

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh, EH15 1LL

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 Christina 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://sites.google.com/view/stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes>

Joint Facebook page:

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

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

5 JANUARY 2025

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. (from Matthew 2:1-12)

We continue to hold in our hearts those who are suffering – and all those who have lost their lives – not only in Gaza and Israel and Lebanon and in Ukraine, and indeed in Sudan and in all the wars and conflicts in our world...

HAPPY NEW (JUBILEE) YEAR

Today is the annual Day of Prayer for Justice & Peace and a special collection will take place for the work of Justice & Peace Scotland. A letter from Archbishop Bill Nolan is attached [HERE](#) and included with the hard copies of the newsletter. See all the latest activities and campaigning across the J&P network in the latest newsletter, available at www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk which includes information as to how you can become involved and play your part.

Fr Jock writes: ‘At the back of both churches – or by clicking this [link \(https://bit.ly/4gDSpSJ\)](https://bit.ly/4gDSpSJ) – there is a handout available for those who would like a copy of a very powerful article, written by Marie Boeton, entitled ‘*The nameless children of Gaza, the story of a father's miraculous reunion with his daughter*’. It is a gruelling read but brings out better than anything else I’ve read the impact on individual families of the events of the last 15 months. Please take a copy on this ‘Justice and Peace Sunday’, please read it, and may we all redouble our prayers for both justice and peace.’

This Monday at 2.30pm in St John's there is the first of our monthly Healing Masses – with the Sacrament of the Sick – in 2025...all most welcome.

Holy Hour - Thursday 9 January – 7.00pm - St John's

Deacon Eddie writes: 'We hold our Holy Hour a week later this month, as 2nd of January was probably taken up for some of us with visiting families still.

At a time when so many people look to New Year's resolutions, we would like to think of this month's holy hour being about putting our faith, and our hopes for the future, in God's hands. *He will raise you up, on eagle's wings.*

This is an hour where you can simply sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament and listen to the prayers and the music – or, alternatively, or you can join in with them - as an order of service is provided.

The new issue of **Living Faith**, the Redemptorist magazine, with a reflection for each day for the next three months of the year, is still **available free at the back of both churches** (though if you would like to help us cover costs, a donation of £2 would do so...!)

Blessed is the one ... whose hope is in the Lord. (Jeremiah 17:7)

A message from Fr Loreto Tabone to the Parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's

'Dear All, I am writing to thank you all most sincerely for a very beautiful gift for my Golden Jubilee of Ordination: the New Lectionary just introduced in the Archdiocese. It's a lovely, useful gift and it is very much appreciated. The four volumes look great in my library every time I look at them. They stand beside the Volume of Readings you donated to me ten years ago on my fortieth anniversary of ordination. I will be thinking of you every time I use any of the volumes.

I wait now for the dedication to go in the four volumes: not to remind me where the gift originated but to be displayed (and shown off to friends) with a sense of pride for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and a reminder of my happy years with you.

So, thank you all very much. I have remembered you in all in my Christmas Masses and will always remember you in the year(s) ahead. May God continue to bless you during this Holy Season and may He give you all the good that you pray for and all the good blessings that he meant for all on that First Christmas Night. God bless you all....'.

Charles Malcolm's funeral – Fr Jock writes: 'It's been nearly three months since St Mary Magdalene's parishioner Charles Malcolm died. Several people have been making enquiries about his funeral. I have been in fairly frequent contact with the NHS Bereavement Services who have been handling the situation – and communicating that Charles would have wanted a Requiem Mass at St MM's, and then to be buried in the family plot in Mt Vernon. They assure me that his funeral should take place early in the New Year. – please pray that that will indeed happen...'

THIS WEEK

Saturday 4 January

9.30pm-1.30pm – St John's Hall – **Pamoja Fashion Charity Sale**

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

Sunday 5 January – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace)

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with baptism of Josh Fallon** – *livestreamed*

11.00am - St John's – **Episcopalian Eucharist**

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

Monday 6 January

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

2.30pm – St John's – Healing Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick - *livestreamed*

7.00pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://bit.ly/41SRj1b>

Tuesday 7 January

10.00am – Baptist Church Café – **Holy Huddle**

4.30pm – Parish House – **Pastoral Team Meeting**

7.00pm – Parish House – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

7.45pm – Parish House – **RCIA (Catechumenate 3)**

Wednesday 8 January

[NB Change of time] **9.45am** – St John's – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

