THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest:Canon 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, Edinburgh, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini

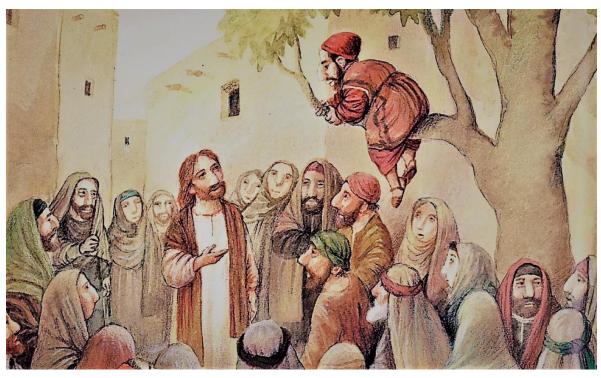
(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

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

Thirty-first Sunday of the Year 30 October 2022



Jesus looked up and spoke to him: "Zacchaeus [one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man], come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today". And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. (Luke 19:5-6)

NB Remember **the clocks change** on Saturday night – so we all have/have had an extra hour's sleep....

This Sunday we warmly welcome Archbishop Leo Cushley to our parishes. He will celebrate the 9.30am Mass at St John's and present diocesan medals to Alice Codling, Tom and Gena Gallagher and Frances McDevitt. Then, after continuing the celebration in the Hall, he will travel to St Mary Magdalene's for what will be the 11.30am Mass (not 11.15).

Tuesday is the Feast of All Saints.... A Holyday of Obligation – and Celebration... there will be a 10.00am Mass at St Mary Magdalene's (with St John's Primary School – P3 to P7) and a 7.00pm Mass at St John's. Wednesday is the Feast of All Souls - there will be a 10.00am Mass at St John's.

Below are excerpts from the 'official' letter (as required by the statutes) from Fr Jock to Archbishop Cushley proposing them, which was duly accepted and ratified by the Diocesan Council of Priests.

After our recent correspondence on the matter, I now write formally to request that you place before the Priests' Council, nominations for three diocesan medals for parishioners of St John the Evangelist Church, Portobello.

The first is Frances McDevitt — who in Holy Week celebrated 50 years as our gifted, generous and reliable organist (though she is....very keen to stress that she began playing when she was in short trousers!) Born and brought up in the parish, she is a most faithful parishioner in every way. For instance, she recently co-ordinated the Fundraising Group for our Tower Project, now successfully completed, and is at present the very competent Secretary of the St John's Pastoral Council.

The second is Alice Codling. She has been Pastoral Assistant at St John's for the last three decades, during which time, as well as being a wise and faithful counsellor, first to Mgr Rae and then to me, she has co-ordinated our parish Adult Formation (as a LIMEX graduate) and run our very active RCIA group with considerable skill, creativity, and patience. In addition, she worked at the Gillis Centre with (then Sr) Clare Wardhaugh when she was the Pastoral Co-ordinator there, and was also on the team of the Craighead Institute....If one person has 'held' the history of the parish since she moved here from Preston in Lancashire in her early married life, it has been her.

Finally, the 'third candidate' is/are a married couple, Gena and Tom Gallagher— and I thank you for being open to our presenting them for a single medal. Tom has been our chief welcomer/passkeeper for many years, co-ordinating a faithful team, while together they were responsible for the parish 'shop'/piety stall for over two decades. Tom has also supported Gena for thirty years in running our very active 'Thursday Club' (for elderly folk) — that meets every Thursday afternoon. In addition, Gena has had a wonderful ministry with the sick, taking communion to them, visiting them in hospital and doing their shopping. When, in response to a recommendation, I was running the idea of proposing a medal for her/them past another faithful parishioner, he mentioned a vivid image he retained of meeting her in a supermarket, carrying four bags of shopping for four different housebound parishioners.

'PRAY the ROSARY for PEACE' DAY

The **Legion of Mary 'is organising a day to Pray the Rosary for Peace**. This will be **this Monday, 31 October**, the last day of the month of the Rosary. We will pray the Rosary in St John's throughout the day, beginning at 11.00am and then at 12 noon, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm and 6.00pm. Each set of mysteries of the Rosary takes about 20 minutes. Please come along, and if you wish to lead the prayers, please let us know.'

On Thursday, our monthly Holy Hour with Benediction takes place between 7 and 8pm.

Deacon Eddie writes: 'Our "First Thursday of the month" Holy Hour has come around again really quickly, it feels. November is a special month to remember all those who have died. On Thursday 3 November, we have a chance to give thanks for all those who have filled our hearts with love before returning to the Lord. We have the Solemnity of All Saints, which is celebrated on Tuesday and All Souls, which is on Wednesday. However we also have St Martin de Porres' feast on Thursday 3rd.

