

**THE PARISHES OF  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE**

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

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Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Pauline Connarty

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Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)

Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: [stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)

**Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle B) 14th December 2014**

**'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'**

**THE CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SERVICE** takes place this Sunday, 14 December, at 5pm, Portobello Baptist Church, 269 Portobello High Street. A warm invitation is extended to everybody ..

**Advent House Groups** (reflecting on the Advent Sunday Gospels and Pope Francis' 'Joy of the Gospel'). There are five house groups in our two parishes meeting last week and this. Three of the groups are in St John's, two in St Mary Magdalene's, though people have been encouraged to sign up for whichever time and venue suits them, irrespective of parish boundaries!

DATE	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT	LED BY
TUESDAY 16 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm	35 Morton Street	Jim/Evelynne Roarty 669 0896	Sheelagh/Geoff Dobson
WEDNESDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Duddingston Park South	Una Gallagher 657 2831	Tessa Haring
THURSDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	90 Bingham Broadway	Una Gallagher 657 2831	Kate Neilson
	7.00pm	4 Goff Avenue	Laura/Keith Young 629 0270	Laura Young
	8.00pm	83 Baronscourt Terrace	Laurie Blyth 652 0413	Siobhan Sellar

**Sacramental Initiation Preparation** Next Sunday morning 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.15am at St Mary Magdalene's Church, there will be the Rite of Illumination for Primary 3 candidates preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and 'Do This in Memory of Me' liturgy for Primary 4 candidates for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

**Prayer partners** for the candidates as they make their sacramental journey are as follows: Julia Malcher/Jean Douglas, Kacper Morrison/Ann Dockrell, Mia Morrison/Isobel Forbes, Liam Murray/Maureen Newell, Ailis McCabe/Christine English, Emily McKenzie/Mary McGovern, Finlay McWilliam/Sandra Watt, Alessandro Pacitti/John Wallace, Alexandra Pometcu/Pat Gilmartin, Alex Roy/Kate Neilson, Jakub Sinclair/KenMcPherson, Sara Sinclair/Una Gallagher, Connor Stewart/Laura Tweedie, Peter Foo/Dorothy Dickson, Lucy Stewart/Alice Neilson, Patrick Martin Welsh/Sheila Dobson, Joe Wilson/Margaret Duffy, India Young/Charlotte Lauder, Sean Brannan/Margaret Ritchie, Conor McNamara/Eileen Gallagher, Nicholas Carr/Kathy Gallagher, James Craig/Anne Marie Aitken, Josh Crolla/Maria Igoe, Chiara Crolla/Rosalind Mackay, George Davie/Arlene Lauder, Grant Daly/Anne Thomson, Tara Divito/Kitty Dykes, Kerry Gallagher/John Lauder, James Gribben/Julie Collins, Keira Jamieson/Janet Flucker, Beth Johnston/Maureen Brogan, Cyprian Kreft/Margaret Reilly, Aaron Kubasik/Mike Reilly, Danny Lewis/Gerry Gallagher, Dylan Loy/Sheila Gallagher.

**A big thank you to 'Mrs Santa' (Gena Gallagher) and her friendly elves** for serving up a delicious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to the 45 guests who battled through the wind and snow to make it to the St John's Seniors' Christmas Dinner Party. Thanks also to the trusty drivers who braved the elements to provide transport and also to the musicians and dancers who provided the entertainment. A very special thanks to the pupils from St John's Primary School, led by Claire Miller, whose warmth and cheer and hearty singing made this an unmissable event.

**Christmas Party Night at the George Hotel, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm - 1am:** A reminder from Geraldine Mackie to all who bought tickets for the night out this Saturday '... if you have a ticket (or two) that may not be used, please phone me on 07707588363 so that they can be passed on, since we have had some late requests for tickets.'

**LAST CHANCE TO...**

**Come along and enjoy 15 minutes of 'Carols in the Car Park'!** The time: 5pm. The date: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The place: St Mary Magdalene's Car Park. Not to be missed.

**Greetings from Tanzania:** Mike Knox writes (11 December 2014): 'It is now over two weeks since I began to enjoy a warm and sunny climate. Last week I spent working with the new Primary Class at St Ursula's. Sr Conjesta sends her best wishes. 15 of the Makutano Group arrived last night and will be staying here for the next 10 days thinking, praying about and planning the year ahead. From Friday we will be taking part in the 7 day Diocesan Youth Rally here at the Cathedral in Moshi. They are expecting around 2,000 young adults. We are to lead the day on Monday coming on the Global Vision theme. Your prayers would be much appreciated, as always. I will be going to Legho after it has finished on 20 December. All the best for now. Mike'

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED** We are asked to join CAN in prayer this Advent for Christian people in the Middle East who are suffering persecution because of their faith.

