

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

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Karen Blair (Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am to 3pm)

Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Sunday 5 April 2020

WELCOME...If you're visiting, are new to the area, or just live here, you are most welcome in our sister parishes. We are delighted you have joined us. If you are new to the parish, please make yourself known to Fr Jock by email or on the phone and ask for details of how to register on the parishes' roll.



Fr Jock writes: 'This Holy Week will be different to any other we have ever celebrated...our own feelings of fear, uncertainty, confusion and various other strong emotions will bring us closer to those of Jesus and his disciples than perhaps ever before....please do create space in your own lives to follow Jesus into Jerusalem, to the Temple, to the Upper Room, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to Golgotha and to the Tomb... and next Saturday night and Sunday to the Glory and Joy and Mystery of the Resurrection. And please let's pray for each other and especially for all those who are walking their own Way of the Cross with Jesus at this time...'

'For the followers of Jesus to celebrate the passion and death of the Lord is a demonstration of heartfelt gratitude to, and joyful worship of, the incredible love of God, and a call to live like Jesus in solidarity with all crucified victims' – Jose Pagola

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK (All live-streamed)

Sunday 5 April – **PALM SUNDAY**

11am – **Mass**

Monday 6 April – 10am - **Mass**

Tuesday 7 April – 7pm - **Mass**

Wednesday – 10am - **Mass**

Thursday 9 April – **HOLY THURSDAY**

7.30pm - **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

and Watching in Gethsemane until Night Prayer at 11pm

Friday 10 April – **GOOD FRIDAY**

3.00pm - **Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

7.30pm - **Stations of the Cross**

Saturday 11 April – **HOLY SATURDAY**

8.30pm - **EASTER VIGIL**

Sunday 12 April – **EASTER SUNDAY**

11am – **Easter Morning Mass of the Lord's Resurrection**

PALM SUNDAY MASS THIS SUNDAY ONLINE AT 11am – live-streamed from the Prayer Room in the Parish House.

Deacon Eddie writes: ‘We will, once again, be live streaming the Mass on Sunday. The web address will appear as the top post on our Facebook page -

www.facebook.com/StJohnsAndStMaryMagdalenes

and also as the top post on

www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com/news

The Mass is then available as a recording on both addresses and on the St Mary Magdalene’s website. For the last two weeks, we have had an AV specialist coming in to film (at some expense) – - and are able to do so again this Sunday thanks to the great generosity of a parishioner - but we hope to have our own newly purchased webcam up and running this w/e and then be able to live-stream Mass the first three days of Holy Week followed by the services of the Triduum – ‘the great three days’ ...’

One way to journey together through Holy Week (and not take the Jerusalem bypass!) – is by taking some time each day to focus on the main characters that appear in The Passion.

It might be taking up the Gospel reading to focus on a line they say,

It might be closing your eyes to put ourselves in their shoes

It might be turning to them in prayer or reading up a little more about them and understand them

We would suggest

- Palm Sunday - Judas & Peter - Betrayal and Mercy
- Monday - Mary, Mother of Sorrows
- Tuesday - Veronica and the Road to Golgotha
- Wednesday - The Good Thief

AN INVITATION TO OUR PARISH CHILDREN

Easter is coming. Our church buildings may not be open but we can decorate the doors to celebrate Easter. Could you draw or paint an ‘Easter’ picture?

If you can, it could be left on the doorstep of the Parish House (if you are passing by on your daily exercise) or you could send Father Jock a digital copy (to

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com). Then the pictures could go on the doors of our two church doors, in the Prayer Room, on Facebook and the St Mary Magdalene website..

Rumour has it that when we can meet face to face again there will be Easter Eggs for everybody....’

OUR CHURCHES, VERY SADLY, ARE NOW CLOSED

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has called on Catholics to 'pray unceasingly' amidst the global coronavirus pandemic. In a statement released the week before last, the bishops, including Archbishop Leo Cushley, confirmed the closure of churches for *'the common good.'*

They said: *"The outbreak of Covid 19 virus in Scotland demands from all of us a response which recognises the serious threat to all people, especially the elderly and those with underlying illnesses, and our duty of care to them.*

'Having given due consideration to the words of the First Minister, we, the Bishops of Scotland, agree that our churches should be closed during this period of national emergency for the common good.

There will be no celebrations of baptism or marriage but we will continue to offer prayers for those who have died and for their families who mourn their passing. The Church is not only a building but the people of God at prayer wherever they may find themselves.

We encourage all Catholics and all people of faith to pray unceasingly in their homes for our nation at this time in particular for our political leaders, our health care professionals and all those suffering from the virus.

May this lived Lenten experience lead us to new life and healing at Easter.'

