

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Parish Priest:

Deacon:

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: Mr Enrico Fertini

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

Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

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

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

Seventh Sunday of Easter 29 May 2022

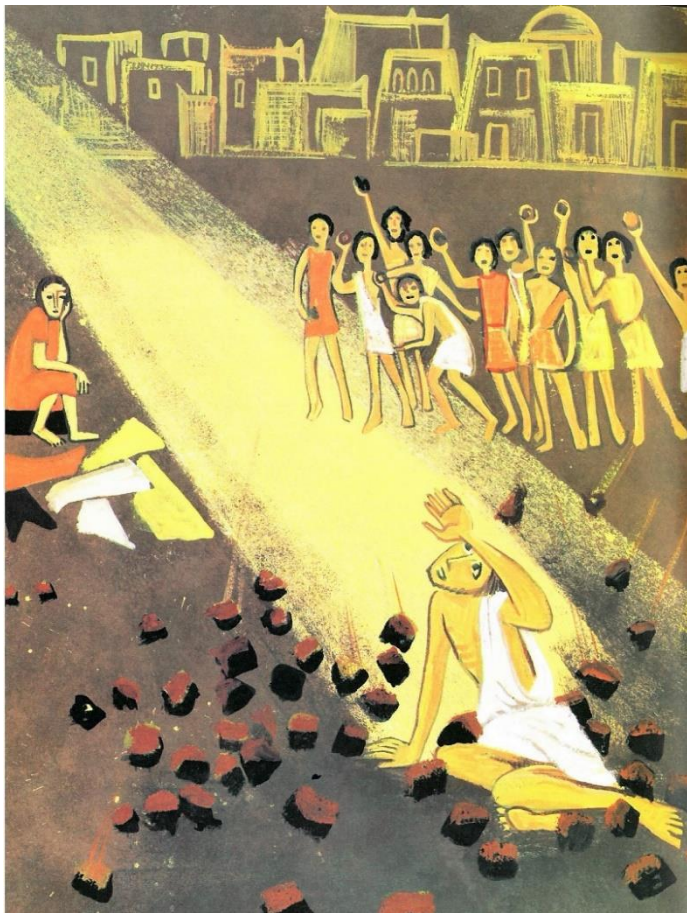
From today's First Reading:

As they were stoning him, Stephen [filled with the Holy Spirit] said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'. Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep.

(Acts 7:59-60)

(The Martyrdom of Stephen, the first martyr, with Saul/St Paul watching, from Bible de Jerusalem, illustrated by Eric de Saussurre, Friar of Taize, 1968)

We Continue to pray for Peace – ‘Dear Lord, please grant the people of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Reconciliation, Your Forgiveness, Your Love. Amen.’



Today is **World Communications Sunday** (with an accompanying Second Collection).

Many Congratulations to the nine children who will celebrate their **First Communion** at St Mary Magdalene's at the 11.15 Mass – **David Brunka, Declan Dooan Bee, Gaya Ostrowska, Lucy and Luke Onwe, Nicholas Krzewinski, Olek Flis, and Uyi and Yolanda Ezomo.**

Next Saturday, at 10am in St John's, there is our three-monthly **Bereavement Mass** – all most welcome.

Next Sunday is **Pentecost Sunday**....and therefore **Nametag Sunday!** We would like to have (a part) of the first reading at the 9.30am Mass read in as many different languages as possible – if anybody is willing to read in their own/another language please make contact with Deacon Eddie (07986 015772 – ewhite@outlook.com)

It is also the annual **Day for Life** – ‘**The Special Collection**’ this year will be used to help protect and care for our families and friends as they near the end of life. The collection supports quality palliative care to provide dignity to the dying while valuing life to its natural end, as well as organisations working to protect the disabled from changes in the law. A special collection will take place at Mass. Alternatively, donate direct to bit.ly/archdayforlife

THIS WEEK

Saturday 28 May

10.30am – St John’s – **Baptism of Olivia Nicole Krzewinski**
1.00pm – St John’s - **Wedding of Mhari Juska and Fraser Donaldson**
6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 29 May – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – World Communications Day

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **FIRST COMMUNION MASS** - livestreamed
7.30pm - St Martin’s, Magdalene Drive – **Rob Halligan in Concert** - Rob Halligan is an acclaimed Christian singer, songwriter and recording artist from Coventry (<https://robhalligan.co.uk/main/>). Tickets are available by emailing tickets@billwishart.org.uk

