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 5447Deacon: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: Enrico Fertini

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

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

Twenty-first Sunday of the Year 21 August 2022



'Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem...' (Luke, 13:22)

Although the War in Ukraine seems to have moved down and sometimes off our front pages, and even to have become an occasional item in our news bulletins, people are still dying, being injured, being bereaved and becoming refugees each day....

Almighty Father, You are the Lord of history. We place in your hands the distress of our times. The war in Ukraine fills us with anxiety and fear.

We call out to you:
Welcome those who have died.
Comfort those left behind.
Be with refugees and those driven from their homes.
Heal the wounds of those injured in body and soul.
Be close to every person taking up the cause of those who suffer.

Do not allow war cries and threats to triumph, But truth. Send discernment/prudence, Balanced with courage, To work for peace Even when everything appears hopeless.

Lord, send your Holy Spirit over the earth, The Spirit who defeats division, The Spirit who overcomes war, The Spirit who conquers hearts.

Give to our earth the peace, which only you can give. You are the Lord of time and eternity.

Holy Mary, Mother of Peace, pray for us and for the whole world.

Through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

There will be a Holy Hour for Peace, and Benediction, on Thursday 1 September at 7pm – more details next week

Saturday 20 August		
11.00am – Nunraw Abbey – Requiem Mass for Fr Raymond OCSO		
6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed		\mathbf{T}
Sunday 21 August – 21st Sunday of the Year		_
9.30am – St John's – Mass – livestreamed		H
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass		П
Monday 22 August		T
10.00am – St John's – Mass – livestreamed		I
7.00pm-8.00pm – Zoom - Gospel Sharing - shorturl.at/acsy2		
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Tuesday 23 August - 7.00pm – Prayer Room – Mass - livestreamed		S
Wednesday 24 August - 10.00am – St John's - Requiem Mass for Jim Gaffney - livestreamed		
Thursday 25 August		
10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass - livestreamed		
10.00am – Our Lady of Loretto, Musselburgh – Requiem Mass for Michael Johnston (Fr Jock)		
7.30pm – Parish House – Baptismal Course Preparation Evening 2		
		W
Friday 26 August		\mathbf{W}
9.20am-9.50am – St John's - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
10.00am - St John's – Mass – livestreamed		${f E}$
Saturday 27 August		
10.00am – St John's – Baptism of Charlotte Noon	1	13
11.00am – Nunraw Abbey – Requiem Mass for Br Philip OCSO		${f E}$
6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed		
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Sunday 28 August – 22 nd Sunday of the Year		17
9.30am – St John's – Mass – livestreamed		

AND IN THE COMING WEEKS...

Thursday 1 September

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

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Requiem Mass for Clive Davis** - livestreamed 7.00pm – St John's – **Holy Hour and Benediction** - livestreamed

Friday 2 September – 10.00am – St John's – Second Anniversary Mass for Mike Knox - livestreamed

Saturday 3 September – 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - Bereavement Mass – livestreamed

Saturday 24 September – Saturday 1 October – VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE TO SCOTLAND and the Carfin Lourdes Grotto. (More details next week)

From Archbishop Leo's 'Ad Clerum'

Festival Mass - Archbishop Cushley will celebrate the Festival Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at **midday this Sunday 21 August.**

Annual Justice & Peace Mass - This takes place at **7.00pm on Monday 5 September** at St Columba's, Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh. The lead celebrant is Canon Brian Gowans, the Vicar Episcopal for the Archdiocese's Caritas Justice & Peace Commission and there will be a homily from Fr David Stewart SJ. Buffet and refreshment served in hall after. Register at bit.ly/caritasmass

My Faith & Scotland - Is Scotland a tolerant country for people of faith? Take part in an in-depth conversation on the experience of Christians and Muslims, with guest speakers outlining obstacles and opportunities. This event

takes place at the parish hall of St John Cantius & Nicholas, Main Street, Broxburn, on **Saturday 10 September**, from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Register at bit.ly/myfaithscotland

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

NOTICEBOARD

Gena Gallagher writes: 'Please come and have some fun at our Thursday Club – for Senior Citizens held each week at 1.30pm in St John's Hall. Open to all who are young at heart'. Please contact Gena (01316611311)

RIP MR JAMES BEYNON, FORMER HOLY ROOD HS HEAD TEACHER

Joan Daly, Head Teacher of Holy Rood HS, writes: "James Beynon, Head Teacher at Holy Rood from 1978 to 1994, died on Sunday. He had been in ERI for a number of days following a fall at home. He attended our 50th Anniversary Mass in June when he was able to recount many stories about the old school. Despite his advancing years, he was mentally very agile and had a fantastic afternoon with us. We very much enjoyed his company. His Funeral Mass will be held on Friday 26 August at 12.45pm at St Mary's RC Cathedral. We have been asked to share with the wider school community and extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend."