Access to this Newsletter

While this newsletter has been available for some time via email and online, over the years most people have received a hard copy while attending Sunday Mass or visiting either of our churches.

That is no longer possible....so we are trying to build up our **Parish Distribution Email Address List of Parishioners** and intend to send everyone a copy (with the option for the recipient of opting out).

We have also (see below) divided the two parishes into eight areas and, through the generosity of over forty volunteers, built up a network of co-ordinators and 'friends' whom, among other things, will deliver a hard copy of the newsletter to our more vulnerable and elderly parishioners (many of whom will not be online).

Please check with us if you think we might not have your email address (if you have one) – **and let us know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter but is not doing so at the moment....**

(Because we will be sending a group email some email providers block them or class them as spam so please check your junk folder if you not received them)

Hard copies of the newsletter will always be available from the Parish House, as will copies of Living Faith, the three monthly booklet of daily reflections (covering April, May and June) – this edition with the theme 'I am with you always.' (Mt 28.20)

Why not visit our parishes' Facebook page
www.facebook.com/StJohnsAndStMaryMagdalenes

THE PARISHES IN A TIME OF CRISIS - Caring for Each Other

Our new PEP (Parish Emergency Planning) Group is meeting regularly to develop and put into practice plans for pastoral, spiritual and liturgical care in these very new circumstances..... We will hope to offer - **and have offered to us** - further ideas and opportunities in the weeks in front of us...

OUR NEW PASTORAL CARE GROUP

The new Covid 19 Parish Initiative "Adopt a Friend" Has Been Successfully Launched
Gary Zoltie writes: 'After a recent appeal to parishioners to support the vulnerable and those aged over 70 we have had an amazing response. We have 47 **FOLK (Folk Offering Logistical Kindness)** supporting 157 **PIPs (Possibly Isolated Parishioners)**.

The PIPs were sorted into their geographical areas around the Parishes of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's and split into 8 areas from Craigentenny in the West to Eastfield in the East and everywhere

else in between. We also have a group covering those who live outside the parishes. Each area has a leader whose job is to organise their FOLKS and ensure they have the resources to achieve our objectives of :-

- *Regular phone contact*
- *Buying and delivering shopping*
- *Collection and delivery of medication*
- *Delivery of the weekly newsletter*

We were aware that many of our over 70's are healthy and active and more used to giving than receiving help but we still thought it was worth making contact with them initially just in case. And obviously there are many who are older and in particular need of support at this time.

We launched the initiative last Monday and the response so far has been extremely positive with most of our PIPs really appreciating contact with their church community just over a week into the coronavirus lockdown.

If there is anyone that we have inadvertently missed that would like us to make contact with please do not hesitate to pass their details to Father Jock or myself (email: garyzoltie@hotmail.com or phone 07768647923).'

PS How did we arrive at FOLK and PIPs? By a little competition for the 8 area co-ordinators to come up with the best acronym, the winner of which Gary decreed would be decided by Fr Jock and would win a couple of bottles of wine. Little did he think that Fr Jock would award himself one of the prizes - for PIPs – although Lynda Kazimoglu was a rather more deserving victor for FOLK.

Parish Finances and Coronavirus

A Message from the diocese: 'We have been asked how people can continue to support their parish when we cannot put money in the plate at church. If your income has diminished because of the crisis, ***please do not*** feel obliged to contribute at this time. If your income is secure, ***the best option would be to set up a standing order*** (if your circumstances change, these can be amended/cancelled). If you have online banking you can set up a standing order form quickly using the parish sort code and account number. If you don't have online banking, we have standing order forms available which you can complete, sign and post to your bank (using the branch address on your cheque book or bank statement). Alternatively, you can donate using electronic banking.

The Parishes account details are:

St Mary Magdalene's:

Sort Code: 80-18-31

Account Number: 00277159

Account name - Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh – St Mary Magdalene's Church

Parish name - St Mary Magdalene's Church

St John's:

Sort Code: 80 – 46 - 53

Account Number: 10765768

Account name – St John the Evangelist

Please include your name as the payment reference

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 5 APRIL – SUNDAY 12 APRIL – PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Tuesday 7 April – 9.30am - Warriston Crematorium – **Funeral Service of Pasquale de Gaetano (Family Only)**

Thursday 9 April – 11.30am – Mount Vernon Cemetery - **Burial of Mary Glancy (Family Only)**

NOTICEBOARD

A Fond Farewell from Marie and Jan Kotasova, a young Lutheran couple from the Czech Republic, who for the last few months have been worshipping at St John's (and working on the Promenade in Miro's and the Beach House, respectively).