St Martin de Porres was known for his devotion to the Eucharist and for his constant prayer.

He was also noted for his kindness, his nursing of the sick, his obedience, and his charity. He is the <u>patron saint</u> of social <u>justice</u>, racial harmony, and mixed-race people. There are so many wars in the world caused by racial tension and so much social injustice that asking St Martin to pray for us sounds like a very good idea too. Ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we have always remembered all Ukrainians in our Holy Hour prayers as well. Therefore, this month, we will have a special focus on praying for the repose of the souls of all soldiers (from both sides) who have died and praying for those who mourn them.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a beautiful and peaceful practice, and when joined with devotional prayers and music, is a wonderful time to present ourselves before the Lord to ask his help in such difficult times, and to pray for those who have gone before us. Please do try and join us in person. All are welcome (old and new alike). For those who can't join us in person, it will be livestreamed on the following link.' https://youtu.be/IIiojDPtQbs

Saturday 29 October	
6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed	
Sunday 30 October – 31st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.30am – St John's – Mass celebrated by Archbishop Leo Cushley with presentation of diocesan medals – livestreamed	T
11.30am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass [NB CHANGE OF TIME] – recorded	H
Monday 31 October	
10.00am - St John's – Mass - livestreamed 11.00am to 6.00pm – St John's – Pray the Rosary for Peace (on the hour)	T
7.00pm – St John's Hall – Cluster Parishes' Meeting.	-
8.15pm – Zoom – Gospel Sharing - https://tinyurl.com/249wcenf	S
Tuesday 1 November – SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS	J
10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – Mass - livestreamed	
11.15am – Holy Rood High School – Mass 7.00pm – St John's – Mass - livestreamed	
7.45pm – Parish House – RCIA Enquiry 5	
Wednesday 2 November – COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls) - 10.00am – St John's – Mass - livestreamed	\mathbf{W}
Thursday 3 November	${f E}$
10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - Mass - livestreamed	
7.00pm – St John's – Holy Hour with Benediction (Deacon Eddie) - livestreamed	${f E}$
Friday 4 November - 10.00am – St John's – Mass – livestreamed	L 2
Saturday 5 November	K
9.30am-1.30pm – St John's Hall – Pamoja Fashion Sale	**
6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed	
Sunday 6 November – 32 nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.30am – St John's – Children's Mass with P3 – livestreamed	
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Children's Mass with P4 (Do This in Memory of Me)	
1.00pm – St John's – Baptism of Rocco Darren Gallagher, Indie Faith Gallagher and Keaton James Gallagher (Deacon Eddie)	
James Ganagner (Deacon Eddie)	
IN THE COMING WEEKS	

THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 7 November – 2.30pm – St John's - Healing Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing

Thursday 10 November – 7.00pm – St Mary Magdalene's – Candle-lit Memorial Mass

Sunday 13 November – 7.00pm – St John's Hall – St John's Open Parish Meeting

Monday 14 November – 7.00pm – St John's – Candle-lit Memorial Mass

Thursday 17 November – 7.00pm – St John's – **Meeting for Readers of both Parishes (tbc)**

THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD MISSION DAY 2022

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, last week we collected a total of £732.00 to help the Catholic Church to renew its commitment to our fellow Catholics in need. Missio Scotland's focus for this year's Mission Sunday falls on Ethiopia and gifts received from our donations will help fund the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady extend a school they run to educate children with disabilities, as well as help the people of St Peter and St Paul's parish in Homecho complete the building of their church.





NOVEMBER MEMORIAL MASSES

Our two November B	EREAVEMENT MASSES will take place on Thursday 10 November at 7pm at
St Mary Magdalene'	s and on Monday 14 November at St John's, also at 7pm. These are gentle and
beautiful candlelit Ma	sses in which we remember our dead - and have the opportunity to light a candle for
them. Forms are now	available from the back of both churches for you to complete with the names
of those you would li	ke remembered and read out. (To ensure the Masses don't take too long the
suggestion is that we l	imit to 6 names – the last of which might be – 'the Deceased Members and
Relatives of the	family'). The completed forms should be placed in the boxes provided.
Alternatively, please	email the same information to Chris Jones, who is kindly collating the lists -
chrisjones442@hotm	ail.com

From Archbishop Leo's 'Ad Clerum'

Vacancy – **administrator** - The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is seeking to appoint an Administrator. The position is full time (Mon-Fri) and the annual wage is £21,000 per annum. Full details at bit.ly/archadminjob To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter to recruitment@staned.org.uk by **Monday 7 November.**

