

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

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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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](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)*

*Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)*

*Joint Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>*

*Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: [stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)*

## *Eighth Sunday of the Year - 27 February 2022*



**Fr Jock writes:** ‘Today we begin the **Synodal Process** in our two parishes by inviting everyone during Mass to fill in a **questionnaire** during the time we normally listen to a homily. (The children will also have the opportunity to offer their own thoughts about the Church - how it is and what it could be – during Children’s Liturgy.)

In addition, we hope people will **take away** with them a **slightly different questionnaire** which we will give out at the end of Mass and encourage a Catholic friend - who perhaps has distanced themselves from the community that gathers weekly - to fill it in; and we intend to invite **our friends from other Churches** to participate and offer their views and insights about how we come across to them.

Finally, we invite all who wish to participate in **Synodal Conversations** in the 9 days from 5 March to 14 March to sign up for a group – see on page 3 of the newsletter.

**Pope Francis’** aim in all this is that we gradually become a **different kind of church** – less one that can come across as hierarchical, authoritarian and clerical, but rather one in which we all seek to listen carefully to each other and to walk together in the path of the gospel...’

**Lent begins this Wednesday, 2 March – Ash Wednesday.** There will be **Mass** at 10am at St John's and 7.00pm at St Mary Magdalene's. It is one of only two days in the Year of **Fasting and Abstinence**.

In addition, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, **Pope Francis** has made Ash Wednesday a special **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace**. Speaking at the end of last Wednesday's General Audience, he said "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war." Can we hold in our hearts the suffering people of the Ukraine?

### **Congratulations to the Candidates and Catechumens in our RCIA Group**

Our RCIA group – for those interested in becoming fully initiated Catholics - has been meeting since November. Because of our Covid-delayed start, we have combined the first two stages - Enquiry and Catechumenate. Therefore, the third stage – the Lenten time of Preparation for Baptism or Reception at the Easter Vigil on 16 April – will begin with the Rite of Election at the Cathedral on the first Sunday of Lent, 6 March, when all the catechumens and candidates from all over the archdiocese gather with Archbishop Cushley.

This Sunday, at the 9.30am Mass at St John's, we send them off with our prayers and encouragement with the 'Rite of pre-Inscription and Recognition'... please pray for our four catechumens (those who are to be baptised), **Shannon McCaughey, Simon Brown, James Sutherland** (sadly, unable to be with us this Sunday) and **Scott Craig**, and for our four candidates, **Agnes Aitken, Jenna Ciancia, Louise Holden and Michelle Dunleavey**.

### **Friday is the World Day of Prayer - Embrace Hope! Come to St Mary Mags at 11am**

**Jennifer Morris writes:** 'In these troubled times you are warmly invited to pray with fellow Christians all round the world – radiating hope in the darkness.'

The service at St Mary Magdalene's brings together Christians from all denominations in our area. A chance to worship and pray together. And to meet socially for a cuppa and chat after the service.

If you can't make our 11am service you can still celebrate online via the link below where you can join the 'National Service' which is being zoomed. (The link goes live at 2pm and the service starts at 2.15.)'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85941668097?pwd=OU5wU2ZLcDI0cTE3L0Nxb3BiME56UT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4166 8097 Passcode: 432262

By Telephone 0131 460 1196 or 0203 481 5237 - United Kingdom

ID: 859 4166 8097 Passcode: 43226

...it is also a **Day of Prayer for all Those who have Experienced Abuse**. Please pray for children, young people and vulnerable adults whose lives have been scarred by the abuse they have experienced at the hands of those whom they trusted. Pray also for all engaged in the pursuit of peace, healing and reconciliation for the abused, the needy, the weak and the vulnerable. Pray, too, that the work of the new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency will be guided by the Holy Spirit to help us all to meet our responsibility to respect and safeguard the dignity of all.

# Synod Conversations

**Donald Scott and Bernadette Campbell write:** ‘We want to take seriously the Pope’s request that we **listen carefully** to each other as an important way to open ourselves as a Church to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The insights will help guide the synod in Rome that Pope Francis has called for 2023 as well as helping us in our sister parishes to discern the next steps for our own journey together in faith.

