prohibits assisting someone's suicide and/or killing them by euthanasia, but the new law will eliminate this safeguard. The state ought to support the provision of care, not deliberate killing. **Please sign the petition at church today. Alternatively, sign online at [www.carenotkilling.scot](http://www.carenotkilling.scot)**

**The next Baptismal Preparation Course** will take place on **Thursday 27 October** and **Thursday 3 November** in the Parish House. If you would like to participate, please make contact with Fr Jock.

### THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Those who receive a newsletter on-line might have noticed that one of the attachments is the **Wednesday Word, containing the readings for the following Sunday, with a short commentary on each by Fr Henry Wansbrough, the esteemed biblical scholar.**

Since the newsletter is normally emailed on Friday evening, it seems to make more sense to include the readings for that Sunday – so that those who might wish to look at the readings and commentary in advance (recommended) are more likely to do so!

**IE: From this Sunday onwards, the newsletter attachment will contain the readings (and commentary) for this Sunday... while the Wednesday Word for the following Sunday will be able to be picked up at the back of both Churches.**

#### **Saturday 8 October**

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

#### **Sunday 9 October – 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

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

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

#### **Monday 10 October**

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

7.00pm – Zoom - **Pastoral Council Meeting**

8.15pm-9.15pm – Zoom - **Gospel Sharing** - <https://tinyurl.com/55nzryzh>

(All welcome to join and reflect on the previous Sunday's readings and homily)

#### **Tuesday 11 October**

7.00pm – Parish House Prayer Room – **Mass** - livestreamed

7.45pm – Parish House – **RCIA Group – Enquiry 2**

**Wednesday 12 October** – 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** - livestreamed

**Thursday 13 October** - 10.00m – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** - livestreamed

#### **Friday 14 October**

10.00am – St John's – **Memorial Mass for Finlay McMillan and Agnes Cruikshank** –  
livestreamed

1.00pm – Parish House – **Meeting with Holy Rood Caritas Students**

#### **Saturday 15 October**

12.30pm – St John's – **Baptism of Milan Nasolini**

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

#### **Sunday 16 October – 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with baptism of Ezra Kane**– livestreamed

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

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### IN THE COMING WEEKS

**Sunday 30 October** – 9.30am – St John's – **Mass celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley with presentation of diocesan medals**

# NOTICEBOARD

## THE ENQUIRY GROUP FOR THE RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Aadults) STARTED TWO WEEKS AGO BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO COME ALONG THIS TUESDAY ...

Would you like to discover more about the Catholic Faith or possibly even be received or baptised into the Catholic Church? Were you baptised Catholic but were never confirmed or made your first communion? Or do you wish to return to the practise of the faith? You would be most welcome to come along to our informal gatherings on Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm in the Parish House – **the second enquiry evening will take place this week on Tuesday 11 October ... For more information, contact Fr Jock, or Colette Dempsey (07864 670151) or Bronagh Power (07902 607936), our catechists..**

## COST OF LIVING CRISIS – A reminder from the St Vincent de Paul Society

‘Many of our parishioners will be extremely worried at the current cost of living crisis affecting food and fuel costs. There are no easy answers, but much help and advice are available.

You have a right to this help. Citizens Advice Scotland have a specialist advisor who can be seen at the Community Renewal Office at 31 Bingham Avenue on Thursdays. Please call on 0131 629 9858 or 0300 303 5296 in advance to make an appointment.

Further there is a Citizens Advice Bureau office at 8A/8B Bath St, Portobello. Phone 0131 510 5510 for advice or an appointment. You can also go online: [www.citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk), scroll down to “rising cost of living” and click on “money advice tools”. Additional support can be found from: Change Works on 0131 556 4010 and Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.’

### A Request for help: does anyone know of a flat a young midwife might rent?

Ann, a member of the Scottish Laity Network, based in Shetland writes: ‘I wondered if I could ask for help for a young friend of mine. The daughter of one of my friends here in Shetland has just qualified as a midwife, having recently finished her course in Aberdeen University. She has been offered a job in Edinburgh, where she is due to start work in December, but has nowhere to live. She has been looking for a flat in Edinburgh and visited many properties, but no success. I met her today at our local harvest festival service at the kirk and she told me that if she can't find anywhere to live she won't be able to start her job this year.

