

# 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: Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock*

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

*Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini*

*(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10.00am to 3.00pm & Friday 11.00am to 4.00pm)*

*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](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)

## 9 APRIL 2023 - EASTER SUNDAY



*After the sabbath, and towards dawn of the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. 'There's no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here, for he has risen from the dead, as he said he would. (Matthew 28:1-7)*

**Fr Jock writes: 'A Happy and joy-filled Easter to Everyone from Deacon Eddie, the Pastoral Team and myself..... and a warm welcome to any visitors to our Churches..**

And congratulations to all who were baptised or received at the Easter Vigil, and who were confirmed and made their first communion: to **Malcom Aien**, baptised; to **Tolu Ariba, Colin Davey and Ruth Vizer** received; to the four of them, confirmed, along with **Stefan Durkacz and Fatima Villanueva Villarnovo**; and to the first four who made their first communion.

**Remember, each day this week is part of the Easter Octave, a full feast day, requiring celebration..'**

**...AND THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who have worked so hard to make our celebrations happen, especially the Parish House Team, those who've helped prepare, set up, celebrate, and livestream the many different services, and who've decorated and cleaned our churches.**

**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.’

**Holy Thursday saw the reintroduction of Communion under both kinds** for those who wish to receive the chalice. The Bishops’ Conference of Scotland has left it up to each bishop to consider, and Archbishop Leo has been happy for the decision to be made after discussion at a local level.

*The Novena for the Feast of Divine Mercy began on Good Friday and concludes on the Feast of Divine Mercy next Sunday.*

**Eastertide is the great time for Baptisms** – ... a new initiative - next Sunday we have invited all the babies and children who have been baptised in the last two years, and their parents, to the 9.30am Mass and to the Hall afterwards for a celebration. Do please make them welcome.



Mary of Magdala stayed outside near the empty tomb, weeping, then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not recognise him. Supposing him to be the gardener, she said ‘Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him’. Jesus said, ‘Mary!’ She knew him then ..... (John 20:11-15)

# THIS WEEK

## Saturday 8 April (HOLY SATURDAY)

10.00am – St John’s – **Morning Prayer and Office of Readings**

11.00am – St John’s – **Easter Vigil Rehearsal for RCIA candidates**

8.30pm – St John’s – **EASTER VIGIL with Baptism and Confirmations** - livestreamed

## Sunday 9 April (EASTER SUNDAY)

7.00am – Joppa Beach – **Ecumenical Service**

9.30am – St John’s – **Easter Children’s Mass** - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Easter Children’s Mass** - livestreamed

**Monday 10 April** - 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** - livestreamed (Fr Jim)

## Tuesday 11 April

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** - livestreamed (Fr Jim)

11.30am – St Patrick’s – **Requiem Mass of Sara Alkhatari** (Fr Jock)

4.30pm – Warriston Crematorium – **Funeral Service of Sophie Younger** (Fr Jock)

**Wednesday 12 April** - 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

**Thursday 13 April** - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** - livestreamed

**Friday 14 April** - 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

## Saturday 15 April

12.30pm – St John’s – **Baptism of Grayson McNally**

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

## Sunday 16 April – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

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

**with invitation to all the children baptised in the last two years and their parents**

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

## From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

**Rosary and Pro-Life Chain** - Archbishop Cushley will lead a Rosary at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, on **Saturday 22 April** at 10am. Register at [bit.ly/LifeFest23](http://bit.ly/LifeFest23). It will be followed by SPUC’s Pro-Life Chain at 11am on Lothian Road. This day bears witness to the goodness of life and the need to change our laws to recognise the right to life of unborn children and provide genuine help to their mothers. Refreshments afterwards.

**Called & Gifted Workshop** - Identify your charisms (spiritual gifts) and discern God’s call through the Called and Gifted Workshop. It is hosted by the Archdiocese in collaboration with the St Catherine of Siena Institute and takes place on **Saturday 20 May** from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Cost is £25 and includes materials, online access, and lunch. Details and registration at [bit.ly/calledgifted2023](http://bit.ly/calledgifted2023)

**Rethink Abortion Training Day** - This day will help you clarify your own beliefs to become more effective and informed in real-life discussions about pro-life issues. It takes place on **Saturday 13 May** from 10am-5pm in Turnbull Hall Catholic Chaplaincy, 15 Southpark Terrace, Glasgow, G12 8LG. To book a place go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/rethink-abortion/> Tickets £25 (includes lunch and refreshments).