**We are all invited to participate in one of several group conversations during the 9 days from next Saturday 5 March and ending Sunday 13 March.** These discussions, lasting about one hour 15 minutes, will be structured to allow space for conversations in 2’s and 3’s so that people can express their hopes, dreams, fears and any other thoughts about the life of faith and the Church in our times. The themes that emerge will contribute both to what we send to the Diocese and directly to Rome as our contribution to the worldwide synod.

There are lists of dates and times and venues for these meetings at the back of both churches. Please add your name and a contact phone number to one of the sessions. Your contributions - both as a listener, and as someone with their own thoughts and feelings - will be very important.’

## **An Invitation to sign up for our Cluster Lenten Retreat**

**A step away from the bustle of life into the invitation and challenge of Lent!**

**Saturday 12 March – a week on Saturday - 10am-1pm – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith**

**Lynda Wright** will be guiding us – parishioners from our five cluster parishes of St Mary Magdalene’s, St John’s, St Theresa’s, St Ninian’s and St Mary, Star of the Sea. The retreat will begin with Mass at 10am, followed by tea and coffee, and then for the next couple of hours we will be guided by Lynda, an experienced and creative retreat giver (who ran Key House in Falkland for two decades) and who led - and inspired those who attended our pre-Covid Cluster Retreat in Craigmillar in - Advent 2019.

After the retreat, those who wish can remain to eat their packed lunches together... Do come along and enjoy this opportunity to step away from the bustle and spend time with the Lord... The retreat is free (but a small donation would be welcome to help cover costs). **Could people who wish to go sign up on the list at the back of the churches (and if they need a lift).**

## **Lee Patterson’s Tears of the Mother (in the Lady Chapel at St John’s in Lent)**



Over Lent and through to Easter there will be small artwork in the Lady Chapel, entitled ‘Tears of the Mother’. Inspired by seven traditional prayers to Our Lady of Sorrows (the dolours or sorrows), the seven small vessels are made of salt and water; the stuff of tears. There are prayer sheets that introduce the traditional prayers and also offer contemporary reflections to accompany the work. They offer a way to respond to Jesus’ invitation to make a place in our hearts and homes for Mary, His Mother and ours. There is also a short film by the artist (Lee Patterson) available online here <https://youtu.be/AAhUCUCPIO8> or through the QR link above.

## THIS WEEK

### **Saturday 26 February**

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

6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** – livestreamed – **with Synodal Questionnaires.**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Sunday 27 February**

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass with Synodal Questionnaires.**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Monday 28 February**

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89053320313?pwd=d3l6RjBaYWE5ck81TmVBQSs0Zz09>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Tuesday 1 March**

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

11am – Our Lady and St John the Baptist, Ellon – **Requiem Mass for Marc Lee**

7.45pm – St John's Hall – **RCIA Mass and Celebration for the end of the Enquiry and Catechumenate**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Wednesday 2 March – ASH WEDNESDAY**

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

5.30pm – St John's – Wedding rehearsal for Neil McDonagh and Caoimhe McKinney

7pm – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Thursday 3 March**

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

7.30pm - 8.30pm – St John's Hall – **Baptismal Preparation Evening 2**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Friday 4 March – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

9.45am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for John Newall** – livestreamed

11am – St Mary Magdalene's – **World Day of Prayer Service**

2pm – St John's – **Wedding of Neil McDonagh and Caoimhe McKinney**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Saturday 5 March**

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

6pm – YouTube / Facebook – Prayer Room – **Vigil Mass** (pre-recorded)

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

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

### **Sunday 6 March – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

9.30am – St John's – **Children's Mass** – livestreamed

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

12 midday – St Mary's Cathedral – **Mass with Rite of Election**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night**

**The Archdiocesan Catholic Directory 2022 is on sale at the back of Both Churches – price £3 and excellent value for that!**

# IN THE COMING WEEKS

Wednesday 9 March – 10am - St John's – **Requiem Mass for Francesco Crolla**

Saturday 12 March – 10am-1pm - St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith – **Cluster Lenten Retreat with Lynda Wright** (please sign up at the back of the church).