Thursday 9 January - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

Friday 10 January - 10.00am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Ronnie Brown** – *livestreamed*

Saturday 11 January - 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** – *livestreamed*

Sunday 12 January – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.30am – St John's – Children's **Mass** with P3– *livestreamed*

11.00am – St John's – **St Mark's Episcopalian Eucharist**

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Do This in Memory of Me Mass** – *livestreamed*

View the links for the Masses by visiting our webpage: <https://bit.ly/StJStMM>



A Meditation for the Epiphany – by Gilbert Cesbron

*When the King of Kings was born
he chose his parents from among the little people of this world.
And the simple people of the district were the first invited to his cradle -
those who slept under the stars of heaven and could hear the angel's voice.
It was only then that he received the great ones of the world.
They were also his children, but their lives were threatened by glory and honour.
He called them, but they were so far off that the journey took them a long time.
Those mighty kings announced their arrival with expensive presents.
But first they knelt down – humility was their real gift.
They knelt after the shepherds.
That is how Christmas was and that is how it will be,
until the end of the world.*

‘SAINTS’ OF THE WEEK – Felipe and Mary Barreda

Nicaraguan Lay Apostles and Martyrs (d. 1983) – Feast Day: 7 January

"We discovered that faith is not expecting that the Lord will miraculously give us whatever we ask, or feeling the security that we will not be killed and that everything will turn out as we want. We learned that faith is putting ourselves in His hands, whatever happens, good or bad. He will help us somehow."



In December 1982, while taking part in a coffee harvest in northern Nicaragua, Felipe and Mary Barreda were kidnapped by so-called Contra Rebels. The Barredas were forced to march to a camp in Honduras, all the while subjected to beatings and torture. Mary was repeatedly raped. On January 7, 1983, the couple were executed.

Under normal circumstances, picking coffee would not entail the risk of death, nor would it be construed as a heroic expression of Christian faith. But the risk and the meaning of this work were clearly understood by the Barredas. And to the five thousand people who crowded the Cathedral of Esteli for their memorial Mass the connections were equally obvious. The Barredas were

acclaimed as Christian martyrs who had not simply died but who had laid down their lives in faithfulness to the gospel and out of their commitment to God and their neighbours.

In their appearance there was nothing to distinguish this middle-aged couple, married for thirty years, from other Latin American families of modestly comfortable means. Felipe was a watchmaker, Mary was a hairdresser, and together they had raised six children and had fifteen grandchildren. But through a long process beginning in the 1970s with their involvement in the renewal movement of *Cursillo*, and later as leaders in the base community movement in their hometown, Estelí, their lives had come to centre around their Christian faith, a faith expressed in service to the poor.

For Christians like the Barredas, living in Nicaragua under the notorious dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, such an understanding of the gospel had inescapably political implications. The base communities, which brought families together to reflect on their lives and to read the signs of the times in the light of Scripture, provided strong support to the growing Sandinista revolutionary struggle. When victory came in 1979, the Barredas threw themselves into the work of reconstruction and support for Sandinista programmes in literacy and health reform.

This revolution was unprecedented in the degree of Christian participation. Those who supported the Sandinistas believed that their programme was an expression of the Christian option for the poor. But not all agreed, and in fact the church came to be bitterly divided. By the early 1980s political opposition to the Sandinistas was joined by the military campaign of the "Contras," a rebel army sponsored by the United States and formed initially from members of the ousted National Guard. Operating out of bases in Honduras, the Contras waged a war of terror, targeting teachers, health workers, and other community leaders identified with the Sandinista cause. Because the government depended heavily on exchange earnings from the sale of coffee, Nicaragua's principal export crop, the Contras focused particular terror against coffee harvesters. Scores were killed or wounded in these attacks.

It was in this context, just before Christmas in 1982, that the Barredas volunteered to join the harvest. On December 28 the farm where they were working was surrounded by Contras. The Barredas and another fifty-six harvesters were kidnapped, and the coffee harvest was destroyed.

It was many months before their fate was definitely known. Eventually their actual murderers were captured, and they provided testimony regarding the circumstances of the Barredas' captivity and death. Their interrogators had tried in vain to force the Barredas to declare themselves communists. To the end, however, they had responded with prayers and protestations of their Christian faith.