Monday 30 May

10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed
11.30am – St Ninian’s – **Requiem Mass for John Norman**
7.00pm – Parish House – **St John’s Pastoral Council**
8.15pm–9.15pm – Zoom – **Gospel sharing**

Tuesday 31 May – FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** - livestreamed
7.45pm – Parish House – **RCIA Mass and Final Celebration**

Wednesday 1 June

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

Thursday 2 June

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed
7pm – Zoom – **Thomas O’Loughlin - ‘The Eucharist as an Act of Political Subversion’** – ‘Next Thursday the Scottish Laity Network are delighted to welcome back our friend and companion **Tom O’Loughlin** who is Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham in England. His research focusses on how Christians imagine themselves in the way they gather and celebrate together: what they do, and do not do, when they celebrate the Eucharist can be a better indicator of what is important to them than their formal statements of their beliefs. If you have not registered you can do so at: <https://forms.gle/RkcBfqwpe1BpNM9Y6>
You can download the programme and get details of all our companions at <https://drive.google.com/.../1o-cG061rY.../view...>’

Friday 3 June

9.15am-9.50am – St John’s – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

Saturday 4 June

9.30am-1.30pm – St John’s Hall – **Pamoja Fashion Sale** - <https://twendepamoja.org.uk/>
10.00am - St John’s – **Bereavement Mass**
12 midday – St John’s – **Baptism of Toni Reddington.**
6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** - livestreamed

Sunday 5 June – FEAST OF PENTECOST

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass**

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 6 June - 2.30pm – St John's – **Healing Mass**

Wednesday 8 June – 11.00am - Mortonhall Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Kevin Ketchum**

Thursday 9 June – 9.45am – St John's - **Requiem Mass for Frank Bell**

Sunday 12 June – 9.30am – St John's – FIRST COMMUNIONS

From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

SCIAF Ukraine Appeal - As well as your prayers, please consider supporting SCIAF's emergency appeal for Ukraine, if you are able. Donations can be made at <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/> To find out how the Catholic Church is helping those in Ukraine see <https://www.caritas.org/>

National Prayer Breakfast - Join Archbishop Cushley and Christians from across Scotland at the National Prayer Breakfast on **Wednesday 1 June** at Prestonfield House, Edinburgh. Tickets available at <https://www.npbscotland.org.uk/>

Queen's Jubilee Celebration - Archbishop Leo will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving at Noon on **Sunday 5 June** to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. This will be a lovely and joyful celebration and will finish with a champagne reception after the Mass. All welcome.

African & Caribbean Mass - this monthly Mass will next take place at **1pm on Sunday 5 June** (Pentecost Sunday) at St Patrick's Church in the Cowgate.

Venerable Margaret Sinclair - The monthly Mass to pray for the canonisation of Venerable Margaret Sinclair is on the first Tuesday of each month at **1:30pm (7 June)** at St Patrick's Church in the Cowgate. The national Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage is on **Sunday 18 September**. More details will follow soon. Find out more about this holy Edinburgh woman at www.margaretsinclair.scot

Corpus Christi Procession - As part of the Eucharistic renewal in the Archdiocese this liturgical year you are invited to take part in a Corpus Christi procession, led by Archbishop Cushley, at St Francis Xavier's in Falkirk on **Sunday 19 June** at 3pm. Gather at the Bandstand in High Street before processing to St Francis Xavier's Parish (around 20 min walk). This is a major event for the Archdiocese and should be a beautiful and prayerful experience (as well as a chance to be a witness to the Eucharistic Christ in public).

Joiner, Plumber, Painter or Electrician? - Could you volunteer some time to help a new pregnancy support service open its doors? Stanton Healthcare is getting ready to welcome mothers and babies in need of help in our Archdiocese. It is looking for volunteers to help make the new centre in Edinburgh an attractive and welcoming place where women can receive support. Find out more from Paul Atkin at the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office: prolife@staned.org.uk or 0131 623 8917.

The greatest
advantage of speaking
the truth is that
you don't have to
remember what you
said.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – ST JOHN 23rd Pope (1881 – 1963) – Died 3.6.1963 – Feastday 11 October

"The substance of the ancient deposit of faith is one thing, and the way in which it is presented is another."



(Venetian gondoliers are welcomed in the Vatican, after their annual regatta)

would be no more than a transitional pope, filling the chair of Peter until the next papal conclave. In the end he proved to be transitional in quite a different sense. In four and a half years he managed to bridge two utterly different eras in the history of the church. He broke with the fortress mentality of what Karl Rahner called the "Pian era" and initiated a new era of openness and positive dialogue between the church and the modern world.