Catholics: Faith and Engagement in Scotland - What does the work of the Scottish Catholic Media Office (SCMO) and Scottish Catholic Parliamentary Office (SCPO) involve? Find out in *Catholics: Faith and Engagement in Scotland*, a webinar featuring Peter Kearney of the SCMO and Anthony Horan of SCPO. Two optional dates: 1-2pm Wednesday 2 November, register at https://bit.ly/webinar2nov or 7:30-8:30pm on Thursday 3 November, register at https://bit.ly/webinar3nov

All Souls' Day - Archbishop Cushley will offer Holy Mass for the repose of all the faithful departed who have died in the Archdiocese in the last year, especially those buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery. This will take place at 10am on Wednesday 2 November (All Souls' Day) in the Mount Vernon Cemetery Chapel.

Special talk on family life - Professor Stephan Kampowski is a world-renowned expert on marriage and the family in a Catholic context. He is visiting the Archdiocese from Rome next month to give a series of talks and will speak at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, at **11am on Saturday 5 November**. He will give a morning talk titled 'Family relationships and personal identity', then **in the afternoon** a talk titled 'To Promise and to Forgive: Establishing and Healing the Bond between Persons.' Then follows a Q&A, with Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM and Fr Michael John Galbraith joining the professor. Register at: bit.ly/ourfamilytalks

Safeguarding Matters - The latest edition of the Safeguarding Matters newsletter for the Catholic Church in Scotland is now available in the news section at www.scsafeguarding.org.uk

NOTICEBOARD

*** DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ***

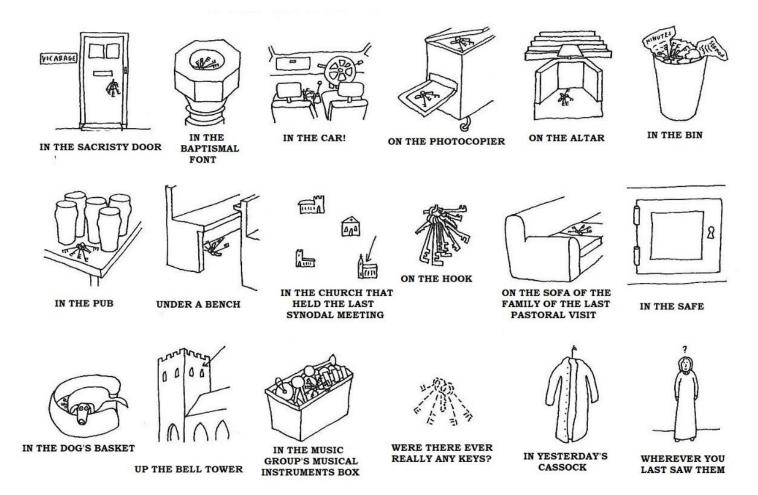
Justice & Peace Charity Concert 30 November, 7.00pm at St John's Church

An evening of joy and hope! Come into the warmth and enjoy the delightful St John's Primary School Choir, Paul Tansey, 'A Scottish Folk Set' and other talented musicians perform on St Andrew's Night. The concert is free but there will be an opportunity to donate towards two vital causes – the Disasters Emergencies Committee appeal for the flood victims in Pakistan and also our local Food Bank at Wilson Memorial Church. (Free light refreshments at the interval.) Further details will be in next week's newsletter.

CRAFT FAIR in Duddingston Kirk Hall - Saturday 5 November, from 12noon to 4.00pm — Jewellery, painting, Fairtrade goods, handbags and many more lovely, handcrafted items. Teas, coffees and filled rolls available throughout the afternoon. Proceeds to the Ukraine Christian Partnership. For info, call Anne 07974382206.

WHERE ARE MY KEYS? (CAR HOUSE DOORS CHURCH DOORS)

A GUIDE FOR THE PRIEST AND CHURCH VOLUNTEERS



(From Anglican cartoonist Dave Walker's "How to avoid the peace", 2017)

HAPPY DAYS IN MEDJUGORJE - Maria Igoe writes: "The trip to Medjugorje from 27 September to 11 October was greatly enjoyed. The weather was beautiful, the local parishioners were very generous to us, and the food was delicious. But that was not the most important part. What was wonderful was to be in this prayerful place. Pilgrims are visiting again from all over the world. There were Bishops from Africa, America, and Ireland. Every day at the English Mass, there were almost 30 Priests and Deacons on the altar. We saw many young nuns, recognisable by their habits and veils. What stands out there are the people walking about with their Rosaries in their hands, praying joyfully. Groups of men gathered in outside spaces praying the Rosary together. There were lots of men and many young people. Medjugorje is famous as the 'Confessional of the World' and in the evening the queues form to participate in this Sacrament.