'Dear Father Jock,

This is definitely not the best way how to say goodbye, but unfortunately there is no other way these times. First of all, this is Marie and Jan, the Czech couple joining the Sunday services in St. John's, but we have met in Portobello restaurants as well:)

We would like to thank you for the community we could join, maybe a little bit unseen, but every Sunday meant a lot for us, being part of christian's community and knowing a place to come and feel welcomed was very important to us.

On the other hand, we would like to apologise, that we didn't manage the personal meeting with you, that we didn't maybe play a bigger role in the community life.

We planned to stay in Scotland for one year, but as it happens, God's plans are much more above our owns, so we are coming back to Czech Republic in few days.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to you and people, who we maybe don't know personally, but who were always so warmly welcoming us and wishing God's blessing. As I said, it meant a lot for us.

We wish you all God's grace and mercy for everyday now in these days as well as for all the church meetings and occasions, for all the hearts who are looking for it.

Let the words from John 1 be fulfilled in your church:

"In him was the life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

With the kindest regards, Marie and Jan (from Czech:)'

AN URGENT REQUEST FROM BETHANY – EMERGENCY £250 000 APPEAL

Alasdair Bennett, Chief Executive of Bethany Christian Trust writes 'It is hard to **#Stay Home** when you don't have a home. When you're homeless, you are more likely to suffer from underlying health conditions and don't have the facilities to wash your hands. Self-isolating can seem like a luxury.

That's why Bethany Christian Trust is determined to keep our doors open during this crisis, to do more to assist people and make sure all of our services stay operational.

Homeless people are being hit really hard by the coronavirus outbreak. Due to the temporary closure of our charity shops, **we urgently need your help** to ensure we can still give vital care and support to those who have nowhere else to go.

Please donate today so that we can protect the people who need us now more than ever.

We know that this is a difficult time for many people financially. You can help us by **copying this message and forwarding to your family and friends**, praying for our staff and people who use our services or **making a donation** to supporters@bethanychristiantrust.com

Together we can make sure no one is left alone or in danger. **Thank you for your valued support at this time of crisis.'**

Christian Meditation Online

'Experience the joy of God's healing presence during Christian meditation this special Lent. As long as the lock-down lasts, we meditate on Skype on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 7.30 p.m. The up-to-date schedule and connection instructions are here: <https://www.meetup.com/Christian-Meditation-Group/events/>
Contact info - mobile: 0771 777 2614 Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1cuO5QJ>'

Some Isolation activities

(Courtesy of St George's Alumni Network)

Gardening & Nature:

If you don't have a garden of your own, the **Botanics** in Edinburgh have started a 'Virtual Spring' on their website so you can see everything coming to life: <https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/virtual-spring/>.

Further afield, there are some amazing ‘journeys’ through the **American Great Parks**: <https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/parks>

Hobbies:

Bridge - Free sites since you can't get to your usual clubs:

Find free games at BBO bridge: www.bridgebase.com

Mr Bridge (Bernard Magee) for tutorials and interactive play: www.mrbridge.co.uk

Sport & Exercise:

Yoga with Adrien (beginners & all levels): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AYKMP6rOE>

Workouts with Joe Wicks: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1/videos>

Ballet classes: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/health/a31927123/free-online-ballet-classes/>

Educational:

Learn a **language** from scratch: <https://www.duolingo.com/learn>

Loads of **free courses**: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

Arts & Culture:

For **opera** lovers: <https://www.lamonnaie.be/fr/sections/388-mm-channel>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse>

Art for beginners: <http://rapidfireart.com/how-to-draw-for-beginners/>

Some great **free** shows: <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/17/hottest-front-room-seats-the-besttheatre-and-dance-to-watch-online>

“Spiritual Communion”

As you are aware, in order to try to limit the spread of Covid-19, all public Masses have been suspended for the foreseeable future. This means that many people who are used to receiving Holy Communion regularly at Mass will not be able to do so for the time being.

During this “Eucharistic Fast” one way to keep close to the Lord is to make a “Spiritual Communion.” This is an ancient spiritual tradition of the Church which consists in making a simple act of “spiritual communion,” whereby we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to receive Holy Communion.