## ‘SAINT’ OF THE WEEK – 9 April

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer – Theologian and Confessor (1906-1945)

*"[The church's] task is not simply to bind the wounds of the victim beneath the wheel, but also, to put a spoke in the wheel itself."*



Dietrich Bonhoeffer spent the month of June 1939 in New York City in a state of anxious soul-searching. *"I do not know why I am here,"* he wrote. He was there because his American friends, eager to protect the young Lutheran theologian from the clutches of the Gestapo, had arranged for him to serve as a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. As a leading figure in the Confessing Church, Bonhoeffer was an avowed enemy of the Nazis. Certainly, the escape to New York had saved his life. But Bonhoeffer was not content to remain in safety. After only a few weeks in New York he disappointed and alarmed his friends by announcing his decision to return to Germany. As he wrote, *"I will have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the tribulations of this time with my people."*

But though he was unwilling to accept the luxury of security, Bonhoeffer did not deliberately court martyrdom. In fact, many colleagues were astounded when, upon his return to Germany, he used family connections to obtain a position in the Abwehr-German Military Intelligence. His brother-in-law, Hans Dohnanyi, was a high-ranking member of the Abwehr. He was also, as Bonhoeffer knew, a key figure in the clandestine military conspiracy to overthrow Hitler. Bonhoeffer was immediately inducted into this conspiracy.

In 1943 as the plot began to unravel Bonhoeffer and Dohnanyi were both arrested. Even then, the extent of their activities - which included plans to assassinate Hitler - remained undetected. Pending further investigation, Bonhoeffer was remanded to a military prison in Tegel, where he was held for eighteen months. Despite spartan conditions, he was nevertheless spared the cruelty of a concentration camp and was able to receive books and smuggle out uncensored letters.

In July 1944, after the assassination plot ended in failure, an intensified investigation by the Gestapo uncovered the full extent of the Abwehr treachery. From then on the fate of the conspirators was sealed. Bonhoeffer's trail led to Gestapo headquarters in Berlin, then to Buchenwald, and finally to Flossenburg prison camp. There on April 9 he conducted a prayer service for his fellow prisoners, following which he received the summons: *"Prisoner Bonhoeffer, get ready and come with us."* To a fellow prisoner he hastily entrusted a final message: *"This is the end, for me the beginning of life...."* The next day he was hanged with five other members of the resistance group.

Bonhoeffer was thirty-nine at the time of his death; the world was left, through his prison writings, only a sketchy outline of the direction of his theology. Nevertheless, the impact of his short life and his scattered writings has left an indelible mark on the post-war church. He is the rare theologian whose biography is studied as carefully as his written work for clues about the challenge of faith in our time.

Bonhoeffer's impact has been felt on at least three levels. First, his witness has inspired other Christians wrestling with the ethical dilemmas of responsible action in the face of oppression. Through most of his career Bonhoeffer had espoused a pacifist position, and he never ceased to believe that violence was inconsistent with the ideals of the gospel. In the end, however, he believed that the crisis of the times was so grave as to require that certain Christians willingly compromise their purity of conscience for the sake of others. *"The ultimate question for a responsible man to ask is not how he is to extricate himself heroically from the affair, but how the coming generation is to live."*

As a theologian, Bonhoeffer's reputation rests largely on the vision forged in the confinement of his last years and disclosed in letters smuggled to his friend, Eberhard Bethge. Here he outlined the need for a new *"religionless Christianity,"* a way of talking about God in a secular language appropriate for a "world come of age." Traditional religious language tended to posit a stop-gap deity occupying a "religious" realm on the boundaries of day-to-day life. Instead, Bonhoeffer wrote,

*I should like to speak of God not on the boundaries but at the centre, not in weaknesses but in strength, and therefore not in death and guilt but in man's life and goodness. God is beyond in the midst of our life. The church stands, not at the boundaries where human powers give out, but in the midst of the village.*

In the post-war decades these writings helped inspire a broad range of Christians seeking to overcome the gulf between the churches and the secular world. More recently Third World theologians have highlighted a more radical insight in Bonhoeffer's writings: "We have for once learnt to see the great events of world history from below, from the perspective of the outcast, the suspects, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed, the reviled - in short, from the perspective of those who suffer."

