

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jock Dalrymple:

0131 669 5447

Deacon:

Revd Eddie White:

07986 015772

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after the Vigil Mass (7.30pm on Saturday) or any time by appointment

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris, and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, Edinburgh, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini

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

Web address:

<https://www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com>

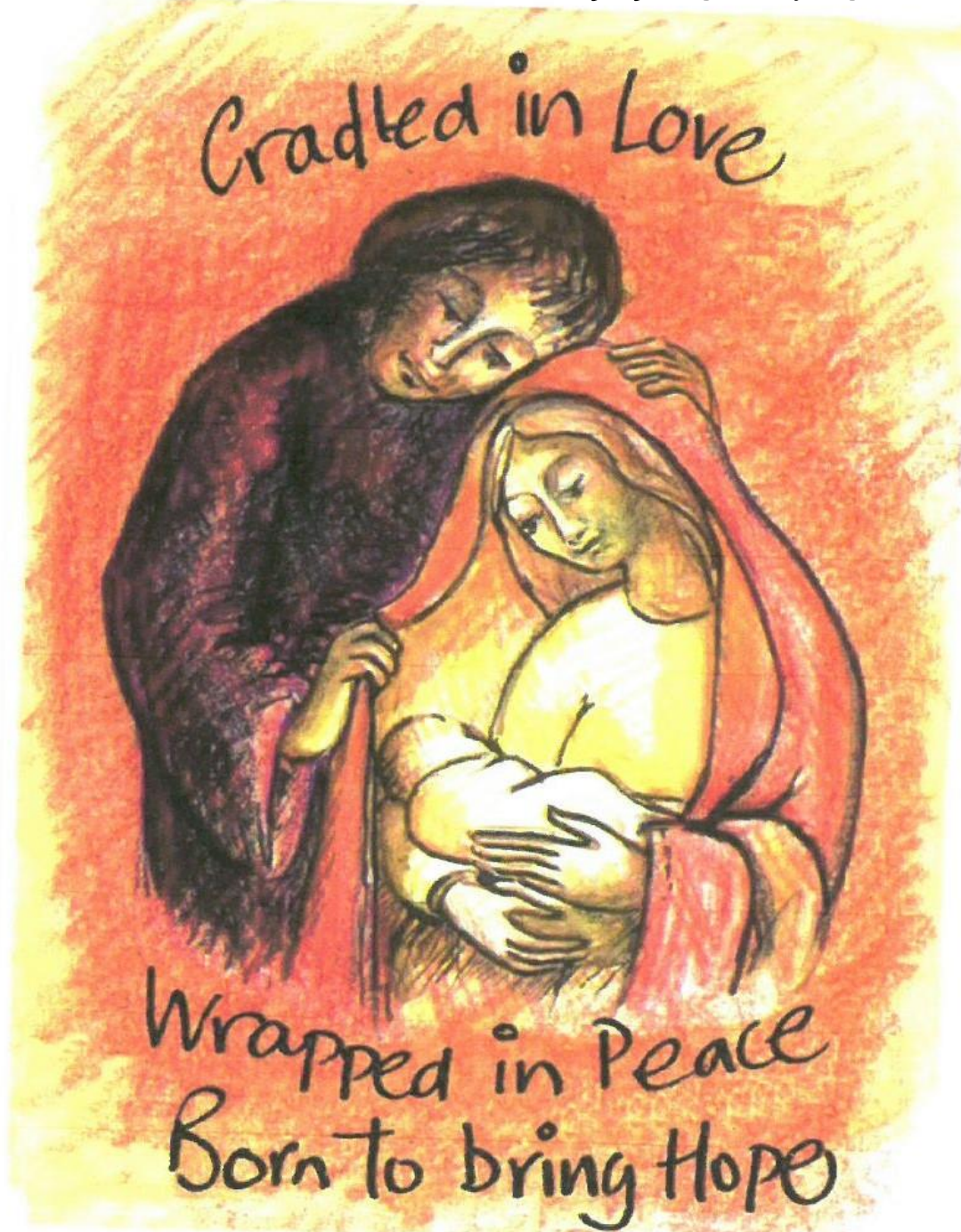
Joint Facebook page:

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

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

25 December 2022 - CHRISTMAS DAY



(designed by Sr Janeen Earley, FMDM, Ladywell)

*May the infant Saviour bless you
His mother guide your way
And may their love enfold you
Today and every day*

Fr Jock, Deacon Eddie, the Pastoral Team and the parishioners of our two parishes would like to welcome all visitors to our sister parishes here for the festive season, and to offer blessings for a truly peaceful Christmas and a fruitful New Year, full of Hope.