**Life Under Occupation in a Divided Land** Portobello & Musselburgh Quaker Meeting has invited Bronwen Currie to give a talk about her experience in the West Bank on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 7 to 9pm, at Portobello Joppa Parish Church (St Philips), Brunstane Road, ED15 2DL. Bronwen served as human rights observer this year with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel <http://eappi.org/en> based in Al Ram just north of Jerusalem and covering the Ramallah governorate, as well as travelling within Israel and further afield in the occupied West Bank. While there Bronwen wrote a weekly blog which can be found at <https://broncurrie.wordpress.com/>

**P.A.C.T. Annual Burns Supper** Siobhan Sellar writes: 'The Annual Burns Supper organised by Portobello Area Churches Together for Christian Aid will take place at 7pm on 17 January 2015 in the church hall of Portobello & Joppa Parish Church of Scotland, Brunstane Road. Kenny MacAskill MSP will deliver the immortal memory, Rev Jim Jack from Duddingston Kirk the toast to the lassies and Liz Henderson the toast to the laddies. Anyone interested in tickets can contact Ian and Shirley Wilson [ianandshirley@talktalk.net](mailto:ianandshirley@talktalk.net)'

**Teacher Job Vacancies in Catholic Schools** A list of vacancies has been posted at the back of both churches. Full details can be viewed on [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk)

**ST MARY  
MAGDALENE'S**

**Welcome to the world ... Michael John Pettigrew,** a son for Susan & John, and a little brother for Grace!

**Readers for this Sunday:** Sam Henry & Tessa Haring  
... and for next Sunday Childrens Mass

**Bidding Prayers:** Jean Douglas  
**Bidding Prayers:** Childrens Mass

**Reaching out to the Community... Una Gallagher writes:** 'If you are sending Christmas Cards to neighbours why not invite them along to our Christmas services? Leaflets to insert in the cards can be found at the back of the Church.'

If anyone needs transport or knows of anyone who needs transport to any of the Christmastide services please put contact details on the sheet in the Porch or ring Una Gallagher on 0131 657 2831. Also if you can help provide transport please put your name on the list in the porch.

**Maria Igoe writes:** 'The Coffee Morning in aid of 'Chance for Childhood' raised £100. Thank you for your generosity.'

**FRESH START. Jim Roarty writes:** 'Thank you for all your generous contributions to Fresh Start throughout the year. To see how these are being put to good use, please pick up the Fresh Start newsletter and Annual Review from the back of the church.'

**Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas Masses:**

**6.00pm Vigil Mass:** C Vinestock, B Gallagher, K Gallagher, P MacInnes, Evelyn Buckley.

**8.30pm Vigil Mass:** L Moran, L Brown, H Brown, G Sellar, M Spencer.

(Names in bold type to set up please.)

**St. John's**

**WE ARE ALL CALLED ...**

*We may not all be called to do great things that make the headlines, but we are all called to love and be loved, wherever we may be. We are called to be open and to grow in love and thus to communicate life to others, especially to those in need.*

**Offertory Collection - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**  
**St Mary Magdalene's - £307.45 St John's - £ 947.24**  
**MANY THANKS.**

**Please pray for those who have died recently, including:** Stan Tweedie, Jimmy Duke, Rob Johnston and Andrew Noctor.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including:** Margaret Knowles, Jim Marin, Joan Peet, Peter Brown, Annie Christina Dobson, Margaret Ward, Margaret Donaldson, Jeannie O'Brien, William Cotterell, Edward D Maher, Janet Peters, Catherine Carvell, Catherine Connell, Sarah Carty, John Nolans, Catherine Young, Patricia Scott, Winifred Curran, Mary Meehan, Margaret Mary Dick, Maurice O'Neill, Elizabeth Grieve, Annie Nelson, Francis Joseph Gralton, Christina Trinder, Agostino Nicora, Pauline Iannarelli, Robert Devine, Derek Aitken, William Rafferty, Robert Greenan, Frances Rooney, Paddy Breen, John Breen, and Frances Welby.

**Please pray for the sick of our sister parishes, including:**

**Sick Parishioners - St. John's:** Monsignor James Rae, Mary Grady, Helen Somervell, Mike Iannarelli, Eddie Clark, Sarah Clark, Baby Ailsa Fitzgerald, Jane McGuire, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Mona Scoular, Jenny Wormald, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Betty Diponio, Erin Corbett, Sheila Alexander, Fay Dignan, Roz Byers, Michael & Mamie Richards, Pat Kershaw, Joan Howie, Helen Harrison, Cathy McGravie, Alf Macnamara, Marie Angela Crolla, Dolores Jones, Malachy Meehan, Jane Murray, Paul Bainbridge, Ann Ward, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

**Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's:** Chris English, Betty McEwing, Annie Watson, Anne McGeachie, Mary Robertson, Maria Juska, Isobel Phillips, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Silvia Berry, Tony Matrundala, Mary & James Muir, Liz Davis, Rose McKay, Jude Ferguson and Denis Davidson.

**Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:** Anne-Louise Dalrymple, Anne Gallagher, Margaret Davis, Christine Wilson, Dorothy Jamal, John Allan, Jane Morton, Christian Parham, Alfred Baird, Conor Kerrigan, Rupert Ridge, Jerzy Gladziuk, Vera Hawkes, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, Maria St. Denis, and baby Ray Donovan Syme.

