

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

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)

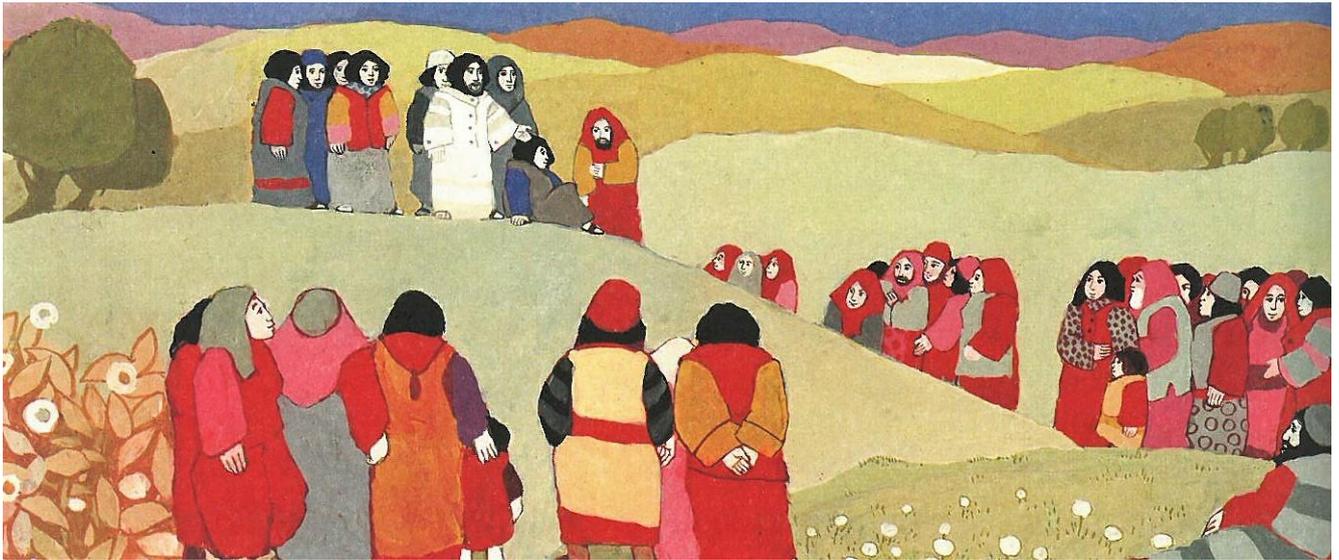
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

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

Seventh Sunday of the Year - 20 February 2022



(Illustration by Kees de Kort, 1993 - 'THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN' from Luke' Gospel)

"I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too. [...] Love your enemies and do good and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High" (Luke 6:27-36)

FROM SUNDAY TO TUESDAY OUR TWO PARISHES ARE HOSTING THE FORTY HOURS ADORATION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE (QUARANT'ORE)

*A 'power' went forth from Jesus
And healed those he encountered.*

*The same power radiates out
And heals us in our depths*

When we 'expose' ourselves

To the Christ who is 'exposed' to us in the eucharist.

(Brian McNeil)

Please sign up for a half-hour 'slot', sitting quietly with the Lord – we hope (at least) two people will be present in the Church/Prayer Room the whole '40 Hours' (the lists are at the back of both churches and also available on-line)

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

Deacon Eddie writes: ‘Adoration has a rich history in the Church: if and when you come to Adoration, there will also be further material available as a help to focus - some prayers and reflections which we can use to help us all get the most out of our time in Adoration. For those who want to come but are worried their young children might be a distraction, there will be colouring sheets and pencils available too. **Everybody** is welcome....

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

Sunday 20 February

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

Monday 21 February

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

Tuesday 22 February

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

Our next Baptism Preparation Course will take place this Thursday 24 February and next Thursday 3 March at 7.30pm in St John's Hall. If you would like to participate, please contact Fr Jock.

At all next Sunday's Masses, we will begin our Parishes' Synodal Process by asking people to fill in a questionnaire during the homily slot... more details next week of what else will be on offer...