The decisive initiative came only three months after his election when Pope John casually mentioned his intention to convene an ecumenical council at the Vatican, the first such council since 1870 and only the second since the Council of Trent. Despite the novelty of this announcement (which caught the Vatican Curia off guard), there was little expectation of just how significant this event would be. But Pope John spoke of the need to "open the windows" of the church, to let in fresh air. The church was badly in need of what he called "*aggiornamento*", or "updating."

In October 1962 Pope John addressed an assembly of twenty-five hundred bishops from around the world in words that set the tone for the sessions to come.

In the daily exercise of our pastoral office, we sometimes have to listen much to our regret to voices of persons who, though burning with religious zeal, are not endowed with too much sense of discretion or measure. In these modern times they can see nothing but prevarication and ruin.... We feel we must disagree with these prophets of gloom. In the present order of things, divine providence is leading us to a new order of human relations which, by human effort and even beyond human expectation, are directed toward the fulfillment of God's higher and inscrutable designs, and everything, even human differences, leads to the greater good of the Church.

Unfortunately, it was the curial "prophets of gloom" who were largely responsible for setting the council's agenda. These Vatican bureaucrats, long accustomed to running the church, had prepared a series of documents that simply reiterated the standard Catholic "truths" in the age-old language of ecclesial documents. Conservative bishops, meanwhile, were eager to pronounce the condemnation of a whole new syllabus of modern errors.

But Pope John, as he made it clear, had a different agenda. "*The Church has always opposed... errors,*" he said. "*Nowadays, however, the Spouse of Christ prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity.*" What he envisioned was a pastoral council, especially concerned with the cause of Christian unity, the

promotion of peace, and his hope that the church might realize its true identity and vocation as a "church of the poor."

Otherwise, Pope John spoke little during the opening session. But he did intervene at what became a critical point in the proceedings. The first proposed document on Revelation was rejected by a majority of the bishops, but not by a sufficient number to table it definitively. Pope John personally directed that the document be returned for complete revision. This strengthened the resolve of the progressive majority of bishops to set aside the entire set of draft documents and start from scratch. They were aided by a team of theological experts, many of whom had only recently been subject to Vatican censorship, including Karl Rahner, Yves Congar, Henri de Lubac, and John Courtney Murray.

Having launched the council, Pope John did not live to see it completed. Already he was suffering from a terminal cancer. His final months were spent in terrible agony. Nevertheless, he retained until the end his gracious humour and humility: "My bags are packed," he said, "and I am ready to go."

From his deathbed he dictated a final message to the church he loved:

Now more than ever, certainly more than in past centuries, our intention is to serve people as such and not only Catholics; to defend above all and everywhere the rights of the human person and not only those of the Catholic Church; it is not the Gospel that changes; it is we who begin to understand it better.... The moment has arrived when we must recognize the signs of the times, seize the opportunity, and look far abroad.

Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963. In a few brief years he had won the hearts of the world, and his passing was universally mourned. His beatification followed in 2000, and his canonisation in 2014

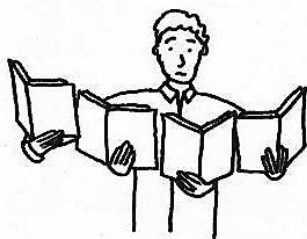
See: Peter Hebblethwaite, Pope John XXIII Shepherd of the Modern World (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1985).

'My Pew, Things I've seen from it', by Anglican cartoonist Dave Walker

HYMNS

It is quite easy to join in

- ① First of all, find the right book

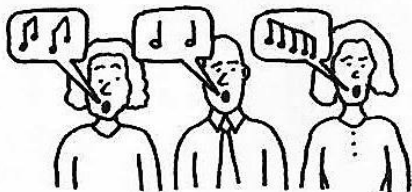


- ② Then find the right number

†	1		†	3		†	7	2
4			9					5
	8				6			
	5		1	6				
7								9
			8	7		2		
	3					5		
6				9				4
1	8			2			3	

(hymn numbers must be calculated by a complicated procedure involving adding rows and columns)

- ③ Be sure you are singing the right tune



- ④ Make sure you follow the verse numbers carefully



(it can be embarrassing to keep singing when everyone else has stopped)

