

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)

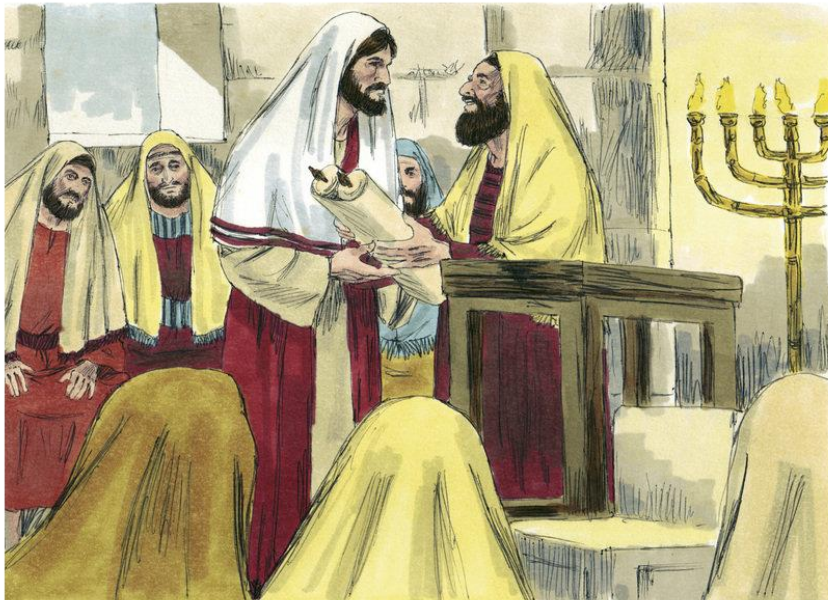
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

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

Third Sunday of the Year - 23 January 2022 The Sunday of The Word of God



“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight.”

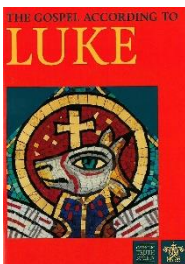
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The text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.

(Luke 4:18,21)

(Images taken from Read 'n Grow, Picture Bible Illustrations, by Jim Padgett, 1984)

Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, a Feast Day recently created by Pope Francis....to encourage the reading of the Scriptures, and especially of the gospels, we are marking this day by **handing out attractive little copies of St Luke's Gospel**, the gospel we will be listening on most of the Sundays of this coming year.



There are also large print copies available for those who would benefit from them).

It is also the fifth day in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

AN IMPORTANT WEEK FOR THE SYNODAL PROCESS

... this coming Wednesday - 26 January - there will be a **Synodal Meeting from 7pm to 8.30pm** for the 20 parishes (including our two) of the Edinburgh Deanery at **St Mary's Cathedral**. Anybody who wishes is warmly invited to come to it - No registration required, just turn up!

This is the ‘deanery dimension’ of the process...in the coming weeks we will have the chance of participating at the parish level – at the moment we have a small group from both parishes meeting to look at how we might creatively involve both parishioners and also Catholics who feel or are estranged from the Church in this ‘synodal process’ - between February and mid-March – a time of listening and walking together..

The purpose of the Synod is:

*“to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions,
allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds,
weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope,
learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness
that will enlighten minds, warm hearts,
and give strength to our hands.”*

(Pope Francis, Address to Young, 3 October 2018)

The Synod lasts from 2021 till 2023 – when it culminates in a gathering in Rome.

Edinburgh Churches Together invite you to their annual Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Worship to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

...this years’ Service will take place at **7pm this Monday at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX. Fr Jock will be preaching.**

‘In order to follow the current government guidelines regarding COVID 19, all those attending should take a lateral flow test before attending and wear masks (unless excepted) at all times when in the building. Once seated, please remain in your seat unless directed otherwise. Contact details for track and trace purposes will also be required as you enter the church. We very much look forward to seeing you there!’