## From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

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

**Catholics in health and social care - A training day about the ethical challenges of work in the health and care sector** takes place at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 19 March** from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Speakers will lead discussions on assisted suicide, accompaniment of the dying and conscientious objection. This event is targeted at health/care workers, and anyone motivated by their faith to care for others. Register at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/03/catholics-in-health-and-social-care>

**Scotland's Census** - the once-a-decade count of the population of Scotland takes place soon and your household will receive a letter about it. Please complete the census accurately and remember to include your religion! The deadline for completion of the census is 20 March 2022. Details at [scotlandcensus.gov.uk](http://scotlandcensus.gov.uk)

## NOTICEBOARD

### A Message from Charity Coffee Morning team

**SOUTH  
SUDAN  
APPEAL**

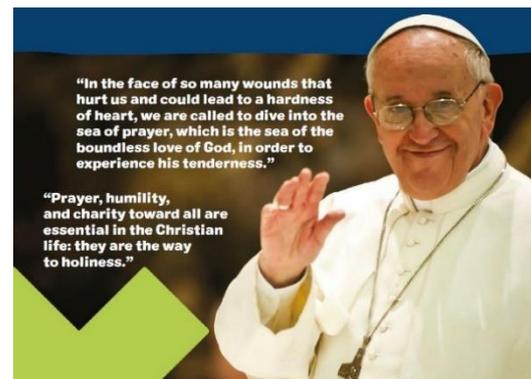
**Maria Igoe writes:** 'The Charity Coffee Morning held on Monday 14 February raised £85 for Mary's Meals. This was one of the first charities we supported when we started in 2004. A little girl in Zambia asked recently if the food would stop. "No." We will not let this happen. We must keep on giving. This donation will go to South Sudan, which is now one of the poorest countries in the world. A third of all schools have been damaged or destroyed. Click on the logo to donate - Parishioners were very glad to be at this event. It is 2 years since the last Coffee Morning.'

### SCIAF WEE BOX 2022

**'Hello from the SCIAF family** - As you make your final preparations for Lent, we want to thank you for your support over the past year and tell you more about how your parish can get involved in our WEE BOX appeal, which is helping families in places like Malawi who are facing extreme hunger and life on the edge of survival.

This Lent, we're asking you to act and pray in hope, to fight the Climate Emergency and help build God's Kingdom here on Earth. Use these prayers and reflections as part of your Lenten worship.

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/719-wee-box-2022-parish-resources?bblinkid=258347330&bbemailid=38232386&bbejrid=-2026719910>



## MUDDY CHURCH

### An Invitation from Michelle Brown of PJPC - Wander and Wonder in God's World Together

'Everyone is welcome to join us on the first Saturday of each month from 11am-12:30pm in Dr. Neil's Garden at Duddingston Kirk (15 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh EH15 3PX)

This is a time to gather with a game and then explore the gardens. We close with a bible story and prayer. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch to enjoy a picnic afterwards. All ages are welcome!

**Upcoming Dates:** 5 March, 2 April, 7 May and 4 June

Any Questions – contact Michelle Brown at [families@portyjoppachurch.org](mailto:families@portyjoppachurch.org)

# Parish Register

*Today, Sunday 27 February, would have been the Golden Jubilee of Fr John Robinson's Ordination to the Priesthood. We remember him with gratitude and love...*

*Welcome to the world, Micha Moran, born on 7 February, a daughter for Elizabeth Waterston and Martin Moran, and a grandchild for Anne and the late Alistair Waterston and Anne and the late Michael Moran.*

***Please pray for those who have died recently:***

**John Newall – Sarah Duffy – Margaret Bowden  
Clare Webster – James Fisher  
Anne McDonagh – Derek Lockhart  
Judith Skepper - Sr Rose Nielsen**

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

**Mary Glancy – Maureen Sime – Gerry Wynne  
Josie Flanagan – Rupert Ridge – Nellie Davidson  
Anthony Finnerty – Mgr David Gemmell**