An appeal for Scouts, Cubs and Beavers Volunteer Leaders

Angie McGreevy, Treasurer for St John's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts group, writes: "Your Local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers Group needs new leaders to run the sections! No previous Scouts experience, no problem. Edinburgh Northeast District covers the geographical area of: Portobello, Craigentinny, Craigmillar, Duddingston, Joppa, Stockbridge, Broughton, Trinity, Leith, Newhaven, Wardle and Willow Brae. We want all young people to have the chance to dream big, give it a go and build skills for life. And it's not just the young people who benefit from Scouts. Volunteering is good for boosting your wellbeing, developing CV friendly skills, making new friends and building memories. Whether you want to support young people or if you're more comfortable planning from the sidelines we've got space for you. Be an enabler and do a good thing. Make a difference, put your skills to good use and play an active role in your community. We'd be happy to have an informal chat about local and flexible volunteering to suit you. Visit: enescouts.org.uk/join - Email: join@enescouts.org.uk. Thank you"

A REQUEST FOR ACCOMODATION LOCALLY

'A local minister, currently living in Portobello is embarking on an exciting adventure of starting a new church in Edinburgh. As a family of six they have been based here in Portobello for the past 4 years and are wanting to remain local. Their current accommodation/Manse however will no longer be available to them and so they are looking for accommodation from the beginning of October 2022 in the Portobello, Joppa or Duddingston area. If you are aware of anything that would suit them please get in touch at kt.sawrey@gmail.com'

Lunchtime Piano Recital in Duddingston Kirk in Aid of the Local Food Bank

Tricia Whyatt writes: "I'm planning a lunchtime piano recital in **Duddingston Kirk on Tuesday 6 September 2022** in aid of the local food bank. The concert will begin at 12 noon and last about 45 minutes. A light lunch will be provided afterwards. I had a concert of my pupils' playing at the end of term in June and we raised £260. I'm aiming to far exceed that this time as it is such a difficult time for many people. We are inviting cash donations on the day. Thank you."

A New Café at the former Bellfield Church

Morag Donaldson writes: 'In recent weeks volunteers have launched the Friday Café which runs every Friday from 10-12:30 in the Bellfield Foyer. With pay what you feel home baking and a free taster session in arts, crafts and DIY it is a chance to connect with friendly faces and learn new skills in a relaxed space. Some of the highlights from the first café included homemade cinnamon buns, fresh coffee roasted at Bellfield, scones and jam, Motown and a beginner's crochet class.

The café is open to all and is completely volunteer run, Ella our Volunteer Coordinator commented "We are so grateful of the community support we have received over the past few years it's great that this funding allows us to

give something back. We have a team of welcoming volunteers with the same desire to make connections in an enjoyable, fun space and an escape from the everyday pressures we all face."

As well as a selection of pay what you feel home bakes and drinks, we have a line-up of optional skills sharing sessions which run from 11am-12pm every week, the plan for the next few weeks is as follows:

26th August-All about beekeeping -- 2nd September-Rewiring a plug -- 9th September-Embroidery Stitches Keep up to date or RSVP to the event on Facebook here (or search for Friday Café)

Festival and Fringe Shows

Frances McDevitt is singing with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus.

Their concerts (all in the Usher Hall) are as follows:

Sat 20 Aug, 8pm - Glagolitic Mass (Janacek) - Semyon Bychkov, Czech Philharmonic

Tues 23 Aug, 8pm - Mahler 3 - Thomas Sondergard, RSNO

Thurs 25 Aug, 8pm - Beethoven 9 - Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Philadelphia Orchestra –

Sun 28 Aug - Closing Concert, 7pm - Dream of Gerontius (Elgar) - Sir Andrew Davis, RSNO

Kiltwalk 2022 - Fresh Start

'This year's Kiltwalk is on Sunday 18 September and Fresh Start are asking for people to get sponsorship and take part. There are three options – the Mighty Stride at 24 miles, the Big Stroll at 14.6 miles and the Wee Wander at 4.5 miles – plenty of options for different fitness levels.