The service will be live streamed on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofEdinburghMethodistChurchOnlineWorship>

and you can also access the service using Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83612285074?pwd=SXlRQTc0RCtCRmRyb3l1aVVKa0lpUT09>

Meeting ID: **836 1228 5074** Passcode: 712240



THIS WEEK

Saturday 22 January

10am -1pm – St John’s Hall - **Pamoja Fashion Sale** (There will be a large selection of new hand knitted ladies’ mohair jumpers in various sizes. Come and support the raising of funds to rebuild rural African communities.)

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 23 January - Sunday of the Word of God

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

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Monday 24 January

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

1.15pm – St Philomena’s, Winchburgh – **Requiem Mass for Baby Connall Tierney**

7pm – City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square – **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service (Preacher – Fr Jock)**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87819804073?pwd=TWY1RnFzdTN6Vk13NTBhTTd6UHF4UT09>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Tuesday 25 January – FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

10am – St John’s - **Requiem Mass for George Service** – livestreamed

5pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Wednesday 26 January

10am – St John’s - **Requiem Mass for David Dowie** – livestreamed

4pm – Zoom – **Synod Co-ordinating Group Meeting**

7.00pm – St Mary’s Cathedral - **Deanery Synodal Meeting (Open to all)**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Thursday 27 January

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

6pm – **P7 Parish Parents’ Confirmation Meeting**

7.30pm – St John’s Hall – **St John’s Pastoral Council Meeting**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Friday 28 January

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Saturday 29 January

11.30am - St John’s – **Baptism of Innes Kidney**

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

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

Sunday 30 January

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed- **with enrolment of P7 Confirmation Candidates**

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

Diploma in Catechetics 2022 - 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 evening, guided reading, one-to-one support, retreats and supplementary courses on Zoom and YouTube. The Diploma in Catechetics lasts one year, begins this month and costs £200. Students £150. Other concessions available. Email sranna.marie@staned.org.uk for information. Register at bit.ly/DiplomaCatechetics2022

Lunchtime talks - The Archdiocese’s mini-series of lunchtime talks on the Pope’s encyclical *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) concludes **this Monday (24 January) at 1:30pm** on Zoom. Register at bit.ly/AmorisTalks. The talks will also be uploaded to the Archdiocesan YouTube channel bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Called and Gifted Workshop - You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you at the *Called and Gifted Workshop*. It takes place at 9-5pm on Saturday February 19th at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh and is

hosted by the Archdiocese's Catechetics Commission. To register and for more info please email SrAnna.Marie@staned.org.uk

Becoming and Making Disciples Today - The Archdiocese is hosting a *Forming Intentional Disciples* workshop, where you can learn how God is at work in your life and in the lives of others. It will show how each of us can be an instrument in God's hand as we walk as His disciples. The three-day workshop starts on Friday 25th February at St Kentigern's Church, 26-28 Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, EH4 7QR. To register and for more info please email SrAnna.Marie@staned.org.uk

Events for married/engaged couples - The Archdiocese is hosting events for married and engaged couples in the lead up to the 10th World Meeting of Families (Rome 22-26 June 2022). These events are for couples to come before the Lord together in reflection on the beautiful Catholic vision of marriage and family life, thanksgiving for the gift of this calling and prayer for the blessing of their love. The reflections will draw on themes developed in Pope Francis' Encyclical *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Register at bit.ly/ArchEventbrite. The first will be on

- Sunday 6th March 2022, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, 4.00-5.00pm - Holy Hour with Archbishop Leo Cushley.

Alma Mater Fund - The Alma Mater Fund is an initiative of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, which provides financial grants to pregnant students facing difficulties at university to support them in pursuing their academic and personal goals. For more information, visit almamaterfund.org.uk or email info@almamaterfund.org.uk.

National safeguarding update – The new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency has been established as an independent body to oversee the Church's safeguarding practice. The latest issue of the *Safeguarding Matters* newsletter provides details of what the agency will do (available at bit.ly/3tyeInn). Lady Rae is looking to recruit people to act as Board Directors to support the work of the agency. Details at <https://aspenpeople.co.uk/microsite/scssa/>

NOTICEBOARD

A Message from Mary's Meals

'We are overjoyed to share that we are now working in Yemen, serving life-changing meals to children affected by one of the biggest humanitarian crises in the world.