I asked if the hospital has any nurses' home, but she said that there is none; and she has just been offered B&B accommodation, which is not great when you are working shift work as a midwife, including night duty. She is an absolutely lovely young woman, who I have known for nearly 10 years, since she was a shy 12-year-old. She is happy to pay a fair rent and is hard working, very tidy and quiet. Anyway, I just wondered if someone might know of a flat available to rent...’ If anyone can help, please email to Rob Burnett [rjsburnett@gmail.com](mailto:rjsburnett@gmail.com)

### Life, my time to bless.

*Life, puff of a winter, cold, flash of a swallow, sound of a mosquito, shadow across my path, whispering of wind, scent of hay, cadence of greeting, singing, welcoming, tissue of a rose, last glimmer of daylight, first light of dawn, bud of a snowdrop.*

*Life, blessing from God.*

*Life taken for granted never know joy.*

from “Stillness” (through my prayers), by Sr Stan Kennedy, an Irish Sister of Charity

The **Pamoja Fashion team** wish to thank you as they raised **£370.00** last week at their monthly sale in St John's hall, in favour of “Join hands, let's walk together” Twende Pamoja Trust, so helping to foster 5 active communities and 20 schools across both Tanzania and Scotland.

**Maria Igoe writes from Medjugorje:** ‘The **September Coffee Morning raised £110** for Nuns working in the Philippines. They have expressed their gratitude for our help with their mission. The next Charity Coffee Morning will be held on **Monday 17th October in St John's Parish Hall after 10am Mass.**

Here in Medjugorje we have attended the Mary's Meals Pilgrimage and met people from all over the world. They are doing fantastic work feeding children in schools every day. The number of children who receive a meal is heading for 3 million. So, we are enthusiastic to help them reach that number. **Donations will therefore go to Mary's Meals.** Please come along.’ (Our Medjugorje pilgrims return on Tuesday)

# SAINT OF THE WEEK I – St Vincent de Paul (1580-1660)

## Founder of the Vincentians – Feast Day: 27 September

*"I am for God and the poor."*

*NB The St Vincent De Paul Society was founded in 1833 by Frederick Ozanam – and called the St Vincent de Paul Society as Frederick Ozanam had been inspired by St Vincent de Paul's concern for the poor.*



Vincent de Paul was born to a peasant family in Gascony. Though he later achieved fame for his dedication to the poor, his early life was spent in a determined struggle to escape his humble roots. His family shared this ambition, hoping that a career in the priesthood would better the family fortune. Thus, as a boy, he was entrusted to the Franciscans and was eventually ordained at the remarkably young age of nineteen. It appears that Vincent's early attitude toward his vocation was no less worldly than that of his parents. The priesthood was a way to escape the farm. Once, in the seminary, he was visited by his father, but was so ashamed by the old man's shabby peasant clothes that he refused to receive him.

After his ordination, Vincent applied himself to securing a series of lucrative benefices. It was not long before he had risen to become a chaplain in the service of Queen Margaret of Valois. His charm and social skills gained him entry into the highest levels of society. Eventually he served as family tutor and chaplain to one of the wealthiest families of Paris, the Gondis. Thus, he might have passed his life as one of the worldly and entitled clerics of pre-Revolutionary France, living off of benefices and enjoying the stimulating table-talk of the salons.

In mid-life, however, Vincent underwent a great transformation. The occasion was a summons to hear the dying confession of a peasant on the estate of the Gondis. After he had received absolution, the man happened to remark that he might well have perished in a state of mortal sin had the priest not heard his confession. Vincent was struck as never before by the seriousness of his vocation. He determined that henceforth his priesthood would be dedicated to service of the poor.

A number of concerns competed for his attention in the years that followed. Vincent was concerned about the spiritual impoverishment of the rural masses and about the poor formation of the clergy. He founded a mission congregation - a society of secular priests, later known as the Vincentians - devoted to the training of parish clergy and to mission work in the countryside. At the same time, he utilized his extensive contacts in the court and high society to organize a wide range of charitable endeavours. He was particularly adept at attracting the services of aristocratic women. He convinced a number of them to don gray habits and to undertake a personal ministry to the poor and destitute. One exceptional woman, a widow, Louise de Marillac, became a particularly close companion in his work. With her able help he founded the Daughters of Charity, an unenclosed congregation of women devoted to serving the poor and the sick. In describing what was at that time a revolutionary model of religious life, he wrote, *"Their convent is the sickroom, their chapel the parish church, their cloister the streets of the city."*