So, for a chance to meet people, have fun, get some exercise and enjoy the scenery of our beautiful city, not to mention raising money for a good cause, sign up now. **And**, as a bonus, the Hunter Foundation will top up whatever you raise by a further 50% - how can you resist?'

'SAINT' OF THE WEEK – Catherine de Hueck Doherty – 15 August

Founder of Madonna House (1896-1985)

"The hunger for God can only be satisfied by a love that is face to face, person to person. It is only in the eyes of another that we can find the Icon of Christ. We must make the other person aware we love him. If we do, he will know that God loves him. He will never hunger again."



Catherine Kolyschkine, as she was first named, was born in Russia on the Feast of the Assumption in 1896. Her father, a wealthy diplomat and industrialist, was half Polish and Catholic, and so Catherine was raised in the Catholic church. When she was fifteen she married Baron Boris de Hueck, which made her a baroness. No sooner had she made this entry into the aristocracy than Russia was plunged into the First World War. While the baron served as an officer on the front, Catherine worked as a nurse. They watched as the starving and demoralized Russian army began to retreat, presaging the collapse of the tsarist empire in the October Revolution of 1917.

Though Catherine and Boris were reunited, their situation, as aristocrats, was perilous. Deprived of food rations, they came close to starving before risking a hazardous flight across the border to Finland. By 1920 they had arrived with their newborn son in Canada. Still in desperate financial straits, Catherine travelled to New York in search of work. She held a number of low-paying jobs. Finally, while working as a department store salesclerk, she was approached by a woman who asked if it was true that she was a Russian baroness, and would she be interested in lecturing about her experiences. Catherine immediately agreed, and soon she was on a lecture circuit, making \$300 a week describing her harrowing escape from

communism. During this time her marriage collapsed. It seemed that she had finally put the memory of poverty and hunger behind her. She had a luxurious apartment, a fancy car, and a country house in Graymore - all that communism had taken away from her. And yet her conscience was clouded by a nagging doubt, a feeling that it was just such a materialistic life and the failure of Christian values that had fed the communist revolution.

At the peak of her success, she felt the pull of the gospel verse, "Go, sell what you have and give to the poor. Then come follow me." So, in 1930 she gave up her worldly goods and moved into an apartment in the slums of Toronto, committed to living "the gospel without compromise." With the support of the archbishop, she came to establish Friendship House, a storefront centre for the works of mercy, where the hungry were fed and the

homeless were welcomed. Catherine's program of action was simple and unsystematic. It was simply a matter of living among the poor with an open door and an open heart. There was no need to seek out people in need. They came to her.

She received encouragement in these years from Dorothy Day, whose Catholic Worker movement was operating on similar principles in New York's Bowery. In 1937 Catherine herself moved to New York to establish a Friendship House in Harlem. She had come to feel that the sin of racial prejudice and the consequent segregation of whites and blacks was the greatest countersign to the gospel. Friendship House was a sign of interracial justice and reconciliation.

Among those moved by her example was the young Thomas Merton, who heard Catherine speak in 1938 and who joined her for a time in Harlem. Years later, in his autobiography, he described her message:

Catholics are worried about Communism: and they have a right to be.... But few Catholics stop to think that Communism would make very little progress in the world, or none at all, if Catholics really lived up to their obligations, and really did the things Christ came on earth to teach them to do: that is, if they really loved one another, and saw Christ in one another, and lived as saints, and did something to win justice for the poor.

Catherine was a large woman whose bearing of authority, commanding presence, and thick Russian accent all seemed appropriate to the title of Baroness. That is indeed how most people addressed her. But to her friends she was simply "the B." She was famous for her earthy humour and her righteous anger. When a society woman sniffed contemptuously, "You smell of the Negro," Catherine retorted, "And you stink of hell!"

Nevertheless, her imperious style of leadership led to tensions. In 1946 Catherine resigned from Friendship House. By this time, she had married a famous journalist, Eddie Doherty. Together they moved back to Ontario, Canada, and settled on a piece of land in the forests of Combermere. Catherine established a new community called Madonna House, which became a place of prayer and retreat. At Madonna House she returned full circle to the atmosphere of Russian spirituality she had known in her youth. Out of this came her best-selling book, Poustinia. The "poustinia," the Russian word for desert, is a place of silence and withdrawal from the compulsions of the world, a place to listen to God. It could be a hut in the forest, a special room in our apartment, or even a special place within our hearts, to which from time to time we might retreat. Through Madonna House and the communities, it inspired around the world, Catherine promoted the two principles by which she lived - a commitment to the social apostolate in the world and the need to root such a commitment in a life of prayer and the spirit of Christ. She died on December 14, 1985.