Yemen has been devastated by conflict since 2015, with millions of people fleeing their homes to find safety, high levels of hunger and many children out of school.

Now, thanks to you, more than 4,000 Yemeni children will eat nutritious pitta bread sandwiches, filled with various ingredients to suit local tastes alongside fruit and vegetables, at school today. In such uncertain times, the promise of a daily meal at school provides a glimmer of hope to hungry children who are desperate to learn.

Our founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, says: "Given that Yemen can be described as the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world, and so many children are suffering, we are delighted to begin serving our daily school meals there – meeting the immediate need of the hungry child and, crucially, at the same time, enabling their education."

We are so grateful for everything you do to make this possible. **And we don't want to miss the opportunity to make you aware that this is the last month (till 31 January) for your donations to be matched through Double The Love.** Together, we can reach even more hungry children with Mary's Meals.' For more information about the work in Yemen, go to <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>

OUR CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS AT ST JOHN'S.

Maria Igoe writes: 'On 4th May 2004 a new venture was begun in the Parish. A Charity Coffee Morning was held in the Hall. This was initially to raise funds for Pro Vita (Scotland), a charity supported by St Cuthbert's Pro Life Group. Donations were sent to a Baptist couple in Romania, who saved babies from abortion and made a home for them. The Coffee Morning raised £16.80 and 5 parishioners gave donations of £34.80, making a total of £51.60. After the June Coffee Morning donations were rounded up to £100. £50 was given to Pro Vita (Scotland) and £50 to Scottish International Relief, a charity we had been made aware of by Greta Clarke and Betty Kelly.

With the popularity of the Coffee Morning and the generosity of those who came along, donations increased greatly, and we were able to support many charities. On 2nd March 2020 £100 was donated and sent to "Citizen Go", a charity which ensures that human life, the family and our freedoms are respected.

Then it all stopped. We were in 'Lockdown'. Some charities were finding it difficult to keep going. As parishioners we were missing the friendship and chat that sitting together with a cup of tea or coffee and home-baking brings.

After almost 2 years, we hope to restart our Coffee Mornings in February. We will take great care to make sure that we are as safe as possible in the Parish Hall. Those who wish to come along will be very welcome. I have the letter sent on behalf of Magnus McFarlane Barrow in July 2004 thanking our group for their donation to SIR, signed by his sister, Ruth Black. It makes interesting reading. At that time, they had opened a third house in Romania for abandoned HIV children, who were also physically handicapped. The letter goes on; "In Malawi, SIR's school feeding programme, Mary's Meals, continues to flourish and has now been extended to village communities in Liberia. SIR currently feeds over 10,000 children every day in Malawi and Liberia through Mary's Meals."

That was in 2004. Now Mary's Meals feeds over 2,000,000 children in their place of education every day. The latest and 20th country where the charity is serving life changing meals to children, is Yemen, affected by one of the biggest humanitarian crises in the world. 4000 Yemeni children will eat nutritious pitta bread sandwiches, alongside fruit and vegetables, in school.

Until 31st January 2022, donations to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6 million. The cost to feed a child Mary's Meals for a school year is £15.90.

Please pray that our Charity Coffee Morning will restart, and we can continue to help those most in need.'

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



Recently, while the church was being cleaned and sanitised, several items were found, including one pair of bifocal glasses, one pair of sunglasses, one black/white spotted umbrella, one hearing aid device and one pair of ladies gloves. If you think you are missing something, please feel free to contact Enrico at the Parish Office to arrange view and collection.

Why not Come and Sing Mozart's Coronation Mass?

A message from Imogen Gibson of Edinburgh Churches together: 'Sadly the Soko Fund has had to postpone the Come and Sing event on 5th February due to pandemic restrictions. Happily, they have a new date and would be delighted if the word could be spread for anyone who may be interested. **Come and Sing Mozart's Coronation Mass** will now take place on Saturday 24th September 2022. John Kitchen remains as Director of Music and the location will be the Parish Church of St Cuthbert's as before. Please join them to help raise money for disadvantaged women to access university education in Malawi.