There were few charitable projects in which Vincent was not engaged. He founded hospitals and orphanages, as well as homes for the humane care of the mentally infirm. He had a personal ministry to prisoners and galley slaves and also raised money for the ransom of Christian slaves held captive in North Africa. Already in his lifetime Monsieur Vincent, as he was widely known, became something of a legend. The rich and powerful vied to endow his projects, while the poor accepted him as one of their own. His spirituality was based on the encounter with Christ in the needs of one's poor neighbours. As he instructed his priests and Sisters, *"The poor are your masters, and you are their servants."*

Love of the poor did not mean sentimental adoration. He was scornful of those who liked to remain in the realm of imaginary acts of charity. Our love of God must be "effective," he wrote. *"We must love God.... But let it be in the work of our bodies, in the sweat of our brows. For very often many acts of love for God, of kindness, of good will, and other similar inclinations and interior practices of a tender heart, although good and very desirable, are yet very suspect when they do not lead to the practice of effective love."*

Vincent's last years were spent in painful illness. In approaching the hour of his death his prayer was, *"We have done what you commanded, do now what you have promised."* He died on September 27, 1660, at the age of eighty. His canonization followed in 1737. Later, Pope Leo XIII named him patron of all charitable societies. These included the movement dedicated to his name, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, founded in 1833 by Frédéric Ozanam.

*See: Jacques Delarue, The Holiness of Vincent de Paul (New York: P. J. Kennedy & Sons, 1960).*

## 'SAINT' OF THE WEEK 2 – Penny Lernoux, Journalist (1940-1989) – 8 October

*"You can look at a slum or peasant village...but it is only by entering into that world-by living in it-that you begin to understand what it is like to be powerless, to be like Christ."*



In the 1970s Christians around the world became aware of two extraordinary and related stories unfolding in Latin America. One was about the spread of terror and repression wrought by brutal military dictatorships throughout the continent. The other story concerned the transformation of the Latin American Church. Traditionally a conservative institution allied with the rich and powerful, the church was being renewed as a prophetic force, a champion of human rights and the cause of the poor. These stories converged in the imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom of countless Christians, guilty only of professing the gospel message of justice and peace.

One woman who helped to tell these stories to the world was Penny Lernoux, an American journalist based in Latin America. Lernoux first went to Latin America in 1962. Though born a Catholic, she had drifted away from the church, disillusioned in part by its conservatism and seeming irrelevance. In the early 1970s, however, she came into contact with priests and missionaries who were living out a different model of the church in solidarity with the poor. The encounter renewed her faith at the same time as it affected her mission as a journalist. As she later wrote,

*'It was through them that I became aware of and entered into another world not that of the U.S. Embassy or the upper classes, which comprise the confines of most American journalists, but the suffering and hopeful world of the slums and peasant villages. The experience changed my life, giving me new faith and a commitment as a writer to tell the truth of the poor to the best of my ability.'*

While other American journalists were covering the repression in Latin America in terms of a war against communism, Lernoux told the story from the standpoint of the poor. Through her writings, especially her landmark history of the suffering church of Latin America, *Cry of the People*, she became a critical link between the churches and peoples of North and South America. It was clear that her writing was rooted in something deeper than professional commitment; her writing was itself an expression of her faith. She became a witness, a voice for the voiceless, a hero to many who depended on her courage in reporting the truth.

In the church of Latin America, she had seen the promise of renewal and reform for the world church. In later years she was saddened by Vatican policies aimed at curbing the influence of this church, the silencing and scorn directed at many of its most prophetic ministers and theologians. Her last book, *People of God*, was a study of the struggle between contending models of world Catholicism, *"the church of Caesar, powerful and rich, and the church of Christ-living, poor, and spiritually rich."* Penny Lernoux died on October 8, 1989, one month after being diagnosed with cancer. At the time she was working on a history of the Maryknoll Sisters, the repayment of a debt she felt to the Sisters she had known in Latin America and through whom she had regained her faith. In the end the Maryknoll Sisters took her in, giving her a home in their centre in Ossining, New York. It was an unexpected turn in her journey, but one that was mysteriously illuminated in the light of faith. Two weeks before her death she wrote,

*I feel like I'm walking down a new path. It's not physical fear or fear of death, because the courageous poor in Latin America have taught me a theology of life that, through solidarity and our common struggle, transcends death. Rather, it is a sense of helplessness - that I who always wanted to be the champion of the poor am just as helpless - that I, too, must hold out my begging bowl; that I must learn - am learning - the ultimate powerlessness of Christ. It is a cleansing experience. So many things seem less important, or not at all, especially the ambitions.*

Penny often quoted the saying in the Latin American church, that *"we make our path by walking it."* For Penny, it was finally a path that led full circle. She was buried in the cemetery of the Maryknoll Sisters.