THIS WEEK

Saturday 19 February

12 midday – St John's - **Baptism of Connor and Jack Reid**
6.00pm – Youtube/Facebook – **Mass (pre-recorded)**
6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass**
9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 20 February

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed – with Baptism of Ruaridh McClelland
10.30am - 6.00pm – St John's – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass**
6.00pm – 10.00pm – Prayer Room – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**
9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Monday 21 February

6.00am – 10.00am – St John's – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**
10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

10.30am - Noon – Prayer Room – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**

11.30am – Zoom – **Synod Co-ordinating Group Meeting**

Noon – 4.00pm - St Mary Magdalene's – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**

4.00pm – 7.00pm - St John's – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**

7.00pm – 8.00pm - St John's - **Holy Hour**

7.00-8.00pm – St John's Hall - **Meeting for P3 Reconciliation Parents**

8.00pm – 10.00pm - St John's – **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**

8.00-9.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89357680384?pwd=UENXZUZUZam5GRzVnNGI2OVJKOXVBdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 5768 0384

Passcode: 359789

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Tuesday 22 February – FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

10.00am - **Requiem Mass in St John's for Margaret Mackenzie** - livestreamed

11.00am – 10.00pm - St John's - **Adoration (Quarant'ore)**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Wednesday 23 February

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Thursday 24 February

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

7.30pm - 8.30pm – St John's Hall – **Baptismal Preparation Evening 1**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Friday 25 February

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Saturday 26 February

10am – St John's – **Mass for the Bereaved** - livestreamed

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 27 February

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed – **with RCIA Rite of Pre-Inscription**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

IN THE COMING WEEKS

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

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

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

40 Hours' Devotion - Each parish in the Archdiocese is having 40 hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to help renew our Faith and love of Jesus Christ. It continues this Sunday-Tuesday at St John's and St Mary Magdalene's in Edinburgh. For details see <https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk/newsletters> Full programme for the Archdiocese is at [bit.ly/40hoursschedule](https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk/newsletters). Find out more about Eucharistic Adoration: [bit.ly/40HoursPlaylist](https://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk/newsletters)

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

African/Caribbean Mass - The monthly African/Caribbean Mass for the Archdiocese will be celebrated at St Patrick's, Cowgate, Edinburgh, at 1pm on Sunday 6 March. All welcome.

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

Online Retreat - The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow is hosting an online retreat in Lent. Each day features an episode from the life of St Ignatius, music, art, a reading from Scripture and a reflection. Details at <https://iscglasgow.co.uk/lent22.html>

Vacancy - St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh is looking to employ a facilities manager. The job is 21 hours per week (£16,200 pro rata) and the closing date for applications is Friday 4 March. Job description and how to apply at <https://www.s1jobs.com/job/facilities-manager-52764122>

A WARM INVITATION TO OUR ON-LINE PRAYER AT NIGHT – 9.15pm Every Evening
The prayer, led very gently by parishioners Donald Scott and Lesley Reid, will start at 9.15pm each evening and last for 10 minutes. For ease, the Zoom link will be the same each evening:

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

Meeting ID: 912 962 2900 Passcode: Prayer

NOTICEBOARD

A Message from Thursday Club

‘The Thursday Club has resumed, and we invite any seniors male or female to come along and join us, meet new friends! Bring along a friend any denomination. We meet every Thursday 1.15pm till 3.30pm in St John's church hall. Share tea & coffee together! Activities include music days, card games, quizzes, dominos, reminiscing days, outings and so much more. Please come along and give it a try, you will be made very welcome by our group. If you require any further information, please contact Gena Gallagher 0131 661 1311’

A SCOTTISH LAITY NETWORK SYNODAL EVENT – Wednesday 23 February *Understanding matters LGBTQ in 2022 - some historical background for how we got here* Companion ~ James Alison

‘As we prepare our Synodal Submission we are conscious of the voices and the issues that may not be raised through the ‘official’ structures and one such voice is that of the LGBT+ community. To listen to that voice, we are having a series of Lenten conversations that seek to enable us to get a better insight and understanding of the issues and to explore ways of acting in solidarity... the first conversation is led by James Alison.’