**DIARY**

### **THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY 14th December: RECONCILIATION SUNDAY** (with several priests available to celebrate the sacrament during our Sunday Masses).

**5pm: Portobello Baptist Church, 269 Portobello High St: CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SERVICE. All welcome.**

**MONDAY 15th December: 2.30pm: St John's Church: ADVENT MASS OF HEALING** - followed by the sacrament of reconciliation for those who wish. The Rosary will be recited at 2.15pm. All are invited to the Hall for teas and home baking after Mass. Please come forward ... if you are available to provide transport for housebound parishioners who would otherwise be unable to attend this Mass. If you are able to help, please contact Maria Igoe (669 2960).

**TUESDAY 16th December: 8pm: Parish House: RCIA Mass & Celebration** - at the end of the Enquiry Stage and the beginning of the period of the catechumenate.

**THURSDAY 18th December: 10am: St John's Church: Requiem Mass for Stan Tweedie.**

**3pm: Seafield Crematorium: Funeral Service for Jimmy Duke.**

**SATURDAY 20th December: 7pm to 1am: Christmas Party Night at the George Hotel.**

### **IN THE COMING WEEKS**

**SUNDAY 21st December: 9.30am: St John's Church: Children's Mass**

**11.15am: St Mary Magdalene's Church: Mass for Primary 3 & 4 candidates preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.**

**2.30pm: St John's Church: Nuptial Mass of John Manahan & Angela Brown**

**MONDAY 22nd & TUESDAY 23rd December: 9am – 9pm: St John's Church Open Doors** The hope is to have the Church open and warm all day - with music playing quietly and Advent & Christmas reading/meditation on offer - for people to pop in for a time of quiet on the busiest of pre-Christmas days.

**SUNDAY 4th January (The Feast of the Epiphany): 7-9pm: St John's Church Hall: AN EPIPHANY RETREAT WITH ICONS.** More details next week.

**AND FINALLY ...** Below is a translation of the prayer that the Holy Father composed and recited this year during the Act of Veneration of the Immaculate Conception in Piazza di Spagna in Rome on 8th December, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

*'Oh Mary, our Mother, Today the people of God in celebration venerate the Immaculate, always preserved from the contagion of sin. Accept the gift I offer on behalf of the Church in Rome and throughout the world. Knowing that You, our Mother, are completely free from sin gives us great comfort. Knowing that evil has no power over You, fills us with hope and fortitude in the daily struggle that we must fulfil against the threats of the evil one. But we are not alone in this struggle, we are not orphans, because Jesus, before dying on the cross, has given You to us as Mother. We, therefore, despite being sinners, are your children, sons of the Immaculate, called to the holiness that shines through You by the grace of God from the beginning. Animated by this hope, we pray today for Your maternal protection for us, for our families, for this city, for the whole world. May the power of God's love, that preserved You from original sin, through your intercession, free humanity from every spiritual and material slavery, and make us win, in hearts and in events, God's plan of salvation. May grace prevail in us, Your children, over pride and we can become merciful. In this time that leads us towards the feast of the Nativity of Jesus, teach us to go against the tide: to divest ourselves, to lower ourselves, to give ourselves, to listen, to be silent, to decentralize ourselves, to make room for the beauty of God, the source of true joy. Oh Immaculate, Our Mother, pray for us!*

## Masses, Devotions and Services

	<b>St John the Evangelist</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
<b>Saturday 13th December</b> <i>Memorial of St Lucy</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Sam Kershaw <i>Morning Mass followed by the sacrament of Reconciliation</i>  <b>6.30pm Vigil:</b> Kitty & Bertie de Marco	
<b>Sunday 14th December</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	<b>11.15am Mass:</b> Special Intention (Christmas Bouquet)
<b>Monday 15th December</b>	<b>2.30 pm Mass:</b> Michael Keogh  <b>7pm to 8pm:</b> <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
<b>Tuesday 16th December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion Service</b>	<b>7.00pm Mass:</b> George Hooper
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Joan Peet	
<b>Thursday 18th December</b>	<b>10.00am:</b> Requiem Mass for Stan Tweedie	
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Margaret Knowles  <b>3pm to 4pm:</b> <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	
<b>Saturday 20th December</b>	<b>10.00am Communion Service</b>  <b>6.30pm Vigil:</b> Special Intention	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Jim Marin
<b>Sunday 21st December</b> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>9.30am Mass:</b> Special Intention	<b>11.15am Mass:</b> People of the Parish

Light looked down and beheld darkness, 'Thither I will go', said light.  
 Peace looked down and beheld war, 'Thither I will go', said peace.  
 Love looked down and beheld hatred, 'Thither I will go', said love.  
 So came light and shone; So came Love and brought Life  
 And the Word was made flesh  
 And dwelt among us.  
 (Laurence Houseman)