See: Catherine Doherty, Poustinia (Notre Dame, Ind. Ave Maria, 1975); Fragments of My Life (Notre Dame, Ind. Ave Maria, 1979).

After tough and difficult times, now a lot of people are going back to church once again



... this is usually because they have forgotten something like their house keys or jackets or glasses ...

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY LUKE 13:22-30

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

I hate queues and queuing. Sometimes I have no choice in the matter but if there is a potential escape route, I invariably take it. I have shared before my various adventures vying for the speediest route OUT of Tesco's. Speed is not just dependent on the shortness of a queue –the efficiency of the checkout operator is often more important. Of course, all calculations can be thrown into disarray when the person at the front of the queue realises that their card has been left in the car. In 1973 I willingly embraced a queue – a very long queue. My 'embrace' started at 5 am. It was for a semi-final ticket in the FA Cup between Sunderland and Arsenal. I queued for hours. As I neared the front of the queue, rumours took hold. 'They're down to the last few tickets' whispered someone at the front. Had my wait and persistence all been in vain? The head of the queue was tantalisingly close. My heart quickened and the time came for me to hand over my cash in return for my passport to happiness. My 5 am start had all been worthwhile. The rumours had been partly true because once I reached the ticket office, I witnessed an exceedingly small pile of unsold tickets. I walked out of the office and past those still waiting. 'Are there many left?' asked someone from deep within their number. What should I say? 'You should be alright' or 'you haven't a snowball in hell's chance. You should have got up earlier!' The former selling a fantasy, the latter a brutal reality-check. As I made my way back to the busstop I passed lots of excited-looking youngsters still in the queue, and I knew that their hopes would be dashed. I glimpsed an idea of the reality faced by those lucky few who managed to board a lifeboat on the Titanic as they looked back to those still stranded on the doomed liner.

Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there only be a few saved...? Jesus replies: Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. Will we be among the number of those who reach the lifeboats or are we destined to become stranded on the doomed liner? In effect, will we manage to get a ticket? It's easy for us to assume that we are doing enough, that we're getting by and that we will squeeze in. But we can always do more, try harder, be kinder, show more compassion. It has always fascinated me that 'dreams' apparently last just a few seconds of brain activity and yet the episode we live through inside the dream covers a huge passage of time. In the same way, a split second spent in front of a mirror, when we gaze into our soul, tells us who we are and how we are doing. We don't always need a long examination of conscience, usually we instinctively know if we are indeed, doing enough. The athlete gets to the top not because of the first training session but because when nearing exhaustion, he turns and goes once more, one final push. There is always more that can be achieved with determination. The longest journey we ever make is the one from the head to the heart. Cerebral knowledge is one thing, but heartfelt love is something completely different.

Recent TV schedules have seen a large amount of time given over to athletics coverage. We have had the World Championships, the Commonwealth Games, and the European Championships. Commentators and pundits alike focus on the winners and those who have 'medalled' (how I hate the use of that word!). Little or no attention is paid to those who finish lower down. Many of these have achieved season bests or personal bests. Many have battled through loss of form, injury, lack of confidence. The competition has helped them focus on their own journey and helped them to measure their progress. On Thursday I watched the 5,000 metres final. A lot of the back markers were lapped. Even though the medals had been claimed, many of those back markers kept on running, though a few did pull out. They were competing not for a medal but with themselves and their self-respect. They would be able to look themselves in the mirror. Not for them, resting on their laurels – or sitting on their hands.

Parish life will inevitably involve 'competition' of sorts. The priest will come to know and choose those on whom he can rely. Some will attain the dizzy (!) heights of the Parish Council or the Liturgy or Finance committee. This may make us feel insignificant. Knowing that they are stepping up to the plate doesn't excuse us from attaining our own levels of perfection of service. We don't always need the recognition of Gold, Silver, or Bronze. We can't all become MBE's! The taking part is equally important, and helps us ensure that we enter by the narrow door. There is always more we can achieve, more service to be given, more love to be shown and shared.



