

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

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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*Parish Priest:*

*Canon 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, 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)*



## *The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity - 12 June 2022*

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine.*

*(John 16:13)*

**We Continue to pray for Peace** – ‘Dear Lord, please grant the people of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Reconciliation, Your Forgiveness, Your Love. Amen.’

**Today we celebrate First Communions at the 9.30am Mass – and congratulate all those receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time -** Ana Bernabeu Fletcher, Andrew Wallace, Carly Douglas, Corran Mackenzie, Dylan Neild, Ellie Ewing, Emma Murray, Erica Pacitti, Gabriel Lukasik, Isabella Bosustow, Jagoda Cichocka, Joey Ramsay, Julianna Muir, Kyle Tod, Laila Muir, Letizia Raviele, Lily Waugh, Lois Delaney, Lorenzo Fay, Marco D’Agostino, Mette Davey, Mhairi Robertson, Michael Williams, Nathan Zuk, Oliver Benson, Oliwia Kuraj, Stella McClory and William Maulicino.

**On Thursday, we welcome Archbishop Leo Cushley who will celebrate Mass in St John’s at 7pm and will confirm children from our two parishes, and also from our fellow Cluster Parish of St Teresa’s, Craigmillar.** Many congratulations to Adrian Rot, Alessio Pacitti, Alicja Lewinski, Aoife O’Hanlon, Blaine Turnbull, Cara Murray Clarissa Garcia Sancho Heeney, Daniel Baranski, Daniel Wallace, Elise Kazimoglu, Frankie Weddell, Imogen McClory, Jay Demarco, Jurek Cichocki, Leo Cochrane, Lewis Philbin, Maria Ziemska, Mhairi Keast, Murray

McKenzie, Noah Kelly, Oona Fraser, Rachel Payne, Rouven Davey, Sam Telford, Sophia Lioia, Victoria Liszka.

**Friday is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – and Saturday is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

## **The Synodality Open Meeting for the Two Parishes - 15 May 2022**

**Donald Scott writes:** ‘Nearly 50 parishioners met in St John's Church Hall during the evening of Sunday 15 May 2022 to consider and discuss all the responses to the Synodal Process. The wealth of material generated since we began the process at the end of March was displayed around the hall for all to read and consider.

This included:

The report we sent to the archdiocese as our contribution to the collective report to Rome.

transcriptions of the 268 questionnaires completed by parishioners in February

'post-it' notes written during the synodal meetings

collations of the 'post-it' note comments

joint governance documents

Key Areas of Parish Life documents

draft copy of the new handbook

The meeting started with a prayer (Charles de Foucauld's Prayer of Abandonment – on the day of his canonization) followed by a guided meditation. We then had a period of listening to each other about what we experienced as the most important themes for our future. We did this in groups of three – giving each person an opportunity to speak while the others listened.

The final part of the evening – in the whole group – was an opportunity for particular issues to be highlighted for us to prioritise. The three themes that emerged were “Young People”, “The Laity” – we noted that the ‘laos’ is the people of God, thus including all people, both lay people and clergy – and, thirdly, “Women in the Church”. A number of individuals volunteered to be involved in working on one of these issues.

There have been two further events after the Open Meeting.

Two groups of parents whose children are involved in sacramental preparation – for first communion and confirmation – came together on 16 and 23 May. These groups engaged with the same process of listening and reflection that we have adopted for the synodality conversations. These also were positive meetings which produced ideas about how we support young people, and also how we take seriously our own spiritual lives as adult disciples.

The other event was a meeting of the St John's Pastoral Council which reflected on the overall experience of the synodality process – with two main conclusions. (We hope before the end of the month to have a similar process at St Mary Magdalene's.)

We felt it was important to follow through with the issues that have been identified so far – the themes teased out at the Open Meeting, and those that emerged from the parents' groups.

At the same time, we felt we should not restrict ourselves to those themes as we continue to travel together in ‘synodality’. Our thinking is that we need to do deeper justice to the written material we have collated by identifying statements and themes that suggest fresh directions and deserve further consideration. A small group will be working on that over the summer period. Anyone who is interested in looking through the typed-up material is also welcomed to be involved in that process.