*See: Tom Fox, "Penny Lernoux: Faithful to the Truth," in Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday, eds., Cloud of Witnesses (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1991); Penny Lernoux, Cry of the People (New York: Doubleday, 1980).*

*(Both from Robert Ellsberg's wonderful book 'All Saints')*

## From Archbishop Leo's 'Ad Clerum'

**Talk with Archbishop Cushley** - The Edinburgh Jesuit Centre at Sacred Heart Parish in Lauriston, Edinburgh, is hosting a series of conversations with people who work at the interface of faith and politics. On Wednesday 12 October at 7pm, Fr Adrian Porter SJ will be in conversation with Archbishop Leo Cushley about the work and influence of the diplomatic service of the Holy See. More at [edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc](http://edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc)

**Aquinas & The Fourth Way**- A lecture titled Aquinas & the Fourth Way takes place on Thursday 13 October at 7.30pm in Room G.04, 50 George Square, Edinburgh. The speaker is Fr Ambrose Little OP, from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington DC. The talk will last around 45 minutes followed by Q&A. Register at: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/upcoming-events/a-lecture-on-the-fourth-way>

**Romero Lecture 2022: The Life, Loss and Legacy of Romero**- The inaugural Romero Lecture will take place at Sacred Heart Church on **Friday 14 October**. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop William Nolan at 6pm, followed by the Romero Lecture by Fr Martin Maier SJ at 7pm, introduced by Archbishop Leo Cushley. More information at [edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc](http://edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc)

**Music Day - Join fellow musicians and singers from across the Archdiocese for a Music Day at 10:30am on Saturday 22 October at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh.** The event is for anyone interested or involved in music in the liturgy. It features workshops on choir singing & organ/keyboard, sessions on planning music in your parish and a panel where you can ask your questions of the experts. The day is led by Michael Ferguson, Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, and James Greechan, Choral Director for the Diocese of Motherwell. Light lunch provided. Free parking onsite. Register now at [bit.ly/musicday2022](http://bit.ly/musicday2022)

**Workshop: The Psychology of Flourishing** - A workshop on the psychology of flourishing, faith and spirituality will be led by Fr Roger Dawson SJ at The Edinburgh Jesuit Centre at Sacred Heart Parish in Lauriston, Edinburgh, on Saturday 22 October 10am to 4.30pm. Register at [edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc](http://edinburghjesuit.org.uk/ejc)

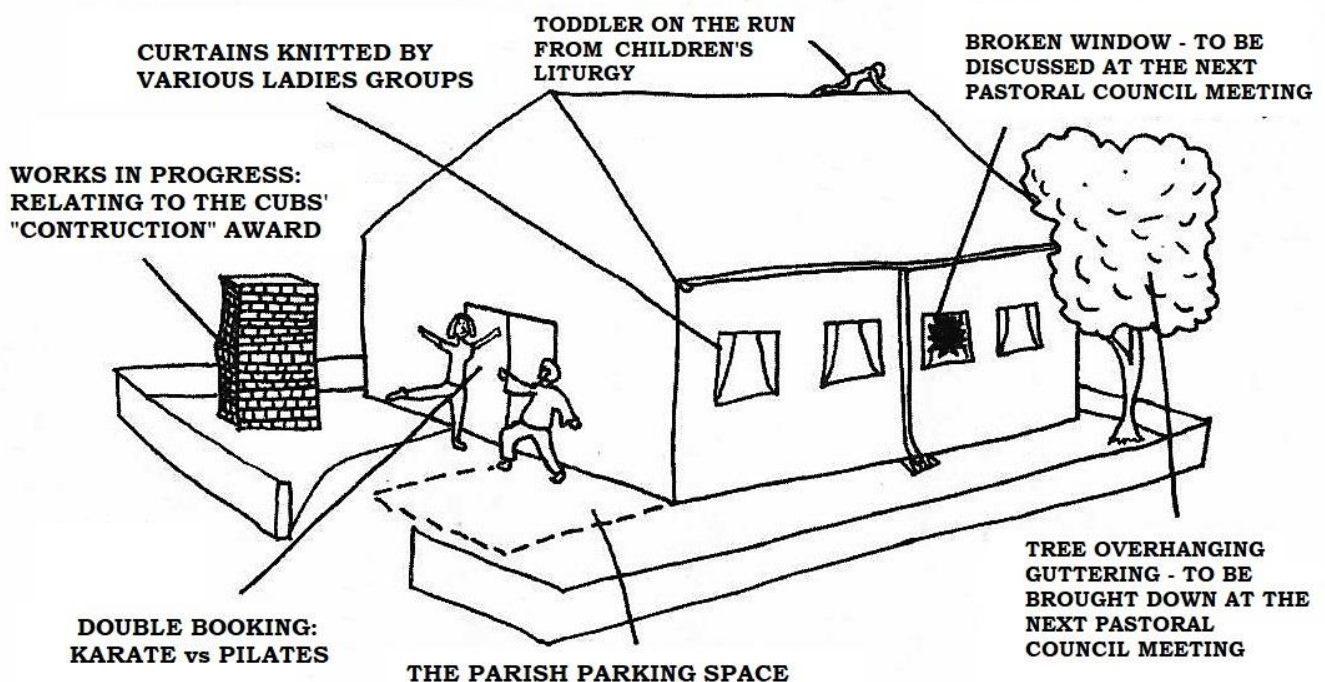
**Divine Mercy** - The annual Divine Mercy Conference takes place at St Augustine's, Dundyvan Road, Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ, on Saturday 29 October from 9am-6pm. Register online at [www.divinemercy.scot/conference2022](http://www.divinemercy.scot/conference2022)