***Anniversaries:***

**St John's**

**Feb.25:** Agnes Watters (1999); Thomas Robb (1997); Mary Young (1903); James Hanlon; James Keegan;  
**Feb.26:** Betty Rope (2009); Mary Green (2006); Helen Molloy (1968); Bridget Meehan (1958); Edward Magee (missing 1944); Filomena Perilla;  
**Feb.27:** William Murray (2010); Fr. Walter Glancy (1980); Sean O'Donnell(1969); Susan Passmore;  
**Feb.28:** Mary Meenan (2014); John Patrick McTighe (2009); Peggie McGill (1998); James Alexander (1975); Mary Coll (1974); Bernard Macnamara; **Feb.29:** Baby girl Lamb (1967); Rita Deignan (1996); **Mar.1:** Lauren (baby) Grassick (1998); Gerald P Stone (1972);  
**Mar.2:** Bill Hughes (2021); Thomas Malcolm (1983);  
**Mar.3:** Mary Glancy (2020); Agnes Denning (2012); Hugh Christie (1995); Joan Gillon (1991); William T Laydon (1991); Vincent McGlone (1990); Mary Young;

**St Mary Magdalene's**

**Feb.27:** James Cranston (1983); **Feb.28:** Adele Croskery (2016); **Mar.2:** James Sweeney (1971);

***Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:***

**St. John's:** 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.

**St Mary Magdalene's:**

Maureen Forsyth, 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:***

Jan Meise, Michael Durkin, Melanie Ford, Jaroslav Icina, Mary Taygarth,, 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.

**Offertory Collections – 20 February 2022**



St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
<b>£201.81 total</b> including Offertory of £121.81 and Gift Aid of 80.00	<b>£1279.00 total</b> including Offertory of £277.60, Gift Aid of £280.40 and online donations of £721.00

# A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - LUKE 6:39-45

‘Of course, I love you.’ She heard the words but didn’t feel them in the embrace. He was colder, more distant, more aloof. She thought they had once loved each other but now she wasn’t so sure. Trust had been evaporating for some time now, the flame had been flickering, struggling, and now, she feared it was about to flicker for one last time and die. She continued to hang on – more in hope than expectation. Like a small dinghy caught on the tide, she could feel that he was slipping away from her, and she sensed he had neither the strength nor the will to fight the current. Why couldn’t he just be honest? Honesty might be painful to bear, but at least that pain would be far easier to carry than the constant uncertainty she now faced. Long ago, she had realised, that truth was the lifeblood in any relationship. When truth and truthfulness go.....

If we haven’t experienced such a scenario in our own lives, we know others for whom this has been all too vivid a reality. If last weekend’s Gospel (*Be compassionate....do not judge...grant pardon*) hit the spot, then this weekend’s passage is no less direct. *A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart.....for a man’s words flow out of what fills his heart.* There is no room for manoeuvre here, and Jesus’ words leave no room for dilution or diminution.

For the last ten days or so, we have watched helplessly as various politicians and world leaders have used a great number of words. Many of these words fell on deaf ears. The ‘West’ heard words of peace but didn’t feel them. The ‘East’ represented by Russia heard words of non-aggression but clearly didn’t believe those words; they moved their military forces to bolster their own safety and protect against threats, whether real or perceived. As I type these few words, I am reminded of Albert Einstein’s apocalyptic warning. ‘I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.’ As a full-blooded male, (admittedly one who hopefully is very much in touch with his feminine side!) I must confess that I am increasingly coming to the conviction that if male leaders were replaced with women, the world would be a much safer place! Males invariably want to strut. I think this crisis has been calling out for Angela Merkel. She always seemed to know how to engage with Vladimir Putin. Like a stern headmistress she seemed to metaphorically bark: ‘Be quiet, sit up straight and listen!’ I cannot recall him ever strutting with her. She was never going to be swayed by a ‘strut’. To her, a strut would be as water off a duck’s back!

If we are living through scary and perilous times, then we are reminded that truth, as always, is the first casualty in any war. My friend at the top of this reflection craved the truth. ‘Be honest with me – is there someone else?’ ‘Of course, there isn’t’ - the words rang hollow., and in their emptiness she was given a glimpse of the painful certainty that lay ahead. At his trial, when he stood before Pilate, Jesus told those listening that those who are on the side of Truth listen to his voice