# THIS WEEK

## **Saturday 11 June**

10.00am-2.00pm – St John’s Hall – **Fundraising event for little Rudi Abbott** (see below)

11.30am – St John’s – **Baptism of Ziggy Richard Hazledine (Deacon Eddie)**

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

## **Sunday 12 June – FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass with First Communions** – livestreamed

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

## **Monday 13 June**

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

7.00pm-8.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel sharing** – click [HERE](#) or [shorturl.at/hrGR4](http://shorturl.at/hrGR4)

**Tuesday 14 June** - 10.15am - St Mary Magdalene’s – **Requiem Mass for Mary McKenzie** - livestreamed

**Wednesday 15 June** – 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

## **Thursday 16 June**

2.00pm – Holy Rood HS – **Mass for visiting P7’s.**

7.00pm – St John’s - **Confirmations for St Mary Magdalene’s, St John’s and St Teresa’s with Archbishop Leo Cushley** - livestreamed

## **Friday 17 June – FEAST OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

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

## **Saturday 18 June**

12.30pm – **St John’s – Baptism of Remi Quin**

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

## **Sunday 19 June – FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST - CORPUS CHRISTI**

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

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

## **From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’**

**SCIAF Ukraine Appeal** - As well as your prayers, please consider supporting SCIAF’s emergency appeal for Ukraine, if you are able. Donations can 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/>

**Corpus Christi Procession** - As part of the Eucharistic renewal in the Archdiocese this liturgical year, you are invited to take part in a Corpus Christi procession, led by Archbishop Cushley, at St Francis Xavier’s in Falkirk on **Sunday 19 June at 3pm**. Gather at the Bandstand in High Street (FK1 1YD) before processing to St Francis Xavier’s Parish (around 20 min walk). This is a major event for the Archdiocese and should be a beautiful and prayerful experience (as well as a chance to be a witness to the Eucharistic Christ in public).

**Archdiocesan St Vincent de Paul Mass** - Renato Lima de Oliveira, International President General of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, will attend the annual Archdiocesan SSVP Mass at St Patrick’s Church in The Cowgate, Edinburgh, at **7pm on Friday 24 June**. A buffet will be served after Mass. All welcome.

**Family Afternoon** - A Family Afternoon at the Gillis Centre will take place on **Saturday 25 June, 2.00pm-5.00pm at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB**. It will include separate sessions for adults and children, focusing on *The Eucharist: Source of Family Love*, family prayer time in St Margaret’s Chapel and family games. This event coincides with the 10th World Meeting of Families taking place in Rome. Details and registration at [bit.ly/ArchEventbrite](http://bit.ly/ArchEventbrite)

**Justice & Peace event** - An event titled *Caritas, Justice and Peace – a Synodal Way Forward* takes place on **Saturday 25 June, 10:00am-3:30pm** at Ss John Cantius & Nicholas, Main Street, Broxburn, EH52 5RJ. It's a chance for everyone who sees Caritas, Justice and Peace as integral to their Catholic faith to participate in shaping the agenda of the Archdiocesan Commission for Caritas, Justice & Peace over the next two years. All welcome. Details and registration at [bit.ly/justiceandpeaceevent](http://bit.ly/justiceandpeaceevent)

**Schola Cantorum sings MacMillan** - This recital takes place at **7:30pm on Monday, 15 August**, at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. In the course of this recital at the Cathedral, Sir James MacMillan, Scotland's most distinguished composer, will discuss the relation between faith and music with Michael Ferguson, Director of the Schola Cantorum. For details, visit <http://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org/festival-2022.html>

**Festival Mass** - Archbishop Cushley will celebrate the Festival Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at **midday on Sunday 21 August**, followed by a reception in Coffee Saints café.

**Margaret Sinclair** - The national Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage is on **Sunday 18 September**. Find out more about this holy Edinburgh woman at [www.margaretsinclair.scot](http://www.margaretsinclair.scot)

## NOTICEBOARD

**Many thanks to Fr Jim Smith**, celebrating Saturday night Mass at St John's while Fr Jock celebrates a Family Mass for his aunt who would have been 100 on Friday 10 June, and also saying the 11.15 Mass at St Mary Magdalene's while First Communions take place at St John's.