We would like to say a special thank you to all those who have so generously given of themselves and their gifts in the preparations for our celebrations – whether it has been helping prepare the churches or the liturgies, livestreaming them, assisting at them in many different ways, and in providing refreshments in the Halls after them...



Fr Jock and Deacon Eddie and the Parish House Team would also personally like to express their gratitude for the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes they have received.

A warm welcome and our thanks to Fr Jim Smith, concelebrating two of our Christmas Masses, who has contributed so much to our parishes in the last year.

The leaving collection for Legho

Tracy Burgess writes: ‘The Annual Christmas Second Collection at St John’s for our twinned Parish in Legho of Tanzania – which normally takes place around Christmas Time – this year will be postponed till sometime in 2023. Legho has a new parish priest and we have been trying to arrange a Zoom call with him. Once we have made contact, we will be in a better position as where our focus should be post-pandemic.....’

This Tuesday – 27 December – we celebrate the Feast of St John the Evangelist, St John’s Patronal Feast, with Mass at 10am, followed by a little celebration in the Hall afterwards – everyone (from both parishes) most welcome.

WARM SPACES

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR FELLOW CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN PORTOBELLO OUR TWO PARISHES ARE OFFERING A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE DURING THIS WINTERY WEATHER.

December 2022
23rd - Bellfield, 10-12.30
26th - PJPC, 10-12
27th - St. John’s, 10-12
28th - St Mark’s, 10-12
30th - Bellfield, 10-12.30
January 2023
2nd - PJPC, 10-12
3rd - St John’s, 10-12
4th - St Mark’s, 10-12; PBC, 2-4
5th - PBC, 2-4
6th - Bellfield, 10-12.30

**Warm Spaces
in the
Holiday Period**

BELLFIELD

PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

**ST JOHN’S
CHURCH HALL**

**Every Tuesday
10am-12midday**

*Please pop in for tea,
coffee
and a chat.*

THIS WEEK

Saturday 24 December

6.00pm – St John’s – **Christmas Eve Children’s Mass** - livestreamed

8.30pm – St John’s – **Christmas Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 25 December – SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.30am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Christmas Children’s Mass** - livestreamed

Monday 26 December – Feast of St Stephen

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

Tuesday 27 December – Feast of St John the Evangelist

10.00am – St John’s – **MASS FOR THE PATRONAL FEAST** - livestreamed –

followed by a celebration in the Hall

10.00am-12 midday – St John’s Hall – **Warm Spaces**

Wednesday 28 December – Feast of the Holy Innocents

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

12midday – Gillis Centre – Mass with Archbishop Leo

Thursday 29 December - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** - livestreamed

Friday 30 December – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Saturday 31 December 2022 - 6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 1 January 2023 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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

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

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Friday 6 January

12 midday – St Margaret’s, Dunfermline – **Requiem Mass for Canon John McAllister**

12.30pm – St John’s Hall – **EPIPHANY MEAL WITH EDINBURGH L’ARCHE**

COMMUNITY: Our hospitality co-ordinator, Mary Iannarelli, writes: *‘For the first time for three years, we are able to host the Edinburgh L’Arche community for their annual Epiphany meal. it’s always a memorable occasion, with much music and laughter and joy....anybody willing to help – or interested in finding out more – please contact me on 07534 666439.’*

Last Sunday, Jeremy Thorp stood down from his leadership of the St John’s 9.30am Music Group. Donald Scott, violinist in the group (and St John’s Pastoral Council Chair), has written the following appreciation:



I remember first hearing about Jeremy’s piano playing – how he had the freedom to improvise with variations and ornaments and transpose to any key. When was that? Definitely more than 20 years ago, because he has been leading the music at the 9.30 mass at St John’s and other celebrations in the parish for at least that period of time – with a wee break between 2018 and 2021.

The quality and sensitivity of Jeremy’s piano playing is obvious to anyone who has been around the parish or involved with Faith and Light. What may not be so clear is the role he has played in facilitating the music group that makes so important a contribution in our worship.

As a group we are very disparate in age, skill levels and confidence. We are also not all able to be there every Sunday, so it can be unpredictable who is present and which instruments or voices are available. That is not an easy foundation on which to create a coherent or worshipful sound. We gather about 45 minutes before the mass begins and there is always a welcome for all. After a few singing warm-ups we run through the music and agree arrangements – who will lead the singing for the psalm or the Kyrie and how to get the expression of each hymn right. Jeremy has operated as a music director, leading that process, but in a way that has been encouraging and also taking on board suggestions from others. He has brought out the gifts that we bring, often placing confidence in those who may not have all that much confidence in themselves.