The 'Heart of Medjugorje' is Adoration, which takes place 3 times a week in the outside area at the back of St James Church. For hour thousands pray quietly, with only a few hymns breaking the silence. There is a great beauty in people from many countries expressing their belief in the Blessed Sacrament in this way. The busiest time is the Sunday Vigil Mass, when local parishioners attend in great numbers. Not only do they take part in the Mass but stay for the hour of Adoration after it. That is when it is nearly impossible to get a seat.

One highlight for us this year was, when we went to the *Cenacolo*, the house for recovering addicts. We hear the testimonies of young men, who have been in very bad circumstances, and by living at *Cenacolo* have overcome their addictions by prayer, work and friendship. Two guys told us their stories. One was from Holland and one, who gave a very full account of his life was from Edinburgh. We were delighted to hear how he had turned his life around. We always feel very blessed when we are there. So, we have booked our flights from **9 to 23 May 2023**. If you would like to join the group, all you need to do is book your flights. You can go for 7, 11 or 14 nights. The cost of accommodation has not increased and bed and breakfast costs 15 euros sharing or 20 euros for a single room. The transfers from Dubrovnik and back will cost approx. 50 euros. If you are interested, please contact me on 07981333219. Thank you."

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - Luke 19: 1-10

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

We live with two Dobermann Pinschers: Stanley and Aoife (pronounced Eeffah – you know how the Irish like to keep all the vowels to themselves!). We picked her name because it means 'radiant princess'. As a puppy she lived up to her billing but has since morphed seamlessly into a thug. Stanley, in comparison, and weighing in at some 45kg, is gentleness and elegance incarnate. Like 'cats' you never quite own a Dobermann: they condescend to live with you, and you learn to live with them. They are incredibly strong willed – but fiercely loyal and protective. Sometimes what they want to do, and what we want them to do, coincides - and we feel: 'Ýess!! Eat your heart out Barbara Wodehouse!' Such moments are comparatively short lived and as rare as hens' teeth. Dobermanns are a comparatively new breed, having been developed at the end of the 19th Century by Louis Dobermann, a German Tax-collector who needed a protection dog. As a dog, it would have been entirely suitable for Zacchaeus. The determination of the Dobermann would have been matched by that of Zacchaeus. He wasn't going to let his absence of height get in the way, as he sought to catch a glimpse of Jesus, listen to what he had to say – perhaps even get to speak to him. After all, the locals might hate him, but the Romans held him in high regard. He was good at his job. He knew all of the excuses. Nothing would get past him. As they say in UK politics: 'He knew where the bodies were buried'. The name of Zacchaeus will be remembered this weekend. He will be remembered for his conversion. I have no way of knowing how long after death I will be remembered – not long, I suspect - but the memory of Zacchaeus has been clothed with a definite level of immortality because of his change of heart.

As was the case whenever Jesus was around, a crowd had gathered. The crowd loathed Zacchaeus and his ilk. He was that most despicable of characters - a tax collector. They witnessed the conversation; they were possibly hoping that Zacchaeus would fall from the tree - or that his garment would snag on a branch and then they watched in horror as Jesus went into the home of Zacchaeus and ate with him.... and they complained. Those nameless people, hiding in plain sight, using the crowd as camouflage are shocked and horrified. There was no way on God's earth that anyone with an ounce of moral fibre would set foot inside the door of such a sinner - let alone sit down to table with him. They considered themselves to be upright and honourable citizens, God-fearing people. They always did what was right - or at least they tried to. They did not consider themselves to need any type of conversion, because they were already doing good. But there was one thing that they did lack. They lacked compassion, If Zacchaeus was short in height, they were short of a forgiving and generous heart. They needed to rid themselves of the heart of stone that weighed them down. They needed a heart of flesh, pulsing with love, forgiveness and kindness.

The conversion of Zacchaeus was as dramatic as the entrenchment of the crowd. Blinkered in vision, rigid in opinion, ossified in self-righteousness, they too, were stunted. Here is the challenge posed by conversion. It must be radical, and it must involve a fundamental shift in attitude. It must also involve action. Our English translation of Luke's Gospel is somewhat impoverished by the use of a future tense for the verb. In the Greek, Zacchaeus says: "I give half of my property to the poor" and "If I have cheated anyone, I pay him back four times the amount." The Greek conveys an image of immediacy, of furniture being carried out into the street and purses full of coins being emptied and shared.