The great 13th century Dominican Friar, St. Thomas Aquinas defined a Spiritual Communion as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion at Mass] and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him.” You can make a Spiritual Communion at communion time during a live-streamed or recorded Mass – or, indeed, whenever and wherever you like, using the prayer given below, or others like it, or your own heartfelt thoughts.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Memorare (which Archbishop Cushley is inviting us to pray each day)

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Rita Denny, Margaret Stanton, Pasquale Gaetano, Fr Joe Miller, John Conaghan, Veronica McIvor, William O'Donnell and Fr John Quinn

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Patrick Green, Pierrino Crolla,

St John's

Apr.5:- Grace Kelegher (2014); Maureen Pitter (2012); Denis Holligan (1962); Annie Bonnar; Norah Cavaye; **Apr.6:-** Betty Munro (1997); Elizabeth Rennie (1997); **Apr.7:-** Pierrino Crolla (2014); Fr. Joseph Magee (1992); Patrick Taylor (1990); **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:-** Janet Clark (1990); Mary Quadbeck (2006); Alexander Holligan (1998); Elizabeth Meagher (1998);

St Mary Magdalene's

Apr.5:- John Boyle (2001); **Apr.8:-** Jean King (1993); **Apr.10:-** Elizabeth Moohan (1983); **Apr.12:-** Jean Newlands (1972);

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Bernadette Campbell, Susan O'Hara, David Reid, Molly Lugton, Jamie Clark, Sheila and Pat Tansey, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Sheila Alexander, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Marie White, Cathy Walls, Anna Butler, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Guilio Crolla, Alf Macnamara, Stan McKay, Hugh Shannon, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Isobel Phillips, Denis Davidson, Bill Cheyne, Sam Burns, Ella Ayers, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Elizabeth Mackail, John Prior, Sheila Service, John Newell, Ray Donnelly, Michael McPhillips, Agnes Harvey, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Chris English, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, and Mary & James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Louise Short, Paul Henderson, Rita Rigg, Ellen Green, Adrian Aylward, Andrew Preston, Celine Diniz, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Margaret Lee, Joan Bonnar, Mekala Osborne, Jean Nelson, Frances Green, Felicity McCluskey, Stephen Fernie, Maureen Henderson, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Anthony Finnerty, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Peter Hanley, Hazel Marshall, Sr Veronica Marshall, Martin Doherty, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Joseph Daly, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden, George Collins, Ena McCann, John Donnelly, Noel Flanagan and young Ray Donovan Syme.

Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
22 March 2020	Direct Debits - £50.00	Direct Debits - £384.75

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Coronavirus Impact on St John's Income

Gary Zoltie writes: 'The weekly offertory collections are the main source of income at St John's where on average we collect over the two weekend masses around £700-£900 per week in cash, either through gift aid envelopes or in the plate. This income has suddenly stopped but unfortunately our running costs will continue at the normal rate. This will have a dramatic impact on our bank account balance over an unknown number of weeks. Thankfully some income is coming in through standing orders but I would ask that if you can – and **only** if you can – please continue to make a regular weekly or monthly donation through either posting your gift aid envelope through the Parish house door or making a bank transfer, or set up an online standing order payment to the church bank account. The sort code is 80-46-53, Account number 10765768. This would be very much appreciated.'

The St John's 2020-21 **Gift Aid envelopes** have been sent out by post. If you would like to set up a standing order or join the Gift Aid scheme then please do let Gary, Siobhan or Karen know

MASS INTENTIONS: This week Patrick Green, People of the Parish, Mgr Brian Halloran, Barbara Devlin and Mary Service, Tony Conway and Mary McLean.

PRAYER RESOURCES ONLINE FOR TROUBLED TIMES

Pray-As-You-Go

Pray As You Go is a daily prayer session, based on Ignatian spirituality to help you become more aware of God's presence in your life; listen to and reflect on God's word and grow in your relationship with God. Also on the site - 'Pray as you Stay' provides extra resources to support you during this time of self-isolation.

From the **Jesuits in Britain**, a useful page of further resources to find ways to be near Jesus and pray with others around the world at this difficult time.

Sacred Space. A daily prayer resource, by the Irish Jesuits.

The Taize community is broadcasting evening prayer live from the community in France every day at 8.30pm Central European Time (7.30pm UK)

The Corrymeela Community has produced "**Prayers for Community in a Time of Pandemic**".

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

The World Community for Christian Meditation teaches the Christian tradition of Meditation with guidance, learning resources and opportunities to join online meditation groups. WCCM is also offering a contemplative path through the crisis.

Other recommended sites where you can subscribe to Daily E-Meditations:

Centre for Action and Contemplation: Provides contemplative programs and resources including podcasts and a daily meditation on the theme of 'Action & Contemplation'.

Henri Nouwen Society: Drawn from a wide range of Henri Nouwen's writing, these short daily meditations will inspire and guide your mind and heart.

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Bayard have provided the text of Sunday Liturgies, including those for children, free online, as well as other online resources.

St Mary's Press has online readings, reflections, questions and activities, suitable for young people and children, updated daily.

SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Published by the Church of England **Supporting Good Mental Health** is a series of reflections on how to cope with anxiety and loneliness in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, including simple Christian meditation techniques and five tips.

(With thanks to Rowena Diggle)