Click for Registration Form - <https://forms.gle/ntJAYwmLD1aFkErT7>

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - LUKE 6: 27-38

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

There is a great deal of aggression around these days. It's not unusual to witness an altercation between a cyclist and a motorist; and normally mild-mannered parents displaying all sorts of aggressive behaviour when behind the wheel of their car as they embark on the school run. I don't know about you, but I always manage to join the wrong queue at the supermarket checkout and end up behind the one person, who, when presented with the bill, begins the involved search for the requisite bank card. Pockets and bags are searched, car keys put onto the counter, bags searched again. Pockets emptied of used tissues and KitKat wrappers. Still no evidence of plastic salvation. A 'wise one' caught up in the growing queue proudly announces to anyone willing to listen, the rather unhelpful comment 'I have all my cards on my phone – so much easier!!' Easier until you leave your 'phone in the car or have it stolen!! Stress levels continue to rise, people start muttering and tutting loudly, and all the while you can feel the irritation bubbling, threatening to erupt at any moment. The tension is palpable. The queue continues to grow until finally a supervisor with all of the solemnity of a town crier announces that aisle 8 will be opening shortly– (once an operator can be hauled kicking and screaming from the frozen food section!). What follows is the Tesco equivalent of a Grand Prix starting grid. No holds are barred, courtesy evaporates as quickly as desert rain. The quickest off the mark, with all the skill and speed of Lewis Hamilton attempting an overtaking manoeuvre at Silverstone, is victorious. He now has pole position. Relief. Freedom beckons. Fortune favours the brave in the pursuit of shaving a few minutes from time spent in the supermarket. Much better to be able to spend that time stuck in traffic somewhere else! Tension is never far away in what passes as modern, civilised life. Similarly, it's a well-established, and recognised phenomenon, that normally mild-mannered individuals are capable of aggressive and cruel behaviour when hidden behind the cloak of anonymity afforded by Social Media platforms.

This week, we bought some second-hand Pilates equipment. It was in storage in Yorkshire. It fell to me to liaise with the management of the unit where it was housed. And so, it came to pass, that I met 'Karen' – via email and telephone, if not in person. Between us we organised collection and transport by the hauliers. This was not a huge logistical problem – but a challenge, nevertheless, operating as I was, completely on trust and recommendation. When everything was finalised, monies paid and timetables agreed, I sent an email to 'Karen': *Amid all of the anger and shouting and ranting in this sad country of ours, it is such a pleasure to deal with courteous, polite, professional people - thank you, Karen. Best wishes, Bernard.* Sending such an acknowledgement just seemed to me to be a natural thing to do. Karen replied: *That's actually made my day, thank you so much - it's sad that you're right about this country but I was brought up that manners cost nothing and as a true Yorkshire girl I'm all over that.* No act of kindness is ever wasted, considerate words cost nothing, but give encouragement and can erase completely the negative effect of thousands of aggressive words and sentiments. Even hidden by a mask, we can still smile with our eyes – and often a smile makes all the difference to someone struggling with stress or tension.

Kindness costs nothing, tolerance enriches, compassion is an investment for the benefit of all. There can be no confusion as to the thrust of the Gospel passage this weekend. *Be compassionate...do not judge...do not condemn... grant pardon. Give and there will be gifts for you; a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap, because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.* I'm a bit of a Delia Smith disciple. She is big on aerating the flour into the bowl. Being a true disciple, I dutifully obey – despite the mess! Aerated flour occupies at least twice the space as the same weight of flour in the bag. Every time I obey Delia, today's Gospel springs to mind. You can really pack a lot of flour into a bowl when you keep pressing it down. Similar to a pothole being repaired, tamping down ensures as much tarmac as possible is compressed into the offending hole. The more tarmac, the better the repair. Whether we're inspired by Delia or Pete the Pothole man, we gain a clear idea as to the rewards we can eagerly expect when we are generous of heart. When our hearts are full of love, when we refuse to condemn or to judge, when we give for the sheer joy to be had from giving then we experience: *A full measure, pressed down, shaken together running over, poured into our lap.*

You may have recently had dealings with a 'Karen'. She may experience aggression from all sides. Yours might be the kind words she needs and the words she longs to hear.