Nevertheless, the social implications of that faith were clearly suggested in a letter that Mary had written to friends, in which she noted:

The opportunity to go and pick coffee will be converted into health, clothing, homes and roads and food. For this, I am going to pick coffee with all the love and enthusiasm of which I am capable. Please understand that in every grain that I cut, every bean that I pick, every one of your faces will be present, the faces of your children, and even the faces of those that I don't know.... We wish to ask you to be present with God this Christmastime with a smile, with greater care for one another and for your children. Wherever I may be, I'll be thinking of you in these moments. I love you all very much.

See: Margaret Swedish and Lee Miller, Like Grains of Wheat (Washington, D.C.: Religious Task Force on Central America, 1989); James Brockman, S.J., "The Passion and Death of Maria and Felipe," America (December 7, 1985).

Prayer for the New Year

*In our journeying we find you,
God of the unexpected places.*

We find you there

*– in our doubts as well as our certainties,
in our fears as well as our courage,
in our questions as well as our wonder,
and in our turning to others to care.*

*Help us to journey on,
looking expectantly
to find you.*

Lynda Wright

NOTICEBOARD

Contact details for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP):
By phone or text: 07752 682213 - email: syvedineast@gmail.com



Christmastide Offertory Collections



St John's:

22 December 2024 – total £1735.20, including £441.20 loose plate, £386.00 Gift Aid envelopes and £908.00 average weekly online donations.

Christmas Vigil Masses – total £2927.00, including £1441.00 loose plate, £578.00 Gift Aid envelopes and £908.00 average weekly online donations.

29 December 2024 – total £1420.00, including £424.00 loose plate, £88.00 Gift Aid envelopes and £908.00 average weekly online donations.

St Mary Magdalene's:

22 December 2024 – total £316.75, including £181.75 loose plate and £135.00 Gift Aid envelopes.

Christmas Day Mass – total £531.70, including £341.70 loose plate and £180.00 Gift Aid envelopes.

29 December 2024 – total £238.45, including £153.45 loose plate and £85.00 Gift Aid envelopes.

FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO'S AD CLERUM

Diploma in Catechetics -The Diploma in Catechetics is a year-long course beginning in January. It consists of a weekly lecture on Zoom, readings from the Catechism and regular one-to-one support. Holy Year discount: £125 (normally £200). Register at bit.ly/diploma2025

Events in the Archdiocese - For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese visit <https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>

Blessing for the Jubilee Year 2025

*God of Infinite Love and Mercy,
You who call all people to reconciliation, renewal, and liberation,
we come before You in this Jubilee Year,
grateful for the journey of faith that has brought us here.*

*Bless this sacred time,
a season of healing for wounds long borne,
a season of hope for voices long silenced,
and a season of justice for lives long oppressed.*

*Pour out Your Spirit upon Your Church,
that we may become a living witness of Your inclusive love.
Renew within us the courage to embrace diversity,
the wisdom to listen to the marginalized,
and the humility to seek forgiveness for our failures.*

*As we open wide the doors of Your mercy,
may our communities become havens of welcome for all—
the poor and the wealthy,
the stranger and the neighbour,
the joyful and the broken-hearted.*

*Guide us as we walk in solidarity with creation,
to honour the dignity of every person,
and to labour for peace in a divided world.*

*May this Jubilee Year be a sign of Your Kin-dom,
where justice and mercy kiss,
where truth and compassion embrace,
and where all are invited to the banquet of life.*

*Through You, the breath of renewal,
we make this prayer with faith and joy.*

Amen.

(Prayer for the 2025 Jubilee adapted by Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck)