And it is perhaps in this light, in which he came to see the identity between the cross of Jesus and solidarity with the oppressed, that Bonhoeffer offers such a poignant model of contemporary holiness. After the war some German Christians were reluctant to call him a martyr, since he had been executed for political rather than "religious" charges. This attitude, which would set the "holy life" apart from the world and its concrete demands, exemplified the religious mentality that Bonhoeffer rejected. For him, following Christ was a matter of engagement in this world, "living unreservedly in life's duties, problems, successes and failures, experiences and perplexities. In so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God, taking seriously not our own sufferings, but those of God in the world watching with Christ in Gethsemane. That, I think is faith; that is metanoia."

See: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison* (New York: Macmillan, 1972); Eberhard Bethge, *Costly Grace: An Illustrated Biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979).

## NOTICEBOARD

**The Pamoja Fashion Sale** was back last week in St John's Hall, after a month's break, raising money for Twende Pamoja Charity: the Team is proud to announce they made up £452.00 from sale of quality used and preloved clothes and wish to thank all the wider community for their ongoing support to the Charity founded by the late Mike Knox, a 'visionary for peace'.

The **March Coffee Morning in aid of "Water Aid UK"** raised £250. Thank you to all who came along and gave so generously.

The **April Coffee Morning** will be held on **Monday 17 April in St John's Hall after Mass**, and donations will be given to "Let the Children Live". 'This is a Christian charity of last resort for the forgotten children from the streets and shanty towns of Colombia, based in Medellin, Colombia's second largest city. It was founded by Father Peter Walters in 1992 and aims to make children's lives worth living by giving them love, education and a future. The need is urgent because income has fallen by 30% and costs have risen by 20%. It does not want to reduce the number of children it is helping. Please come along and enjoy tea, home baking and good company.'

Classical Guitar Concert  
**Ayman Jarjour**  
celebrated Syrian guitarist

on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Palcrafts / Hadeel

**Saturday 15th April 2023**  
**6.30pm**  
in  
St. Andrew's & St. George's West  
13, George Street, Edinburgh

Tickets: including a light dinner to follow  
**£25, £10 (under 16s)**

Scan QR code for link to tickets or  
from [www.eventbrite.co.uk/ Ayman Jarjour Hadeel](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/AymanJarjourHadeel)  
Also at Hadeel, 123 George Street, Edinburgh or on the door.

In aid of Palcrafts/Hadeel

Classical Guitar Concert from Syrian guitarist **AYMAN JARJOUR** on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fair-Trade Palestinian Crafts / Hadeel

Saturday 15 April 2023 at 6.30pm at St Andrews and St George's West, 13 George St, Edinburgh

Tickets from [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)

## A REFLECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY - JUDITH'S TALE

My name is Judith. I am what you might call a bit part player in the drama that was the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. I was part of the wider group who knew Jesus as a friend. I am Joseph's wife, and we enjoyed an estate on the edge of Arimathea. My husband was a frequent companion of Jesus. It was Magda who knew him better and Magda had been my friend since we played together as toddlers in the same village. My husband was a strong silent man – the word 'taciturn' had been invented for him. Magda, on the other hand, talked endlessly about this 'man she once met'. She spoke of a man like no other man – and, as the whole world knows, she knew a lot of men. Eventually I discovered his identity. He was my husband's friend, Jesus. As I say, Magda and I came from the same village. I was lucky. Wealth chose me in the person of Joseph, a powerful man, protected by wealth, but also someone of great charm and generosity. Magda on the other hand was not so fortunate. She was blessed with great beauty, but her parents were poor. Not for her as a child fine clothing or even shoes. We were the best of friends. Often, she would run her hands across my silk dresses, marvelling at their delicate texture. She was never resentful or jealous, happy that someone had fine things even as she had none. I may have had the fine clothes, but she had the looks, long shining mahogany hair, eyes dark as ebony and skin like alabaster. Men desired her and she learned at an early age how to control them. They thought they were in control, but it was the other way round, and it was she who took full advantage of their purses. Of course, they were men, and the very men who abused her were the same as those who ridiculed her and sought to banish her, to push her to one side, like a cheap piece of crockery that was sometimes needed but then hidden away again when it became superfluous to everyday needs.