Parish Register



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Jím Beynon

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Pat Tansey
Nora Stone
Alan Haigh
Mary Phillips
Maimie Richards
Susan Tinney
Jimmy Gallagher
Bridget Gillespie

Anniversaries:

<u>St John's:</u> Aug.20: John Pelosi (2009); Nellie McIntee (2005); Allan Dobson (2000); May Knight (1976); Cathie Fairgrieve;

Aug.21: Alexander Binnie Jr. (1992); Margaret Ward (1956); Francis Bell;

Aug.22: Pat Tansey (2020);

Aug.23: Norah Hall (2009); James Anderson (2007); Thomas Bannon (1999); William Power (1991); Mary Martin (1990); Ann Hughes (1977); Nora Stone (1976);

Aug.24: Mary Phillips (2017); Alan Haigh (2017); Jimmy Gallagher (2016); Theresa Bell (2011); Sarah McDonaugh (2010); Ian Bain (2001); Kitty Demarco (1997); Thomas Tracy (1996);

Aug.25: Mamie Richards (2019); Billy Harrison (2018); John Fegan (2008); Bridget Halpenny (1992); Guido Avella (1991);

Aug.26: Theresa McArthur (2021); James Martin (2008); Maureen Lacey (1983):

Aug.27: Charles (Tony) Emslie (1998); Denis Kelly (1997); Agnes J McKay (1986);

Aug.28: Mamie Richards (2019); Mary Holligan (2001); Michael Meldrum (1975); James Waldie (1960); Patrick Birnie (1940);

St Mary Magdalene's:

Aug.21: John McNulty (1967); John Monteith (1967);

Aug.23: Charlie Douglas (2018);

Aug.24: Mary Damer (2002);

Aug.26: John Flannigan (2005);

Aug.27: Bridget Gillespie (2003); William Kempton (2001); Catherine Muir (2001)

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

Carol Simpson, Kathleen Brown, John Cregan, Mike Noonan, Jean Bonar, Baby Archie Williams, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Kim O'Neill, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Lorraine 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:

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:

Thomas McCafferty, Francis Joseph Palmer, Christopher MacKinnon, Rosemary Roberts, Mike Fox, Jean Wylie, Adrian Cammach, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, Marlene Bonnar, George and Ann McDermott, Lalee Martin, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Ellen Dow, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Margo Law, Sheila White, Michael Durkin, Jessica Haggerty, Lauren Sutherland, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, voung Martha Moyes (aged 5), Bill Henderson, Kit McCormick, Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Anne Lauder, Seval Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Mary Thomson, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Clare Johnston, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, baby Josh Simpson, 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.

Offertory 14 August 2022

St Mary Magdalene

St John the Evangelist

£535.40 total including Offertory of £173.40 and Gift Aid of £362.00

£1451.20 total including Offertory of £403.80, Gift Aid of £337.40 and online donations of £710.00



A REFLECTION BY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MINISTER, AND FORMER WARDEN OF IONA ABBEY, PETER MILLAR

Sowing love:

A few days ago, Hazel, a friend of almost 50 years, now living in London, who has given her life of deep love to the work of the L'Arche Communities throughout the world, sent me these lines written, many years ago, by the late Dutch author, spiritual teacher and pastor, Henri Nouwen (1932-1996). Through the long years of my cancer, I have learned many inner lessons about human brokenness and our shared vulnerabilities. This discovery, as many others have found, is a rich blessing in any life. These are Henri's words taken from his best-selling book "You are the Beloved: daily meditation for spiritual living":

You know something about brokenness. You know about the broken world. You know about brokenness in your country. But most personally, you know it in your more intimate life. You know we are broken people, and we suffer very intimate pains. The pain of a desire for intimacy that hasn't been fulfilled... the pain of a relationship that did not work...the pain of an addiction that is so hard to confess... the secret pain of loneliness that can bite us so much... and what I would like to say to you is don't be afraid of your pain, but dare to embrace it.

If you are wounded, and I know that you and I are, put your brokenness under the blessing. We are called to give our lives to others, so you and I can bear fruit. And all brokenness, and all dying, and all suffering is there to allow you to enter into solidarity with the whole human family, and to give yourselves to others so that your life can bear fruit. God asks you not to have a successful life but to have a fruitful life.

Artistic resistance will aid our victory:

Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president, has said the "artistic resistance" of a homegrown orchestra performing on the opening weekend of the Edinburgh International Festival will help spur his country to victory over Russia. In the programme note written for the concert by the Ukraine Freedom Orchestra, Zelensky said the entire country defied Russian aggression, but the arts were a critical point of resistance "because the seizure of territories begins with the seizure of people's minds and hearts, and music can be a powerful weapon against invaders".

Mike Wade writing in a UK newspaper article.