Tickets and more information can be found on Eventbrite <https://bit.ly/3FJR8Xg> and more information about the Soko Fund at <https://www.thesokofund.org/>



Parish Register



Warm birthday greetings to Rowena Diggle, who celebrates her 50th birthday this Tuesday, 25 January

Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Julia Jared
Edith Somerville**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

**Molly Lugton – Barbara Devlin – Mary Service
Marie Ransey – Betty Blaney - Paul Bainbridge
Liz Saddler - Jacob Rekowski
Myles and Mary Durkin
Patsy McAnenny
Maria Iannone - Giuseppina Stornaiuolo**

Anniversaries:

St John's

Jan.21: Barbara Devlin (1988); Mary McGuire (1969); Joan Knox;
Jan.22: Antonio Pacitti (1997); Andrew Donoghue (1966); **Jan.23:** Liz Saddler (2016); Irene Wheatley (1999); Catherine Gilroy (1997); **Jan.24:** Mary Conner (1997); Adolf Haller (1974); Thomas & Mary Kyle; **Jan.25:** Elizabeth Hooper (2007); Patrick Murray (2000); Margaret Kelly (1991); Winifred Roper (1985); Annie Brown (1972); Helen Dykes (1959); Teresa Gaffney; **Jan.26:** Molly Lugton (2021); Elizabeth Gillies (2004); Veronica Wallace (2002); Teresa Fusco (1998); James Halfpenny (1982); Mollie Walsh (1979); **Jan.27:** Betty Blaney (2021); Alexander Notman (2018); Paul Bainbridge (2015); Andrew Gilhooly (2000); Graham Scott;

St Mary Magdalene's

Jan.21: Martin Forbes (2005);
Jan.22: Jane Graham (2000);
Jan.27: William Skey (2009);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's: Maria Pacitti, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Nessie Cairns, Alf McNamara, Margaret MacKenzie, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonar, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

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.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Jaroslav Icina, 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, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Emma Bromet, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Lewis White, Baby Alfie McDevitt, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Dani Miniette,, Peter Millar, Leo Stone, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Jean Nelson, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Michael Igoe, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Ellen Green, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme

Offertory Collections – 16 January 2022



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£337.61 total including Offertory of £87.61 and Gift Aid of £250.00	£1312.11 total including Offertory of £217.11, Gift Aid of £195.00 and online donations of £900.00
... from last week collection report ...	9 January 2022 £1378.64 total including Offertory of £225.99, Gift Aid of £252.65 and Online donations of £900.00

The next Tower Tombola draw will be held next Sunday, 30 January after 9.30am Mass in St John's, with an impressive prize of £297.50 ... Good luck to everyone who has entered...

A REFLECTION ON THE 2Nd READING FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 12-30

A discussion arose between the five senses – sight, smell, touch, taste, and hearing. They were arguing about which was the greatest. ‘Well, obviously, it’s me,’ said Touch. ‘I can distinguish between hot and cold, sharp and blunt. I protect from harm and warn of danger.’ ‘No, no, no, clearly it’s me,’ said Smell. ‘I can distinguish between the fragrant rose and poisoned gas. I recognise sweet perfume and can detect the smoke that is the precursor to fire.’ ‘Wrong!!’ It was the turn of Taste. ‘I can use the tip of my tongue to warn of poison and I can help others savour the delights of nectar and juicy mango. I allow people to feel refreshed by the taste of cool, fresh water.’ ‘You’re all forgetting me!’ It was the turn of hearing. ‘Sshh - Listen! With me you can hear the lark singing, you can thrill at the sound of music and the undulating rhythm of waves gently lapping the shore.’ Now it was Sight’s turn. ‘You’ve done your best – but you’re not exactly Premier League are you? I am clearly the greatest and the most important. It is said that eyes are the window to the soul! I see sunrise and sunset, I facilitate reading and study, I enable artist and sculptor alike. My beauty and elegance are there for all. Behold how the colour of the iris is enhanced and intensified by the white that surrounds it. This whiteness is my crowning glory.’