**All Souls' Day** - Archbishop Cushley will offer Holy Mass for the repose of all the faithful departed who have died in the Archdiocese in the last year, especially those buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery. This will take place at 10am on Wednesday 2 November (All Souls' Day) in the Mount Vernon Cemetery Chapel.

## THE CHURCH HALL

*Definition: a pew-free ecclesiastic building entirely surrounded by residents who don't like noise.*

*Typical features include:*



*from Anglican cartoonist Dave Walker's "Guide to the church" 2006)*

# PARISH REGISTER

*Today, Sunday 9 October, was the day in 1982, 40 years ago, that Fr Jock arrived at Pontificio Collegio Beda in Rome to begin training for the priesthood.....*

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

*Charlotte Dunleavy - Linda McClory - Donal Fitzgerald*

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

*Norman Ritchie - Doug Welsh  
Eileen Brown - Sheila Alexander  
Peter Airlie - Mgr James Rae  
Jane Petrie - Frank O'Reilly  
Bridie Hanley - Steven Moffatt  
Canon John Ward - Isobel Banks  
Agnes Harvey - Fr Jimmy Henry*

## *Anniversaries:*

### St John's:

**Oct.8:** Katherine Wills (2010); Eva M Berry (1980); Donald O'Kane (1960); **Oct.9:** Steven Moffatt (2021); Begg family; **Oct.10:** Eileen Brown (2021); John Davies (2009); Alice Moran (1973); Kathleen Sharkey (1963); Ralph Osmond (1961); **Oct.11:** Sheila Alexander (2020); Juliann Roarty (1994); Thomas Bassi (1982); Canon John Ward (1977); **Oct 12:** Elizabeth Craigie (1988); Lucy Boyd; **Oct.13:** Anthony & Leonard Reading (2003); Elizabeth Berry (1978); David Hyde (1978); Denis McKay; **Oct.14:** Fay Brown (2014); Mary M Smith (1999); Agnes Docherty (1994); Jean Deighan (1990); Norman Ritchie (1973); Hugh Stone (1962); Joseph Bradley; **Oct.15:** Mgr James Rae (2015); George Gilhooley (1997); Robert Nelson (1959); Collins Family; **Oct.16:** Catherine Jeffrey (1986); Elizabeth Burns;

### St Mary Magdalene's:

**Oct.10:** Isobel Banks (2005); Joseph Muir (1998); **Oct.13:** Agnes Harvey (2020); James Harvey (2018); **Oct.14:** Marisa Kerr (2000); **Oct.16:** Daniel Sweeney (2004); Fr. Jimmy Henry (1987);

*Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:*

### St. John's:

Alex Cranston, John Cregan, Frank Logan, Rose Thornton, Carol Simpson, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, Jean Bonar, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Kim O'Neill, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, 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:

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, Ann Dockrell, Michael McPhillips, 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.

*Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:*

Baby Jamie McBride, Mary Thomson, Nan Doig, Joy Allan, Clare Johnston, Tony Doherty, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Baby Josh Simpson, Keiron Smart, Michael Doherty, baby Tommy Moran, Carol Turnbull, Ethan Slaney, Paul Madden, Francis Joseph Palmer, Christopher MacKinnon, Jean Wylie, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, Marlene Bonnar, George and Ann McDermott, Lalee Martin, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Ellen Dow, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Sheila White, Jessica Haggerty, Lauren Sutherland, 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, Jean Nelson, 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.