A REFLECTION ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

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

In one of those tricks of the mind, Mrs Jobling loomed large in my consciousness this week. She was a housebound parishioner in the 1980's and on my First Friday Communion Round. On the Tuesday before First Friday, I would pop in and tell her I would be back on Friday at about 11 am with communion. I was grateful for the fleeting nature of this visit – the atmosphere was always thick with cigarette smoke. No matter how big a breath I took on the way in, I was soon gasping for clean air. She was always sat in the same position, at her heavy dining table of a dark brown colour which contrasted perfectly with the nicotine and tar coated wallpaper and paintwork. Her similarly mahogany-coloured fingers were testimony to a lifetime of nicotine addiction. She had certainly paid a hefty sum in tobacco duty to the Revenue. Said dining table was a sight to behold: an ever-present opened packet of ginger nuts, another of chocolate digestives, a pile of past copies of 'People's Friend' magazine, a separate pile of 'My Weekly', an overflowing ash tray of mammoth proportions, an open pack of Embassy Filter, lighter and a crocheted baby hat, still under construction. On a Friday, the table was transformed. It had been completely denuded of the clutter and assorted detritus of a housebound life. The piles had been stacked on one of the dining chairs, a leaning tower reminiscent of that at Pisa Time would be critical if it was to remain upright. 'Pass me the Pledge, Father! It's under the kitchen sink – and the duster'. The request was delivered in much the same way as the priest might prompt the altar server to bring the cruets. It was an essential part of the liturgical choreography. Clouds of aerosol polish filled the air as the table was given a buff-up in honour of the treasure I bore. Where once the stale cigarette smoke had me gasping, I found myself greedily inhaling the sweet heady scent of furniture polish. Polish applied, an embroidered tea-tray cloth was laid with a flourish, crucifix repositioned from the mantelpiece along with two candles that had seen better days. Mrs Jobling was ready to receive her Guest. It was such a simple gift that I bore, such a treasure that she received - and she gave to me, the mere acolyte of God's generosity the gift of her simple, shared faith and trust. Once communion had been received, I was dismissed with an enigmatic smile that would match that of the Mona Lisa and a gentle wave of the back of her hand. Gratitude expressed in that smile, my work was done, 'till next I would be sent to collect the tin of Pledge from under the sink.... and the duster.

Today's Feast of the Epiphany screams of 'Gifts'. 'Giving' and 'Receiving'. It had been a tumultuous few days for Mary and Joseph. If a few days ago they were full of fear and apprehension as they struggled to find suitable accommodation, today they are reflective and humble. Their gratitude overflows, even as the stream of visitors continued to pour through the entrance to the barn. The Ox and Ass gave warmth to the stable; unwashed shepherds with rough calloused hands gave of their livelihoods and wealthy doctors of leaning, philosophers and astronomers gave of their learning and studies. For good measure they bore lavish gifts – but all received, in return, the inestimable treasure of the simple trusting faith and acceptance displayed by the young Mary and Joseph.

We are at the end of the Christmas Season. Many of us have exchanged gifts. For some, a great deal of thought has gone into these gifts. We can opt to give a Gift Token or Voucher – or we can put some thought into the gift. When we do so, we're giving a little of ourselves – and this 'little' remains, long after we have gone, and the gift has faded. I'm glad we are made this way. I'm glad we have emotion, that we give of ourselves. The effect is eternal and lives on, long after our final breath has been taken. Mrs Jobling had an effect on me – and from nowhere came the inspiration to detail her tale. Now, you too have heard it and so her gift lives on – as do the same gifts of countless millions before us, and who will follow us. The Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh are but aspect of our own generosity and thoughtfulness. They inspire us to share – in particular to share of ourselves. Happy Feast!

PARISH REGISTER

Warm birthday greetings to John McGeachie, 60 on Christmas Day

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Bridget McEwan – Jean Jack
Gordon Paul – Ronnie Brown
Steve White – Alice Crawford*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*Anne-Louise Dalrymple – Kate Moore
Conan Murie – Ed Collins
Terry Delaney – Jean O’Flaherty
Kathleen Brown – David Dowie
Leo Stone – Alex Cranston
Janet Cunningham – Alec Linton*

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Margaret Alcorn, Peter Hughes, Paul Gillen, Jean Fraser, Alasdair Mackay, Alison Padley, Derek Gorrie, Phyllis Oliver, Steve White, Sandy Reid, Eileen Ryan, David Miller, Diana Williams, Fr Alex Davie, Juan Ignacio de Vicente Lara, Tom Cullimore, David Paterson, Kay Leslie, Mary Ferguson, Vincent McCann, Peter Higgins, Tricia Murphy Black, Anne Claveirole, Sr Helen McLaughlin, Revd Peter Millar, Ann Dooley, Ewa Kiersztejn, Veronica Monbieni, Fr John McFadden OMI, Revd Bill Wishart, Amparo Serrano, James Shepherd, Alison St Clair Ford, Caitriona Stark, Fernando Cervantes, Pat O’Kelly, Angela Whyte, Mike Foy, Jean Cooper, Kirsty McCrimmon, Noel Power, Chris Frost, Lynda Young, Mary McCormack, Helen Bird, Sheila Laughlin, Helen Campbell, Coralie Isherwood, Mr Mega, young Zachary Cowie, Edith Edgar, Shirley Robertson, Catherine Princess of Wales, King Charles, Monique Kopp, Mary Lyons, Elizabeth McKenzie, Steven Thornton, Ann Fleming, Marna Clarke, Eugene Feehan, Mag Farnon, Ann Currie, Jacob Green (aged 14), Pat Campanile, Jill Harvey, Mireille McNab (aged 14), Michelle Lee, Michael Daly, Roger Bromley, Richard Reid, Douglas Edington, Anne Morris, Dr Grier Gordon, Saramma Samuel, Peter Robinson, Peter Hanley, Helen Robertson, baby Josh Simpson, Tom Heeney, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, John Havard, Ellen Green, Sophie Robinson, Louise Young, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 11), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Eunice McDonald, Grace Stuart, David Fenwick, Hans Zaunbrecher, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Keiran Smart (aged 17), Michael Doherty, Jean Wylie, Angela Khan, Charlotte O’Brien, young Martha Moyes (aged 7), Jennifer Kay, Kazim Kazimoglu, Jan Meise, Tony Rigg, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, John Kellagher, Dani Miniette, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, James O’Rourke, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