Parish Register

Warm birthday greetings to **Raymond O'Brien, 55 last Tuesday, 24 May**

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Baby Kinsley McMillan</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Charlie Boyle - Graham Nielsen</i> <i>Andrew Roddan - Lizzie Orchard</i> <i>Kieran Bergen -</i> <i>Bob Holligan -</i> <i>Tony Notarangelo -</i> <i>Brendan Mulvenna -</i> <i>Matthew Ferguson -</i> <i>Mary and Andrew Smart</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Anniversaries:</p> <p>St John's: May 28: Margaret Power (1999); Mary-Ann Donoghue (1980); Wilhelmina Baxter (1974); Elizabeth Birnie (1943); May 29: John Broadley (1985); May 30: Charlie Boyle (2020); Angela Morga (2001); Alexander McCraw (1979); May 31: John Gorrie (1993); David Devlin (1968); June 1: Hugh Morris (2021); Margaret McCluskey (2008); Thomas M Henderson (1985); Carmine Demarco (1977); Catherine McCann (1972); June 2: Maria Domenica Crolla (2015); Alexander McFarlane (1997); Mary Boyle (1993); Andrew Smart (1988); Thomas Brennan (1964); Andrew Durkin (1953); June 3: Bob Holligan (2016); Georgina Meldrum (2008); Thomas Burke (1970); June 4: Margaret Barrins (2012); Jennie Cox (2012); John Cooney (1980); Mr & Mrs Brennan (1969); June 5: Stuart Aitken (1993); Mrs Quinn (1976); Rose Brown (1976);</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene's: May 30: Graham Neilson (2021); Tony Notarangelo (2016); Bridget Boyle (1995); June 1: Mary Dickson (1974); June 5: Katie Banks (1988);</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</i></p> <p>St. John's: Maureen Lawrie, Kathleen Brown, John Cregan, Mike and Maria Noonan, Jean Bonar, Baby Archie Williams, John Whyte, Susan Cammack, Maria Pacitti, Kim O'Neill, Sheila Service, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, Inge Downey, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob 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.</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene's: Mary McGovern (jnr), Ray Donnelly, Carolynne McCann, Maureen Forsyth, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Clive Davis, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Michael McPhillips, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary and James Muir.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:</i></p> <p>Margo Law, Eddie Corns, Sheila White, Michael Durkin, Jessica Haggerty, Lauren Sutherland, Margaret Thomson, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, Anne-Marie Pymont, John Francis Harwood-Stevenson, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Bill Henderson, Kit McCormick, Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Anne Lauder, Seval Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister) Jan Meise, Margaret Thompson, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, young Niamh McDougall, Bridget Bonner, Roger Bromley, Mary Thomson, Fr Raymond OCSO, Tony Rigg, Jozefine O'Connell, Robin Butler, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Nan Doig, Claire Johnston, Elizabeth, Baby Percy Keiran McShane, Colin Sandham, 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, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Sr May Lewis, 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, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.</p>

Offertory 22 May 2022

<p style="text-align: center;">St Mary Magdalene</p> <p>£244.94 total including Offertory of £107.94 and Gift Aid of £137.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St John the Evangelist</p> <p>£1418.23 total including Offertory of £539.43, Gift Aid of £139.80 and online donations of £739.00</p>
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The winner for the May draw of the Tower Tombola is Nadine Turnbull, on ticket number 117, who won £257.50. Congratulations!

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – JOHN 17: 20-26

Lord Woolley is a crossbench member of the British House of Lords. His appointment is a tribute to grit and determination and a refusal to be labelled as a no-hoper. He was brought up by foster-parents in Leicester in a council house on a working-class estate. He is always at pains to emphasise that it was here that he learned the importance of hard work. Leaving school without any 'A' Levels to his name, he started his working life as an apprentice mechanic. He is now principal of Homerton College, Cambridge. He was appointed as a Life Peer of the House of Lords in 2019. I listened to him being interviewed on Wednesday morning. A softly spoken and gentle man, he was asked how he had found the experience of being a black peer. He generously responded that most peers had been welcoming, but there had been a few occasions when the reaction had not been so welcoming. Once he had been studying in the Library of the House of Lords, when a fellow, white, Peer, had tapped him on the shoulder to ask him to do some photocopying. The first time it happened, Lord Woolley obediently tappy-lapped (real word as per Oxford Dictionary!) off to the photocopier to, in his words, save anyone, any embarrassment. On the second occasion, a different peer asked him to do a similar errand. This time, he flatly refused. When his refusal was challenged, he politely pointed out: 'I am one of you!' He then spent the next few minutes soothing the gaping wounds of stuttering, blushing embarrassment that were opening ever wider before him. He told the interviewer: 'It would probably have been easier if I had just gone to the copier machine!!' There we have it. The problem of inequality, presumed superiority and assigned inferiority. Whether perceived or actual, they dog us and cling to us - a dead-weight around our necks.