Parish Register



Welcome to the World... George Scott Gardner, a second child for Abbie and Scott, and a second grandchild for Su and James Sutherland.

<p><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p>Margaret Munzi</p> <p>Francesco Crolla</p> <p><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p>Una O'Reilly - Francie Heakly</p> <p>Gerry Power snr</p> <p>Margaret Cheyne</p> <p>Jane Murray</p>	<p><i>Anniversaries:</i></p> <p><u>St John's</u> Feb.18: Molly Carr (1997); Sarah Taylor (1965); James J Stone (1954); Gordon Bartek; Feb.19: James Hughes (1998); Theresa Bannon (1991); Feb.20: Margaret Wood (2001); Catherine McGovern (1970); John McCann (1915); Helen Mackersey; Feb.21: John Meagher (1999); Michael McCreadie (1997); Feb.22: Wanda Kosok (2015); John Dunn (2014); John Walsh (1993); Feb.23: Patricia Walker (2021); John Hughes (1990); Feb.24: Josephine Broadley (2006); Mary McPartlin (1989); Luisa Iannarelli (1978); Richard Rooney; Charles Wynne; <u>St Mary Magdalene's</u> Feb.18: Alex. Cummings (2003); Barbara Rourke (1991); Feb.19: Margaret Cheyne (2014); Feb.20: Anne Wallace (2008); Feb.21: Elizabeth Mulvanny (1996); Sarah O'Neill (1993); Feb.22: Mary Robertson (2016); Feb.24: Margaret Gordon (2021); Mary Coll (2004);</p>
<p>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</p> <p><u>St. John's:</u> 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.</p> <p><u>St Mary Magdalene's:</u> Maureen Forsyth, John Newall, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Ray Donnelly, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Clive Davis, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.</p>	<p>Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:</p> <p>Melanie Ford, Gerry Mulvenna, Jaroslav Icina, Mary Taygarth,, Pat Mulvenna, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Bernard Traynor, Evelyn Tibbs, Helen Briton, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Caroline Minto, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Emma Bromet, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Dani Miniette,, Peter Millar, Leo Stone, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme</p>



Offertory Collections – 13 February 2022

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£330.00 total including Offertory of £115.00 and Gift Aid of 215.00	£1210.11 total including Offertory of £169.11, Gift Aid of £320.00 and online donations of £721.00

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

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

Chapter 57 – Sharing Our Gifts

When Augustine describes eternity as a time of rest that leads to seeing, he is aware that resting is the key step into our life with God. We rest long.

And in our resting a quiet change takes place. Our eyes are opened. As Augustine said, '*We shall rest and we shall see.*' But that is only the first half of the journey he urged us to take.

When we reach this point, at which our resting has opened the eyes of our hearts, then we are ready for the journey back. For Augustine continues: '*We shall see and we shall love.*' He sees a link between our resting and seeing, and our going out in love. The real test of this kind of praying is whether it leads to loving.

This is not a selfish journey. God's gifts of peace and healing that are poured into our hearts are of course meant to be cherished. But rather than becoming absorbed by the gifts themselves, we ask why these wonderful gifts are given. The answer is: they are not meant to be hugged to ourselves; they are given to us to share.

The gifts we discover within ourselves prepare us for our return journey. They prepare us for our life and work in the world, for our work with God. Our work with God is a beautiful partnership. It is surely wrong to speak, as many do, of God 'using' us for his work, using us for his own purposes. This kind of language belittles God. And it demeans us.

God respects the dignity of each one of us. He respects our freedom. He does not use people. Rather, he works with us. His wish is to draw us into partnership with him. God invites. We respond. He works alongside us. His love brings out the best in us. His love releases our talents. In all the good things we do in our partnership with him our gifts shine, our personality blossoms.