Life is so much better when there is harmony and co-operation. This should not need saying but, unfortunately, from time to time, we need to be reminded. Yesterday I made my best loaf of bread in my memory. It never ceases to amaze me that the ingredients, each of them simple in nature can come together to produce a warm crusty loaf of bread that waits for a slather of butter with all of the enthusiasm of our youngest dog awaiting breakfast. I think that yesterday’s success was due in no small way to the fact that I was doing everything by hand, rather than utilising food mixer and dough hook. I’m afraid to say that there was an energy to my kneading and stretching of the dough as I imagined I was pummelling various politicians for whom I have no great love! Flour, yeast, water, salt, and oil coupled with my energy and effort produced the loaf of bread. Yes, miracles can be achieved when everything comes together.

In a former existence I was regularly involved with Christmas Fayres and Summer Fetes. Hours and hours would go into their preparation. Obscure saints would be dusted down and invoked for sunny weather or a good turn-out. The fund-raisers came with their own brand of tension. The eleventh commandment of parish life said that the ‘Bottle Stall’ **must** take pride of place: after that everything else became a free for all as the cake stall competed with jam stall. Many a parish priest, having lost his remaining hair, would wonder if it was all worth it. Might it not be easier to ask everyone in the parish to place an extra amount of money on the collection plate!? But it was worth it, because it brought the community together and showed the power of collective effort. The sight of a sky lark hovering above is enhanced when we can hear her song; the aroma of a putanesca sauce is amplified when the garlic, olives, anchovies and tomatoes hit our taste buds; the gentle caress of the cheek of a young baby is intensified when we see and hear the gurgle and giggle, complete with water bubbles!

This weekend’s second reading from his first letter to the Corinthians sees Paul exploring the importance of collective action, built on harmony and respect. *Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit...so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.* As he explores his theme, he goes on to say. *If your whole body was just an ear, how could we smell anything?* Can a thigh muscle ever hope to play a harp or perform delicate surgery? Each part of the body is essential and yes, amputees can and do adapt and learn new ways, but I haven’t heard many say that they don’t miss their limbs - save for those who were in such excruciating pain that relief was only possible if the limb was removed. The body is more effective when all parts work together and each part is worthy of respect. The bottle stall may produce more revenue, but the hand worked embroidery of the craft stall maybe, just maybe, brought more happiness. No one person is more important than the next, just as all parts make the one body.

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

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

Chapter 54 – The Divine Spark



'God made our capacity for goodness the innermost part of us,' wrote the fourteenth-century German Dominican, **Johann Tauler**. 'In this he gave us our greatest likeness to him who is our father, and this wonderful divine spark is deeper inside us and closer to us than we are ourselves.'

The deeper we sink into our silent prayer, the more we become aware of the riches within, of our deepest, original self-formed by God in his likeness. We begin to reclaim the

gifts which have lain unused, unrecognised within us.

The deeper we go the more we discover. And at the end of our journey inwards, we find our wellspring of love, because Love has made its home within us.

The fact is, **Thomas Merton** writes, that if you descend into the depths of your own spirit and arrive somewhere near the centre of what you are, 'you are confronted with the inescapable truth that, at the very root of your existence, you are in constant and immediate and inescapable contact with the infinite power of God.'

It comes as a shock to discover this. We have perhaps believed that our basic inclination is towards evil. Instead, we discover that our deepest self is in constant union with God. We do not have to struggle to attain this. It is not some extraordinary gift reserved for those who devote their lives to prayer and dedicated love. Rather, it is a fact of our nature, a gift given by God.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, in his poem **God's Grandeur**, writes of 'the dearest freshness deep down things.' In the dearest freshness that lies deep down in us is Love itself, that source of life that Jesus promises when he says, 'Let anyone who believes in me come and drink.' In our deepest self, God abides and when we return to this place, we find that we are in him, and he is in us.

This discovery can change the whole direction of our lives.

When you haven't been to Children's Liturgy or Church in a while ...