All of this – which has made it a joy to be part of the group – is in addition to all the backroom work, including recently uploading music to a Dropbox so that we are equipped for the Sunday morning.

So – thank you Jeremy for what you have given to the Parish and also to those of us fortunate to have joined you in the music group.



‘SAINT’ OF THE WEEK – The Prophet Isaiah

Prophet (eighth century BC) – Feast Day - 19 December

*"I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' to a nation that did not call on my name."*

It is very likely that Isaiah began his career as a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was there that he received his prophetic call. It began with a vision: *"I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."* When the prophet bewailed his "unclean lips," an angel flew down and touched his mouth with a burning coal, thus burning his sins away. *"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"*

Isaiah's career as a prophet took place against a bewildering backdrop of international politics. Caught between mighty empires, the rulers of Jerusalem sought to maintain the kingdom's independence by striking a series of opportunistic alliances, first with one foreign power, then another. Isaiah believed that by trusting in such military alliances - in essence, by trusting in swords - Israel was losing sight of its ultimate dependence on God. The result would be disaster.

Isaiah's oracles are filled with painful references to the disobedience, apostasy, and hypocrisy he perceived around him: The poor are oppressed; the nation bows down to idols of security and affluence. Under these circumstances all the fine sacrifices in the Temple have become an abomination. Rather than offer prayers with bloody hands, the people had better wash themselves, *"cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."* In other words, Isaiah called for a return to Israel's primitive trust and faith in Yahweh, a faith expressed in humility and the works of justice and mercy. His hope was that the people would see the light and embrace this course voluntarily. Failing that, he made the extraordinary claim that Assyria and Israel's enemies would be God's instruments for chastising and correcting an errant nation.

Yet along with his grave warnings and denunciation, Isaiah's message was marked by a strong current of annunciation. He believed that destruction would not be the last word. Though it would be cleansed and purified through suffering, the nation would not be destroyed. God's promises would be fulfilled, if only through a remnant of survivors.

He even named his son She-ar-jashub, meaning "*a remnant shall return.*"

Isaiah leavened his message with the promise of a future Messiah and a vision of the peaceable kingdom to come. Later Christians would seize on these prophecies as references to Jesus:

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined....
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

It is difficult for Christians to read these words without hearing the joyous strains of Handel's *Messiah*. If so, it is important to recall how much of Isaiah's hope remains to be fulfilled. In the messianic age which he prophesied,

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.*

In that age,

*The wolf shall be the guest of the lamb
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.*

Isaiah's active mission lasted at least forty years, from 742 B.C.E. to about 701, and possibly longer. So influential was his voice that he inspired a tradition of ongoing reflection that would continue in his name for another two hundred years.

The later prophets who wrote in his name applied Isaiah's perspective to the events of their day - the fall of Jerusalem, the exile to Babylon, and the eventual return. In the light of the sufferings and humiliation of Israel they dispensed with the oracles of destruction and gave even greater emphasis to Isaiah's consoling vision of the messianic age.

Thus, Israel is compared to a "*suffering servant*" who by his vicarious suffering serves to reconcile a sinful humanity to God:

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows...
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us
whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.*

The book of Isaiah ends with a vision of cosmic fulfillment: "*a new heaven and a new earth,*" wherein justice and peace shall dwell. It is an open vision that still retains its hope and challenge.

See: Abraham Heschel, *The Prophets* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962). Photo: detail of the Prophet Isaiah in the main portico in Cremona Cathedral, Italy (about 12th century).



NOTICEBOARD

A message from the J&P Group - Water for a Village - a Big Thank You

‘When we started the appeal to our two parishes to cover this SCIAF Real Gift which provides water for drinking, washing and irrigation to communities which need it - but which cost £1088 - the J&P Group expected to have to top up the donations from the parishes to achieve this sum. In actual fact, thanks to your generosity, no top up is required; the money you have given has fully covered the cost with £50 to spare! The additional £50 will be put to the cost of another of SCIAF’s Real Gifts.

A big thank you to all who contributed to this appeal - it is heartwarming, at this time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, to see the love of neighbour which he preached being put so wonderfully into action!’

Joan Daly, Holyrood RCHS Headteacher, writes: “Here is the link for Holy Rood's Christmas Newsletter: <https://sway.office.com/Dasf6KnzFWrTCYMn?ref=Link> (or type **shorturl.at/atNOU** in your browser). I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to Holy Rood on Thursday 5 January 2023.”