I loved spoiling Magda, to let her see that money could give her nice things – and expect nothing in return. She loved lemongrass and I would crush it and infuse expensive oil with the flattened strands. Her favourite ointment was Oil of Mehr and whenever I could lay my hands on it, I would buy her a jar. She's older now, wrinkles have taken their toll. Her once lustrous mahogany hair is now streaked with grey, but still shiny and lush. She used the Oil of Mehr as her special treat, lemon grass oil for her everyday wear. I loved listening to her speak of Jesus. She did indeed love him. There was the night her emotions reduced her to weakness and nothingness. Her guilt and regret crushed her as I would crush the lemongrass. She had nothing to offer him except her tears and her honesty and the jar of ointment paid for from the purses of the men who now looked down their noses at her. If only they realised! He whispered in her ear – 'Mary' and she knew forgiveness. He knew all about her, and he loved her not for her past but for her humility. She told me it was a moment of blinding revelation. How did he know her real name – everyone referred to her as Magda. I still do. He knew her real identity. She was Mary.

She also told me of the second occasion, her grief was overwhelming after he had been executed, executed as a common criminal when his dignity showed him standing tall - taller even than the gibbet on which he hung. Again, she carried a jar of ointment. She saw someone, but she was confused. Was he the gardener? A gardener would fit. My husband had picked a grave surrounded by natural beauty. It was meant to be our grave and when I saw it, I immediately fell in love with it. I congratulated him on his choice. He gave it instead, to the family of Jesus. He was generous like that. I had watched the authorities seal the tomb. I saw the size of the stone rolled across the entrance. Magda told me she had wondered how on earth she was going to move the stone so that she could anoint the body. When she arrived, the stone was already rolled back, and the grave was empty. There didn't appear to be anyone around, apart from this 'gardener' She approached him. "Excuse me! I'm confused. I came here to anoint a body. He was my friend. There's nobody here. Have you seen anything or anyone acting suspiciously?" She remembered that it was only at this point that she looked at the stranger in the face. The face was vague and ethereal – as if Magda's own had been covered with finest chiffon, blurring her vision. She struggled to focus. A voice from nowhere: 'Mary, Mary'. If Magda had experienced ecstasy on the night of her forgiveness, then those feelings were as nothing, compared to her feelings that morning. 'Mary, Mary'. He called her, and He loved her and she lived even as He lived. He empowered her to love and to witness. He freed her from her past, from regret, from missed opportunity. Over the weeks, Mary lost not one barleycorn of her conviction. Her faith became her obsession. In our last conversation she told me quite simply, 'Remember Judith. He knows your name. He calls you by name. Use his name in return - often. He lives and He loves you.'

*(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock who lives in Northumberland).....NB A disclaimer – there is **nothing** in the gospels to indicate that Mary Magdalene was in fact 'a lady of easy virtue', whatever tradition might have turned her into – partly a result of conflating three different Marys in the gospels into one person!)*

# PARISH REGISTER

*Warm birthday greetings to Sandra Cooper, 70 last Monday, 3 April*

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

*Rose McKay - Christina Meikle  
Sophie Younger*

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

*Barnie Quinn - Joan McGuinness  
Adrian Aylward - Frank Bell  
George Mackay Brown - James Igoe  
Alasdair Fagan - Bunny Scoular  
Margaret Wagenbichler  
Margaret Watret*

*Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:*

## St. John's:

Margaret Duffy, Valentino Raviele, Una Laing, John Freeman, Kim O'Neill, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Harry Allan, baby Damon McDonald, May Thomson, Bob Kelly, Carol Simpson, Pat Dickin, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, Kitty Dykes, Kenny O'Connor, Gerry Gallagher, John Cregan, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Fiona Connel, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, 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:

Monica Gorman, Allan Guthrie, John McLaughlin, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and Mary and James Muir.