This week another mass shooting at a school in Texas, USA, refocused the spotlight on the issue of gun ownership in America. Senator Ted Cruz made an appearance at a prayer vigil in the town. He seems to be in favour of liberal gun laws and did not enjoy being asked about the link between those laws and the carnage witnessed at the Robb Elementary school in Uvalde. He was asked: 'Do you think that a sense of exceptionalism is part of the issue at play?' I feared for the interviewer as Senator Cruz lunged at him, bulging eyes, flaring nostrils and a pointing finger that came perilously close to morphing into an offensive weapon. He railed at the accusation of exceptionalism. He seemed to think that the issue was about freedom. Though he didn't say it, it was almost as if the deaths were collateral damage! Exceptionalism and Prejudice – two more faces of Original Sin.

This weekend's Gospel reminds us that this is not the way that God intended us to behave, nor how He intends us to be today. *Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also, who through **their words** will believe in me. **May they all be one.*** Our reflection this week focusses on our calling to spread his word – *For those also, who through their words will believe in me* - and it focusses on the essential truth of our nature as individuals made in his image and likeness. We are all one - for we are all equal. We are neither superior nor inferior to anyone. Just because we have a house with a nice garden that doesn't make us superior to the woman sleeping underneath a railway arch, or the family of four living, eating, and sleeping in a mould-ridden bedsit in Haringay. We may have worked hard, and we may be proud of what we have achieved – but life has also dealt us a much kinder hand. Inequalities exist. We have no control over our birth and most have no control over our death. We do have control over everything in between – and that is both scary and exciting in equal measure. We can tap people on the shoulder and expect them to do an errand on our behalf, or we can say: 'What can I do to help you?' We can indulge in an orgy of flag waving, reminding all and sundry of how brilliant we are – how exceptional - or we can stow away all trappings of exceptionalism, and give of ourselves, becoming individuals of open and generous hearts. We can be people of exceptionalism and perceived superiority or we can be individuals of empathy and humility. We are to be beacons of hope. Here in the UK, we are assailed by rampant populism. Politicians seem to be more inclined to encourage division, inequality, and disharmony. Differences are emphasised, feelings of superiority fostered and mistrust of anyone carrying a begging bowl encouraged. Sometimes, it feels we are like King Canute trying to hold back the tide. Jesus' words remain: *May they all be one.* He is praying to his Father; he wants us to be effective witnesses and we are at our most effective when we can demonstrate unity. *May they (all) be one in us, as you are in me, and I am in you.....*

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

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT BY JOSE PAGOLA TO HELP US PREPARE TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST NEXT SUNDAY

Come Holy Spirit. Stir up our weak, small, vacillating faith. Teach all your sons and daughters, whether inside or outside your church, to live trusting in the unfathomable love that our Father has for his children. If the faith is extinguished in our hearts, it will soon die out also in our communities and churches.

Come Holy Spirit. Let Jesus be the centre of our church. Let nothing or no one take his place or overshadow him. Do not be with us without drawing us to your gospel and making us your followers. Let us not forget your Word, or your commandment of love. Let the world not forget you.

Come Holy Spirit. Open our ears to listen to your appeals - those which reach us today from questions raised, sufferings, conflicts, and disputes of the men and women of our times. Keep us open to receive your power to generate the new faith which this new society needs. May we live in your church more aware of what is emerging and what is dying out, with our hearts sustained by hope and not undermined by nostalgia.

Come Holy Spirit and purify the heart of your church. Let truth prevail among us. Teach us to become aware of our sins and limitations. Remind us that we are like the rest: fragile, mediocre, and sinful. Free us from our arrogance and false complacency. Let us learn to live among the people with more truth and humility.

Come Holy Spirit. Teach us to see life, the world, and above all the people anew. Let us learn to see, as Jesus saw, those who suffer, those who weep, those who fall, those who live alone and forgotten. If we can change the way we look at the world and people, we will also change the heart and the face of the church. The disciples of Jesus will then reflect better the closeness, the understanding and solidarity he showed to those most in need. We will be more like our Master and Lord.

Come Holy Spirit. Make of us a church with open doors, a compassionate heart and contagious hope. Let nothing or nobody distract or lead us astray from the project of Jesus: building up a world that is more just and dignified, more loving and happier, and opening up ways to the kingdom of God.