Arlene Lauder, our Sacramental Preparation Team coordinator, writes: “At St Mary Magdalene’s on **Sunday 15 January 2023**, we will have our first ‘**Prayer Partner Meet and Greet**’ for those parishioners who kindly signed up to pray for our P4/First Communion children.

Prayer partners are welcome to meet their young person at St Mary Magdalene’s after mass where the Sacramental Team will be on hand to help with introductions. There will be a second chance to meet after Mass at St John’s on **Sunday 5 February 2023**. Thank you for being open to this opportunity to support our young parishioners.



Many congratulations to Hannah Dobson (Sheilagh and Geoff’s daughter) and Dominic Suominem on their recent engagement.

They met 5 years ago at the no 11 bus stop in Pilrig and on the no 11 bus. Dominic arranged for an events manager to decorate said bus stop on Tuesday last week.

He then took her blindfolded to the bus stop and proposed there.

A Letter of Thanks from Revd Mike Marsden on behalf of the entire Foodbank+ Team of Wilson Memorial Church (a congregation of the United Free Church of Scotland)

Dear Members of the Justice and Peace Group,

On behalf of the entire FoodBank+ Team, I would like to express our sincere appreciation of the incredibly generous gift we recently received from you. The St. Andrew's Night Concert was an amazing success, and while all who participated were excellent, I think we can all agree that it was the St. John's School Choir who stole the show...they were wonderful. The amount raised was equally amazing.

Because of your kindness and generosity, we are able to continue to provide help and support to the most vulnerable in our community, and especially at this Christmas time of year. As I referenced at the Concert, we are regularly distributing over a metric tonne of food to needy individuals and families every month. For a relatively small Food Bank, that is quite a remarkable achievement. However, we could not do it with the support of people like you. It is a privilege to partner with individuals, groups, and churches who share the same passion and vision as we do...that of being Christ to those in need.

It was a pleasure to meet you, and once again, thank you. Wishing you and everyone at St. John's and St Mary Magdalene’s a blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.’

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY – LUKE 2:1-14

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

‘Rachel! RACHEL!’ ‘What is it? Keep your voice down, you’ll wake the guests.’ ‘There’s a young couple at the door. They can’t find anywhere to stay. The girl looks like she’s about to have a baby. She seems to be in labour. They’re desperate for a bed. He’s past himself with worry. He’s as pale as she is flushed. I’ve told them we’re full – but I cannot just close the door in their faces. You’ll have to come down. We’ll have to do something’. Rachel came down the stairs, quickly taking in the tableau before her. She barked at Zeb – ‘Go and make some space in the stable. Clear the animals into one stall; they can use the stable. Then put down some fresh bedding – lots of fresh bedding – they’re going to have to stay here. That’s the only space we have left. There isn’t time for anything else – this baby is on its way. Quick! Get moving! I’ll put some water on to heat and I’ll go and get some old sheets.’ Turning to the couple, she told them to step inside into the warmth while she and Zeb busied themselves. ‘You’ll be welcome here. We’ll sort something out for you. Hang on and try not to worry’.

The next couple of hours passed in a blur, the next few days less so. Both Rachel and Zeb looked on, ready to help if needed but the two kids – for that is how they appeared to them – seemed to know exactly what was needed. They were very natural parents. ‘Wwaaahhh’ – a healthy pair of lungs announced the arrival of a fifth person to the gathering. They discovered their names, and the name of Joseph’s tribe but then Rachel and her husband left the couple to get used to the new arrival. Rachel popped in every few hours to check that all was OK. She continued to call in daily. What she could never understand was the number of visitors – total strangers. The census had brought families and tribes back together. Friends and family were re-acquainted. The mood was good, and knowing that the census would quickly be over, people were keen to make the most of their time together. There’s nothing like a new baby to attract people but the number of complete strangers showed that this baby was different. Visitors were drawn from miles around – carrying all manner of gifts. All came to visit this baby. Zeb found himself with several lambs – gifts from some of the visitors. Joseph had said that he wouldn’t be able to take them with him, would Zeb be willing to take them as part payment?

Zeb and Rachel sat in front of their fire. The light was beginning to fade even as the advancing years had them doing less and thinking more. Rachel put down her sewing as Zeb added another log. ‘I was thinking of that year of the baby’ – for that was how they both referred to that night that outshone all other nights. ‘What brought that on?’ ‘I don’t know – just some bizarre talk in the town about a new prophet – but this one appears to be different. I just wondered if the two were connected. There was something different about that night – so many strangers – and do you remember, there always seemed to be music but we never knew where it came from?’ Rachel said: ‘There’s so much I don’t understand about that time. I just know that we couldn’t refuse to be involved. The minute you opened the door, we **were** involved – and I have always viewed it as a night when God’s light shone on and for us. Anyway! Look at us now – is there anyone stronger and happier than we? And all because we got involved and did what we could. No more, no less.’ She abruptly changed tack: ‘I’ll go and heat some milk. It’s time for bed!’