We have all been there. Someone suggests we should lose a bit of weight; the zip is more difficult to fasten, the waistband button is finally secured, and we hope and pray that they rest of the evening will pass without either a coughing fit or an attack of sneezing. We know we should heed the advice, that we should shed a stone (or two!). We'll start tomorrow - or better still on Monday once the weekend is out of the way. The problem is that tomorrow rarely arrives. Conversion throughout the Gospel is immediate. "Now is the favourable time - this is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:2)

We live in hope thar Aoife will grow through her canine adolescence, that the radiant princess will return. Zaccheus' lack of height, coupled with his resourcefulness and determination, brought him to Jesus' attention and today he is remembered not just because of his height disadvantage and resolve to catch a glimpse of Jesus. His conversion also ensures that he is remembered. If we want to be remembered, then likewise, conversion is called for.

PARISH REGISTER

Warm Birthday Greetings to Sheelagh Dobson, 70 on Monday 31 October

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Lucas Mackenzie (aged 22) Linda Ramsey - Joy Allan Lorna Sutherland

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

David Thom - Margaret Laydon
Con McConville
James John McGreavy
Canon Kawrwnce Glancy
Eileen Alexander - Anne Zoltie
Sean Martin - Albert Hancock

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

Pat Dickin, Kenny O'Connor, Alex Cranston, John Cregan, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Rose Thornton, Carol Simpson, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, Jean Bonar, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Frances Connelly, Fiona Connel, John Freeman, May Thomson, Ann Dobie, 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, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

St Mary Magdalene's:

and Mary and James Muir.

Anne Carruthers, 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

Thank

Anniversaries:

St John's:

Oct.29: Andrew Keogh (2005); Williamina Gallagher (1997); Oct.30: David Thom (2019); Euphemia Meehan (1996); Angelo Morga; Oct 31: Helen Harrison (2016); John Reid (1990); Eileen Alexander (1984); Umberto Demarco (1979); Nov. 1: Dorothy Scambler (2012); John McWilliams Jnr (1998); James Coyle (1997); Henry McCluskey (1986); Rose Henery (1981); Mr and Mrs Scally; Nov. 2: Leonora Pelosi (1978); Joseph Dykes [Somme] (1916); Honor Gardner; Nov. 3: Sandy Begg (2009); Anne Zoltie (1996); Carol Holligan (1989); Agnes McDevitt (1973); Julia Connelly; Nov. 4: Sarah Thomson (2019); Sean Martin (2010); Bridget Hanlon; James Hannavy; William McKenzie; Nov. 5: Margaret Laydon (2012); Hugh Taylor (2006); Mark Laydon (1976); Albert Hancock (1961); Mr Donlevy; Nov. 6: Mary Cockburn (1998); Mr R. Greig (1967); Mrs R Greig (1967); Mrs Delaney (1961); Mr & Mrs George Burns (1949);

St Mary Magdalene's:

Oct.29: James Magee (1975); Nov. 1: Gerry Pelosi (1972); Nov. 2: Teddy Banks (1983); Nov. 4: Canon Lawrence Glancy (2002); Hilda M Smith (1981); Nov. 5: James Harvey (2018); Pauline Dewar (2003); Nov. 6: Mary Cockburn (1998);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Hans Zaunbrecher, John O'Donnell, Judith Franklin, Elizabeth Walker, Baby Jamie McBride, Mary Thomson, Clare Johnston, Tony Doherty, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Baby Josh Simpson, Keiron Smart, Michael Doherty, baby Tommy Moran, Carol Turnbull, Ethan Slaney, Paul Madden, Francis Joseph Palmer, Jean Wylie, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, Marlene Bonnar, George and Ann McDermott, Lalee Martin, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Ellen Dow, 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, young Niamh McDougall, 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, 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 23 October 2022

St Mary Magdalene's, £580.30 total, including £158.30 Offertory and £422.00 Gift Aid

St John's, £1527.70 total, including £345.30 Offertory, £427.40 Gift Aid and £755.00 online donations

Dear God, we pray for another way of being: another way of knowing.

Across the difficult terrain of our existence we have attempted to build a highway and in so doing have lost our footpath.

God, lead us to our footpath: lead us there where in simplicity we may move at the speed of natural creatures and feel the earth's love beneath our feet.

Lead us there where step-by-step we may feel the movement of creation in our hearts. And lead us there where side-by-side we may feel the embrace of the common soul.

Nothing can be loved at speed.
God, lead us to the slow path;
to the joyous insight of the pilgrim;
another way of knowing; another way of being. Amen

(from "The prayer Tree", Michael Leunig, Melbourne, 1991)