Each weekend, in our Sunday readings, God gives us a kind of ‘compact mirror’, something we can hold up to ourselves – not the person next to us, or the person over there - ourselves. We look in the mirror, and forensically examine our response to His Gospel. We aren’t going to make a huge difference in the world of geo-politics, but we can certainly make a difference nearer home. *We can draw from the well of goodness that dwells in our hearts...because our words will flow from what lies there.* We can be brave. We must ensure that our words of witness to the Gospel are met with effective deeds. We are obliged to act. We cannot leave it to someone else. We cannot decline to get involved. Let me leave a practical thought with you as you look into your own ‘compact’. The existence of Food Banks here in the UK is a national disgrace. They aren’t ‘marvellous’ because ‘they demonstrate the generosity of the British people’ as one MP has claimed. Their existence is obscene and disgusting, they should not need to exist. There should be no doubting our feelings on the matter. I cannot claim to be a follower of Jesus if I remain mute in the face of such injustice. The corollary is equally frightening: I cannot do nothing and then claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ. People will hear my words, but they will also hear their hollow sound. Yes, I support foodbanks with items from my weekly shop, but I also continue to do all I can to ensure their eradication. I continue to hold those responsible to account. And if my MP is sick of my letters on the subject, well, to quote the British Comedian, Catherine Tate: *I ain’t bothered.*

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

# FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

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

## Chapter 58 – Partners

One of my favourite passages in literature comes from Hermann Hesse's **The Glass Bead Game**. It is important to me because it mirrors how I see God working in our lives, our partnership with him. I give the passage in full as it seems so powerful.

Young Joseph Knecht is being put forward for a place in the best school of music in the land. The day comes when he has to present himself to a master who comes to assess him. Pale with fright, he runs to the dormitory. Trembling, he takes his violin and exercise book, and goes to wait in the practice room. A man enters the room...

*'A very old man, it seemed to him at first, not very tall, white-haired, with a fine, clear face and penetrating, light-blue eyes. The gaze of those eyes might have been frightening, but they were serenely cheerful as well as penetrating, neither laughing nor smiling, but filled with a calm, quietly radiant cheerfulness. He shook hands with the boy, nodded, and sat down with deliberation on the stool in front of the old practice piano ...*

*"Come, let's make a little music together." 'Knecht had already taken out his violin. The old man struck the A, and the boy tuned. Then he looked inquiringly, anxiously, at the Music Master.*

*"What would you like to play?" the Master asked.*

*'The boy could not say a word. He was filled to the brim with awe of the old man. Never had he seen a person like this. Hesitantly, he picked up his exercise book and held it out to the Master.*

*"No," the Master said, "I want you to play from memory, and not an exercise but something easy that you know by heart. Perhaps a song you like."*

*'Knecht was confused, and so enchanted by this face and those eyes that he could not answer. He was deeply ashamed of his confusion, but unable to speak. The Master did not insist. With one finger, he struck the first notes of a melody and looked questioningly at the boy. Joseph nodded and at once played the melody with pleasure. It was one of the old songs which were often sung in school.*

*"Once more," the Master said.*

*'Knecht repeated the melody, and the old man now played a second voice to go with it. Now the old song rang through the small practice room in two parts.*

*"Once more." Knecht played, and the Master played the second part, and a third part also. Now the beautiful old song rang through the room in three parts.*

*"Once more." And the Master played three voices along with the melody. "A lovely song," the Master said softly. "Play it again, in the alto this time." 'The Master gave him the first note, and Knecht played, the Master accompanying with the other three voices.*

*Again and again the Master said, "Once more," and each time he sounded merrier. Knecht played the melody in the tenor, each time accompanied by two or three parts.*

*They played the song many times, and with every repetition the song was involuntarily enriched with embellishments and variations. The bare little room resounded festively in the cheerful light of the forenoon.*

*'After a while the old man stopped. "Is that enough?" he asked.*

*Knecht shook his head and began again. The Master chimed in gaily with his three voices, and the four parts drew their thin, lucid lines, spoke to one another, mutually supported, crossed, and wove around one another in delightful windings and figurations.*

*The boy and the old man ceased to think of anything else; they surrendered themselves to the lovely, congenial lines and figurations they formed as their parts criss-crossed. Caught in the network their music was creating, they swayed gently along with it, obeying an unseen conductor. Finally, when the melody had come to an end once more, the Master turned his head and asked: "Did you like that, Joseph?"*

*'Gratefully, with his face glowing, Knecht looked at him. He was radiant, but still speechless.'*

God's work with us is like that of the music master with Joseph. He draws the best out of us by accompanying us. We do great things together.