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

*Offertory 2 April 2023*

St Mary Magdalene's, £292.95 total, including £162.95 Offertory and £130.00 Gift Aid.

St John's, £1634.00 total, including £655.00 Offertory, £284.00 Gift Aid and £695.00 online donations.

## *Anniversaries:*

### St John's:

**Apr.8:** John Haddow (2006); Elizabeth Gibson (1999); Aaron Duffus (1997); Catherine McAllister (1986); Elizabeth Dyer (1926); **Apr.9:** Bob Grierson (1997); Agnes Christie (1995); Hugh Lynch; **Apr.10:** Patrick Cafferkie (2014); Anna Maria Nicholson (1999); George Lawler (1994); Gino Nicora (1981); Mary (Hazlett) Thorburn (1979); William Finn (1945); **Apr.11:** George Peddeson (1998); **Apr.12:** Mary Quadbeck (2006); Alexander Holligan (1998); Elizabeth Meagher (1998); Janet Clark (1990); **Apr.13:** Bert Tow (2020); John Heron (2000); Michael Gilmartin (1994); John Burns (1945); **Apr.14:** Bunny Scoular (2016); Charles McCann (1998); Edmund Francis Flannigan (1992); Kathleen Scott (1986); **Apr.15:** Josephine Day (2018); James P Igoe (2007); Richard Thompson (2001); Alexandrina R Mackay (2000); Mary Rae (1985); James Ward Sen. (1956); Andrew Mannering; **Apr.16:** Margaret Watret (2020); Elizabeth Delaney (2000); Veronica Rowley (1995); Elizabeth F Demarco (1985); Catherine O'Brien (1958); Mrs Duffy (1956);

### St Mary Magdalene's:

**Apr.8:** Jean King (1993); **Apr.10:** Elizabeth Moohan (1983); **Apr.12:** Jean Newlands (1972); **Apr.13:** Margaret Mills (2014); Janet Christie (1998); **Apr.14:** Teresa Vivien (1980); **Apr.15:** John Dubosz (1980); **Apr.16:** Pat McNally (2009); John O'Hara (2006);

*Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:*

Tom Heaney, Tommy Clarke, Mary Whyte, Jim Gray, Lydia Reid, Mgr Gerry Hand, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, Andrew Muldoon, John Havard, Mary Wallace, Allan Crombie, John Cudlipp, Ellen Green, Sandy Ferguson, Sophie Robinson, Louise Young, Emma Blackman, Anthony Kramers, Tricia Scott, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 9), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Kate Mackay, Grace Stuart, Stephen Norwood, Bill and Audrey Jones, Richard Johnson, John Miller, Douglas Edington, Agnes Clarke, David Fenwick, Maurice McAllister, Rita Noonan, baby Lucas McCourt, Ellen Dow, Chris White, members of the McGrath Family, Maureen Hutchinson, Hans Zaunbrecher, Judith Franklin, 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, Jessica Haggerty, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Seval and Kazim Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth, Roger Bromley, Tony Rigg, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, 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, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

## Resurrection Power – by Fr Ronald Rolheiser

*The Resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago and will happen to each of us some time in the future after we die when our own bodies will be raised to new life. It is that, but it is much more.*

*The Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality. God is always making new life and undergirding it with a goodness, graciousness, mercy, and love that, in the end, heals all wounds, forgives all sins and brings deadness of all kinds to new life.*

*We feel this resurrecting power in the most ordinary moments of our lives. A sense of the Resurrection, understood in its deepest sense, manifests itself unconsciously in our vitality, in what we call health; in the feeling, however dimly it is sensed, that it is good to be alive. The very atomic structure of the cosmos feels and knows that resurrecting power. That is why it (like us, when we are healthy) pushes forward, blindly, bouyed up by a hope that it cannot understand.*

*A friend of mine once sent me an Easter card that ended with the challenge: "May you leave behind you a string of empty tombs!" That is both my Easter wish and my Easter challenge for all of us. Let our wounded, muted voices begin to sing again: Christ is risen! Life is very, very good! Happy Easter!*



*On the first day of the week, two men were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked over this, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him ...  
(Luke 24:13-16)*