Zeb stared into the dying embers, reflecting on the fact that she was right – again. We give of ourselves, and never say no when the other option is to say yes. They had already been working flat out - readying beds and preparing suppers. They were exhausted and had called an end to the day. Rachel had already gone to bed when he heard the door. That was it: he opened the door, and, from that moment, they were involved.

The Christmas message is quite simple. God decided to get involved – with us, you and me. He got involved. Having chosen to be involved he needed Mary and Joseph, the Innkeeper and his wife. Likewise, he needs us. Herein lies the essence of the Incarnation. The Word of God **was made flesh**, he walked with us, drank our water, shared our bread. He got involved that we might be involved. We cannot leave it to others. It’s our job, our responsibility. Some are telling Archbishop Justin Welby to shut up and go away, to stop sticking his nose into politics. Thankfully, he is ignoring such calls for he – like us – **is** involved. We are involved because God is involved, and we are his followers. From crude wooden manger to crude wooden cross, and everything in-between – He is involved.

PARISH REGISTER

Welcome to the world...Esme Bethany Onwe, a sister for Lucy and Luke, and daughter for Emma and Pius

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Pauline Balanawski
Bridie Kinsella
Fr Paul Graham OSA
Yvonne Frisby*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*Agnes Prior - Joe Kane
Isabel O'Neil - Palmina Crolla
George Service- Isabel O'Neill
John Waugh - Helen Reid
Elizabeth Collins - Pat Marin
Frances Ostrowska
Hew Dalrymple*

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

Gerry Gallagher, Carol Simpson, Pat Dickin, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, John Freeman, Kitty Dykes, Kenny O'Connor, Alex Cranston, John Cregan, Kim O'Neill, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Fiona Connel, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Bob Kelly, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Anne Carruthers, Ann Dockrell, 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, 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.

Anniversaries:

St John's:

Dec.25: William T Pringle (2007); Francis Skey (1993); Arthur Scholan (1991); James Cordery (1989); John Callaghan (1988); Hugh Docherty (1985); Mary E Sweeney (1984); Raymond Demarco (1980); (Baby) Carol Begg (1952); **Dec.26:** Joe Kane (2021); Iris Murphy (2015); Marjory Graham (2007); Ian Holligan (1997); James Moran (1981); Mary Fusco (1948); David Headspeath; **Dec.27:** Palmina Crolla (2018); Alexandrina Bell (2000); Joseph Mullan (1978); James O'Brien Sen.(1960); Joseph Mullan Sen. (1936); **Dec.28:** Margaret McGuire (1970); Maria Rossi; **Dec.29:** Isobel O'Neill (2016); Dennis Sistro (2003); Agnes O'Donnell (1975); Annie Kirk (1962); Jackie Flynn; Marion Napier; **Dec.30:** George Service (2021); Helen Reid (2016); James Fettes (1995); **Dec.31:** Fay Dignan (2016); Philip McMicken (1995); Bertie Demarco; Thomas Rooney; **Jan.1:** James Malone (1989), Catherine McElroy;

St Mary Magdalene's:

Dec.25: John Damer (1997); Cecilia Stewart (1992); **Dec.26:** Loretta Cannon (1996); James Smith (1982); **Dec.29:** Mark Cunningham (2009); **Dec.30:** Pat Marin (2018); **Dec.31:** Annie Henderson (1999); John Moohan (1975); **Jan.1:** Christina McCluskey (2014);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Agnes Clarke, David Fenwick, Canon Bill Conway, Maurice McAllister, Rita Noonan, baby Lucas McCourt, Ava Simpkin (aged 12), Baby Tommy Moran, Ellen Dow, Chris White, members of the McGrath Family, Maureen Hutchinson, Hans Zaunbrecher, John O'Donnell, Judith Franklin, Elizabeth Walker, Baby Jamie McBride, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Baby Josh Simpson, Keiran Smart (aged 15), Michael Doherty, Carol Turnbull, Jean Wylie, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, George and Ann McDermott, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Sheila White, Jessica Haggerty, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Seval Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Colin Raasch, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, 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 18 December 2022

St Mary Magdalene's, £397.00 total, including £200.00 Offertory and £197 Gift Aid

St John's, £1350.82 total, including £408.42 Offertory, £242.40 Gift Aid and £700.00 online donations