### **Fundraising Event – 11 June 2022, St John's Hall, 10.00am to 2.00pm**

Preloved clothes and accessories will be on sale, as well as a raffle, to help raise funds in order to send little Rudi Abbott to America this summer, for further treatment after surgery for a rare and aggressive grade four brain tumour. Rudi is 8-year-old and attends Tower Bank Primary School in Portobello. He has completed chemotherapy treatment at the Royal Sick Children Hospital and is gearing up to travel to Seattle where he is set to receive life-saving immunotherapy treatment – but his family are desperately trying to raise £250,000 to help them travel. You can read his full story and find a link to donate by clicking [HERE](#) or go to <https://www.shorturl.at/iqtHS>.

If people want to kindly donate gifts for the raffle, please, contact Elizabeth (0131 6699976).  
Thank you

The May **Coffee Morning** in St John's Hall raised £160 for Sightsavers. Donations will be given to the Community of Benedictine Nuns at Largs, who require funds to repair their roof. Many thanks to all who come along and give so generously.

### **A message from Bethany Christian Trust to Care Van Volunteers**

'On behalf of Edinburgh City Mission and Bethany Christian Trust, we wanted to and send all our Care Van volunteers congratulations!!!

The Care Van has been awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

This award is your award! It recognises all the hard work and time that you dedicate to the Care Van and the people of Edinburgh.

Thank you to each and every one of you who serves and provides in different ways to make this service run as smoothly and as well as it does, whether that be serving, making soup or rolls, driving, chatting with the clients or praying. You all contribute to the Care Van in different ways and have all contributed to this award. Thank you! You may see the Care Van appearing in some local newspapers or on social media over the next day or too. Thank you all!'

**PS We are presently preparing a rota for the Care Van for July to December. If anyone would be willing to offer 3 hours of their time one Sunday afternoon every two months to**

serve sandwiches and hot drinks, or to drive the van (drivers must be under 70), please contact Jim Roarty 07719952472 jimroarty4@gmail.com

**REQUEST FOR A LIFT:** Janet Cunningham is wondering if anyone is going to the ordination to the priesthood of Brother Brian of the Jericho Benedictines at the Monastery of Jesus, Harelaw Farm, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire – it takes place at 7pm on 11 July – if you can help, please contact Fr Jock

## **Life-giving questions for all of us**

(a reflection by Barry Morley of the Quakers)

*Do you recognise that you are the light of the world, and that your role is to touch the world with that light?*

*A Way Opening for others?*

*Do you look for the best in people, giving them opportunity to respond accordingly?*

*Do you recognise the things in your life that centre you, and do you turn to them before you need to?*

*Do you remain alert that young people pattern their lives after you, seeing in you things that they might aspire to?*

*When you feel yourself in error are you as lovingly patient with yourself as you'd like to be with a child?*

*Do you live your life in such a way that you draw all things into harmony with God's universal love?*

*Do you dwell joyfully in the mystery?*

*Do you keep yourself open to the promises, power, and possibilities of your own inner life?*

### **The International Prayer for Peace**

*Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth:*

*Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth:*

*Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust:*

*Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace:*

*Let peace fill our hearts, our world our universe.*

### **Days of peace – words of Pope John II**

*Give us era days of peace, speak to the hearts of those responsible for the fate of peoples.*

*Stop the 'logic' of the revenge and retaliation;*

*and through your Spirit suggest new solutions, generous and honourable features,  
and room for dialogue.*

*Give us all that patient waiting which is more fruitful than the hurried deadlines of war.*

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

## ST ANTHONY OF PADUA – Feast Day 13 June

Doctor of the Church (1195 – 1231)



Unknown Master  
(14th century).  
St. Anthony. Padua, Basilica.

*“O Sweet Jesus: what is there sweeter than Thee?  
Sweet in Thy memory, sweeter than that of honey or any other object.  
Thy very name is a Name of sweetness, a Name of Salvation.  
For what does the name Jesus signify, if not Saviour?  
Therefore good Jesus, for Thy own sake be to us a Jesus.”*

St. Anthony is among the most popular of all saints. This has less to do with the memory of his spellbinding preaching than with his posthumous career as a miracle-worker. Throughout the centuries Anthony's intercession has been piously sought in matters great and small, with particular homage accorded his knack for locating lost objects. Lost amid this devotion has been much recollection of who St. Anthony was, apart from the fact (important to many of those who most honour his name) that he was Italian. (Actually, Portuguese.)

Anthony was born in Lisbon in 1195 and first entered religious life as an Augustinian canon in Coimbra. There one day he had occasion to wait on a group of five visiting Franciscans who were on the way to Morocco. Anthony was greatly impressed by these courageous missionaries, the more so when news came of their martyrdom and when their remains returned by way of his monastery.