*Thank  
You!*

## *Offertory 2 October 2022*

**St Mary Magdalene's, £285.85 total**, including £188.84 Offertory and £87.00 Gift Aid

**St John's, £1412.57 total**, including £447.27 Offertory, £210.30 Gift Aid and £755.00 online donations

# REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – LUKE 17: 11-19

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

I seem to spend a great deal of time at Boots pharmacy these days. Prescription changes mean that my normal repeat medication service is all out of sync. I find myself being a silent partner in some experiment for future generations. ‘We’ll try you on this drug and see how you get on!’ It doesn’t fill me with an overwhelming confidence – neither does it frighten me or fill me with dread. The pharmacy counter in Boots Hexham couldn’t be in a worse location. Anyone waiting for their ‘script’ is just in the way! I have learned patience. I enjoy people-watching and seek a quiet corner whence I can observe. I am as happy as a pig in \*\*\*\*! I have also learned a great deal about the ‘Boots No7’ range. If you thought that it started with lipstick and ended with eye shadow, then prepare to be amazed. There is a whole ‘For Men’ range! I was particularly tickled by the **Protect & Perfect Intense ADVANCED Night Moisturiser For Men 50ml**. This product promises to halt the aging process as it works its magic overnight and will leave me feeling refreshed and rejuvenated the following morning. Which 69½ year old doesn’t want to arrest the aging process? My part of the proposed deal involves me handing over £24.95 and applying a melange of 60 – sixty! - different chemicals (no exaggeration!) to my face each night. I assiduously read the list of ingredients but became lost after ‘Aqua’. I thought that perhaps I did recognise *Ethylhexyl salicylate*. I’m sure I once saw that listed as an ingredient in a jar of Supermarket Own Brand Cook in Sauce! No doubt that once I witness the arrest of the aging process, I will be overcome with feelings of gratitude and rush back to Boots to hand over a further £24.95. How my heart will skip!

Can you remember when you last skipped? At primary school, I used to love skipping - not with a rope – but with that comforting hippity-hoppity gait much favoured by those for whom all of life is potential and joy. Last Wednesday, as I exited from Boots into the pedestrian zone that is Fore Street, I was immediately forced to take evasive action as a young girl, liberated from Grandma’s shackling hand, was set free to head for Grandad at the other end of the street, and, no doubt, some suitably sugary reward. She was skipping with unrivalled gusto, her whole being an incarnation of joy and gratitude. When I got home, later that morning, and having taken leave of my senses, I thought I would like to try my hand (or arthritic knees) at skipping once more. I was grateful that the nearest CCTV camera is some 5 miles away!

Gratitude is the theme of this weekend’s Gospel passage. Of the ten lepers cured, only one found his heart lifted. Only one found his heart light and filled with joy. Did he skip his way back to Jesus? Did he push people out of the way? Did he run? When we are tinged with - or even full of - resentment, there is little room for a heart that skips through life. When we are suffocated by self-righteousness or a sense of entitlement, then there is little joy. It's impossible to feel happy if you are hard of heart without a thought for others - if all of our energy is consumed by what you want rather than what you need. Similarly, you cannot be unhappy if you have a heart that is full of gratitude. Somewhere at home, you have a Thank You card, or a Thank You letter that you are reluctant to consign to the recycling bin. You received it many years ago and it means a great deal to you. Over the years, you have looked at it before carefully replacing it in the envelope and putting it back in the drawer. It makes you feel warm inside and still can produce a lump in your throat, a tear in your eye. It is one of your treasured possessions. At one level, it's a piece of paper with some words written on it, but reams of paper would be needed to fully describe what it means to you.

Just as you derive immense joy from the simple act of someone saying, "Thank you", so too, you can generate so much happiness when you use those same two words. You may have read "Winnie the Pooh" many years ago. I love all of the characters, but always reserve a special place for *Piglet*! Piglet once asked Pooh – ‘How do you spell ‘love’?’ Pooh replies ‘You don’t need to be able to spell it – you just feel it.’ We could paraphrase. How do you spell ‘gratitude’? You don’t need to be able to spell it, just feel it! I love Piglet! *“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”*

So, today say “Thank you” - with heartfelt love and devotion – and note how your heart does skip!