We are entitled to enjoy and celebrate the great things we are able to do when we are working along with God. We are entitled to sing our own Magnificat.

The messenger whom God sent to Mary was very gracious. The angel began by complimenting her. And when Mary was puzzled about what God was asking of her, the angel was understanding.

So too with us. God comes graciously to us, inviting us to share with him the work of caring for and loving his people. It is surely this gentle, gracious approach of God that draws such a whole-hearted response from many people.



A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON ADORATION BY DEACON EDDIE

There is something special about *how* we experience something, the joy of opening a beautifully wrapped gift, or listening to a particularly moving piece of music on the radio whilst truly having the time to be relaxed and enjoy it - or sitting in the sunshine watching the world go by. What we get out of these experiences is very much enhanced by *how* we experience them. The gift will still be the same product regardless of how it was wrapped, the song will still have played on the radio even if you didn't notice it whilst distracted by your phone or another task. Those birds that so many of us first noticed when we were forced to slow down during lockdown, they existed anyway. It is not just *what* we experience that matters, it is also *how* we experience it.

For us as a community, this is true of two very current things. First of all, the Synod process, a chance to truly walk together as a global Church, as a Diocese, even as a Parish. *How* we engage with that process is just as important as the process itself. In the coming weeks, though, we have a chance to walk together on another journey - of re-discovering the joy of Eucharistic Adoration as a community. As with the gift, the music or nature, if we really, truly want to experience something deep and powerful, we are invited to think about both *what* Eucharistic Adoration is and also *how* we experience this.

A period of silent Adoration, a Holy Hour or a Benediction service - to name just a few - are examples of how we can experience the power and joy of adoring the Lord. It is an intimate time sitting before the Lord. His body and blood, His soul all truly present in the Eucharist and we are invited to sit with him. Rather than focusing simply on *what* happens in Adoration, it is powerful to think about *how* we experience Jesus.

As a mathematics teacher as well as a deacon, with a wife and three children, I have been asked many times if I *really* believe "all that stuff" about Adoration? Yes I do, and I believe it is very important in our lives - Yet I do sometimes still get people challenging my belief. "It is too far-fetched to imagine we have the real presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, isn't it?" We receive some comfort and support against this challenge in Luke's gospel (Luke 16:31 - do look it up in the gospel book that we distributed to everyone recently.) In this verse, Jesus comforts us against those who don't believe and those who refuse to believe by saying, "Father Abraham says, '*They will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.*'"

Don't be discouraged by those who struggle to believe, don't be closed to the wonders of God's power. So much of what we need in life depends on our Rational mind, the ability to balance family finances, the decisions we make for our employers, the choices we make when driving - the rational mind is very much a requirement to survive in the world today. Go deeper, beyond our rational mind - perceive this powerful gift from God, this real presence in the Eucharist, in a deeper way. It is in this contemplative mind that I find the joy of Adoration. In a busy life, being able to just sit quietly in the presence of the Lord is a particularly powerful gift. "*Deep calls unto deep*"(Ps 42:7)

For me personally, a deeper connection in Adoration is found in *how* I experience it. Being open to the contemplative mind allows me the peace, the joy of sitting before the Lord in this way. Reaching deep within us, to connect to the depth of the Lord's love is particularly sensible - quite a rational thing to do!

As we prepare for the 40 hours of Adoration which starts this Sunday and finishes on Tuesday¹, please do try and leave some space in these days to join us for a chance to re-invigorate our community with this great and powerful experience which I hope we will all find helps us grow personally and as a community.

Can you offer an hour to sit quietly in front of the Lord? Can you join us for a Holy Hour followed by a Monday evening? Maybe you can join us to pray the rosary for the first time in years?

It would be wonderful if we could all think, not just about what the 40 hours adoration is, but how we can engage with it and, by doing so, how we might deepen our personal relationship with God? Not a small challenge but it is a worthy challenge.