At once Anthony was inspired to apply to the Franciscans. He was accepted and was even granted his wish to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs. But no sooner had he arrived in Morocco than he became so ill that he was forced to turn around. In Italy he attended the famous Franciscan chapter of 1221, the last one held during the lifetime of St. Francis. It was also the last Chapter to which all Friars were invited and was thus, with three thousand brothers in attendance, a considerable jamboree. Afterward Anthony was assigned to a small hospice for lay brothers at Monte Paolo. It was a lowly assignment, befitting a brother

who, up to this time, had shown no remarkable talents.

But soon Anthony's star would shine. When, on an important religious occasion, there was found to be no available preacher, Anthony was asked to extemporize. He proceeded to astonish his audience with the unexpected elegance, conviction, and profound learning of his sermon. Word quickly spread, and Anthony soon received a letter from Francis himself authorizing him to preach and to teach theology to the friars.

Eventually Anthony was sent on a preaching mission that covered all of Italy. Thousands flocked to hear his open-air sermons, and his visits had the impact of a spiritual revival. It was said that men gave up gambling and drinking at the sound of his melodious voice. Criminals were reformed. Feuding enemies were reconciled. For these effects, quite apart from the miracles that adorn his legend, Anthony earned his reputation as the "Wonder Worker."

Anthony's sermons integrated a message of spiritual uplift with a bold challenge to the social vices of the day, especially greed and the practice of usury. He attacked the tyranny of the powerful and was unsparing when it came to the failings of the clergy. "You there, with the mitre!" he addressed one visiting archbishop, apparently in particular need of a prophetic word. He volunteered for hazardous mission tours among the Catharist heretics in southern France. And so successful were his exhortations to charity wherever he preached that he was also well known by the title, "Friend of the Poor."

Weary from his exhausting mission, Anthony died on June 13, 1231, at the age of thirty-six. He was buried in Padua, the city where he had spent the last years of his life. It is a measure of his popularity that Anthony's canonization followed only one year after his death. In 1946 Pope Pius XII declared him also a Doctor of the Church.

*See: Raphael M. Huber, St. Anthony of Padua (Milwaukee: Bruce, 1948).*

# Parish Register

*Many Congratulations to Sarah Clark and Hugh Fraser who got engaged last week*

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

*Ray Donnelly  
Maureen Forsyth*

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

*Cathie McGravie - Tom Brown  
Anne-Marie Aitken - Dolores Jones  
William George Lartham  
David Gaughan  
Thomas McNama*

## Anniversaries:

### St John's:

**June 11:** Andrew Carey (2003); Isabella Young (2003); Michael J Kempton (2002); John Reidy (2000); Patricia Pyper (1999); **June 12:** Peter McLauchlin (1993); Mrs Young (1939); Catherine Regan; **June 13:** Beatrice Nimmo (2005); John Govan (2003); Bridget McCole (1997); Bernard Holligan (1993); Lyndsey Jacob (1991); Christina Mullen (1978); John Brown (1945 killed in action); Sally Eadie; **June 14:** Dolores Jones (2021); Cathie McGravie (2018); Lily Sandham (1985); Annie Rae (1979); Susan (Magee) Purcell (1970); John Fusco (1942); Winnie Torrance; **June 15:** Ona McArthur (2011); Anthony Fusco (1978); Jessie McGuire (1954); **June 16:** Tom Brown (2016); Anne Marie Aitken (2015); Annette Donivar (2013); Violet Macnamara (1997); Fr. John Fusco (1994); Amelia W Murphy (1981); **June 17:** Roland Ogilvie (2013); **June 18:** Thomas Quinn (2004); Mary Eardley (1999); Betty McLean (1997); Thomas McNama (1966); **June 19:** Rose Ann Rooney (2011); Norah Gallagher (2001); Mario Boni (1997);

### St Mary Magdalene's:

**June 11:** Isabella Gallagher (2001); Jan Ulas (1996); **June 12:** David Gaughan (2000); **June 13:** Hugh McCarron (2000); **June 14:** Josephine Heaney (1996); **June 16:** Isobel Kesson (1995);

*Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:*

**St. John's:** Maureen Lawrie, Kathleen Brown, John Cregan, Mike and Maria Noonan, Jean Bonar, Baby Archie Williams, John Whyte, Susan Cammack, Maria Pacitti, Kim O'Neill, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Frank Logan, 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, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