Anniversaries:

St John’s:

Jan.1 James Malone (1989), Catherine McElroy; **Jan.2:** Terry Delaney (2016); Monica Cubitt (2007); Anne Marie Phillips (2004); Elizabeth Stone (1992); Alexander Donnelly (1985); Thomas Mackay (1979); Annie Graham (1973); **Jan.3:** Betsy Hogg (1981); James Lacey (1973); **Jan.4:** Hazel Martin (2023); Conan Murie (2021); Hedley Smibert (2007); Fr. Thomas Gaffney SJ. (1998); Lucia Maher (1994); John Brown (1984); Bernard McAllister (1981); John Browne (1977); **Jan.5:** Jean O’Flaherty (2015); Jessie Handren (2009); James Bannon (1999); Douglas Shannon (1992); Joseph & Isobel Simpson (1989); Renee McMartin (1984); John J McWilliams (1958); Kathleen McGovern (1940); **Jan.6:** Kathleen Brown (2024); Rita Scott (1997); James Huntly (1946); John Christie; Mary Gralton; James McNamara; James Meehan; **Jan.7:** James Marrins (2022); Kathleen Fusco (2010); William Turnbull (1995); **Jan.8:** David Dowie (2022); Brigid T Stuart (2005); Hugh Robertson (2003); William Birrell (2002); Charmaine McIntyre (1997); Alexander Gilroy (1974); **Jan.9:** Les Garvin (2015); Anne Hughes (2011); Leo J Stone (1958); **Jan.10:** Alex Cranston (2023); Frank Davey (1999); Andrew Durkin (1991); Andrew Blaney (1958);

St Mary Magdalene’s:

Jan.1: Christina McCluskey (2014); **Jan.2:** Mary Fairbairn (2019); **Jan 4:** Janet Cunningham (2024) **Jan.5:** Ronald Forrester (2011); **Jan.6** Margaret Hay (2000); Jane Newman (1995); **Jan.7:** Elizabeth Marinello (2013); **Jan.8:** Daniel McGlynn (2003); Marco DeMarco (1975); **Jan.10:** Alex. McEwan (1997);

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John’s:

May Mathews, Rose Thornton, Pamela Hanlon, Kathy Gallagher, May Flynn, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Sheila Tansey, Betty Dougal, Carol Simpson, Moira McAfferty, Helen Kilgour, Barbara Durcacz, Mairi O’Connor, Lesley O’Donnell, Gerry Cannon, Doreen Jones, Donald Oswald, Prisca Kemp, Mary Slight, Mike Noonan, Mike Fox, John McLaughlin, Celia Stone, John Lawler, Jimmy Curnyn, Charlotte McGregor, David Reid, Ann O’Brien, Diane McCarthy, Margaret Duffy, Mike Burns, Harry Allan, May Thomson, Kenny O’Connor, Rose Thornton, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Ann Dobie, Chloe Sutherland, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, Sarah McManus, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Norman Telfer, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers and Marie Angela Crolla.

St Mary Magdalene’s:

Maureen Scott, Jean McNally, Bill McGeachie, Norrie Gibson, Monica Gorman, Aisha Montgomery, Tom Kay, John Flanagan, Eleanor Campanile, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Margaret Ryan, Julie Keegan, Annie Watson, David O’Donnell, Jude Ferguson and James Muir.