### St Mary Magdalene's:

Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, 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:*

Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Margo Law, Sheila White, Michael Durkin, Jessica Haggerty, Lauren Sutherland, Margaret Thomson, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, Anne-Marie Pymont, John Francis Harwood-Stevenson, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Bill Henderson, Kit McCormick, Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Anne Lauder, Seval Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister) Jan Meise, Margaret Thompson, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, 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, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Sr May Lewis, 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, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

## Offertory 5 June 2022

<i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	<i>St John the Evangelist</i>
£243.74 total including Offertory of £127.74 and Gift Aid of £116.00	£1546.02 total including Offertory of £499.62, Gift Aid of £307.40 and online donations of £739.00
£ 116.20	£197.92
£ 21.55	£50.00
<i>Day for Life Special Collection</i>	
<i>SCIAF - Ukraine appeal</i>	



**Pamoja fashion** 'raised £370.00 last Saturday; many thanks to all those who support us.'

## A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

I started looking at this weekend's reading last Sunday. It's part of my routine. I have never been much into routine and have been accused of having a butterfly mentality as I gently move from task to chore and back again. Flit! Skip! Flit! On the routine surrounding the preparation of these few words, I like to think I am much more disciplined. My initial look at the readings is always accompanied by the traditional Catholic prayer: *'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created. And thou shalt renew the face of the earth.'* I use the prayer often and regularly. I learned it at Primary School (we had no choice) and I'm glad I did. It has served me well throughout the intervening years. Whenever I found myself struggling for a handle on the readings, He has always come to my aid. He has never declined my invitation, unlike me, who over the years have declined many invitations, often with excuses so flimsy as to rival Nottingham Lace. ('We're having a street party to celebrate the Jubilee. Would you like to come?' 'Sorry, I can't. I'm booked in for brain surgery that day!') No, I cannot think of one occasion when the Holy Spirit, ignored or declined my request: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts....*

Back to the weekly "reflection". Sometimes the words fall onto the screen almost with a life of their own. On other occasions it's like trying to fill a water-bowl with no more than a dripping tap. Our domestic situation this week had me focussed on this issue of water. We're very lucky in that our water comes deep from the bowels of the earth in this part of the world. We're on a bore hole and the water is beautifully soft, with no residual smell or aftertaste experienced by many on a mains water supply. It is tested regularly and has a purity-level in excess of 98%. Cup of tea or glass of water? The water invariably wins. During our tenancy, one issue has baffled three different plumbers. The ground floor is open plan with the kitchen area at the far end. Every now and again, with both taps firmly in the off position, the flow of water will burst into life for no more than a second or two. The sink is stainless steel and can resound a bit like a drum! We're used to it now, but it still retains its capacity to startle when it coincides with a particularly scary moment of a TV drama. (I enjoy being made to jump by something on TV – but I don't need the plumbing to give a hand!) This week the water sprites have been particularly busy!

Water is very reassuring. It's always just there. We don't have to walk for 5 or 6 miles with containers to bring back dirty, disease-ridden water. We just turn on a tap, or the sprinkler in the garden, or use a hose pipe on the car. In so much of the world, water is taken for granted. We might struggle for clean air, but water is usually at our beck and call. Am I the same in my relationship with God? Do I take Him for granted, just expect that He will always be there? Do I need to remind myself again and again that He gave first - just as He loved me first? Do I ever spare more than a passing thought for those for whom faith is a struggle, as much of a struggle as the trek for water faced by millions every day? Am I like the flitting butterfly, loitering on a nectar laden flower and avoiding less productive foliage?

I have always been certain that all the words come because I first invited the Holy Spirit to help me. As Paul says in today's second reading: *the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.* In today's Gospel passage, Jesus promises: *I still have many things to say to you, but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth....* Jesus is the manifestation of God, when we listen to Jesus we listen to the Father, when we stand in witness to Him, we do so because of the Spirit of Truth dwelling in each of us.

Today we are invited to engage with the life-giving presence of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost - One God, three persons - a Trinity of love - the Holy Trinity. We are called to deepen our relationship and understanding of the God of Love. Above all else, we are invited to love Him, to drink from his fountain, to savour the taste of the beautifully soft, pure water, feel it running down our chin and onto our clothes: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created...*

(The author of these reflections lives in Northumberland)