

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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle B) 21st December 2014

'In quietness as she waited,

God became Human.'



WELCOME! ... Fr Jock would like to welcome most warmly all visitors to our sister parishes for the festive season, to wish everybody a Happy and Holy Christmas, and particularly to thank all who work so generously for their Lord and our Parishes – especially in this festive season but also throughout the year.

St John's Church Open Doors: 9am – 9pm: Monday & Tuesday 22nd & 23rd December.

Why not pop in for a time of quiet reflection and preparation ... the church will be warm, there will be quiet music, handouts will be available to read, and there will be the opportunity to make yourself a cup of tea or coffee. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30am to 11.30am, 2.30 to 3.30pm and 7pm to 8pm on both days.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Fr Jock will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation after 10am Masses on Monday & Tuesday at St John's, and on Wednesday after 10am Mass at St Mary Magdalene's.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

	<u>St John the Evangelist</u>	<u>St Mary Magdalene</u>
Christmas Eve	6.00pm: Christmas Children's Mass 8.30pm: Christmas Vigil Mass	- 8.30pm: Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Day		10.30am: Christmas Children's Mass

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS-TIDE SERVICES

	<u>St John the Evangelist</u>	<u>St Mary Magdalene</u>
Saturday 27th December	10am: Mass on the Patronal Feast of St John the Evangelist	-
Wednesday 31st December	7pm: Hogmanay Mass	
Thursday 1st January		11.30am: Mass on the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

WELCOME TO THE WORLD...Everly Young, born on Sunday 14th December, a daughter for Mary & Michael, and a twelfth grandchild for Mary and Robert McGovern.

... and **WARM BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** to **Kathy Gallagher**, who celebrates her 80th birthday today, Sunday 21st December!

PRAYER PARTNERS: In last week's newsletter, there was a list printed of all the Primary 4 children's prayer partners. It is hoped the prayer partners will say a prayer each day for 'their' child in the build-up to the celebration of Confirmation in May and First Communion in June; and will try to be present for these celebrations - and, if they can, for the monthly 'Do This In Memory Of Me' Masses.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Offerings placed in the basket at the Crib in both churches will go to the Archdiocesan Care Fund which helps those in need throughout the Archdiocese.

Christian Aid Carol Service: £496 was raised at the Portobello Area Churches Together (PACT) Carol Service last weekend at the Baptist Church in aid of Christian Aid. The UK Government is doubling every pound donated this Christmas. Thanks to all those who supported the event.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

Readers for this Sunday: Children's Mass
... and for next Sunday John Cunningham & Anne Jabir

Bidding Prayers: Children's Mass
Bidding Prayers: Kate Neilson

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.

Food: We will be having a small celebration after each of our Christmastide services. If you would like to contribute food please put your name and details of what you will provide on the sheet in the porch.

200 CLUB

The winner of the 200 club for November is Bernard Ayres: No 149.

AND FINALLY ... thank you to Veronica Mclauchlan for the lovely table she has given us for the Porch.

LEGHO. Over the years parishioners at St John's have been invited to contribute to a Christmas gift to Legho to support the projects the communities are developing. There will be an opportunity to make your donation at a leaving collection following both Masses at St John's next weekend, 27th & 28th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. Visit www.twendepamojatruster.blogspot.com to see the latest photographs.

St. John's

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION This is a special Envelope Collection. Over the years it has become an integral part of our Annual Parish Revenue on which we depend to balance our Budget. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church if you wish to make a Christmas Offering.

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.)

Offertory Collection - 13th & 14th December 2014
St Mary Magdalene's - £232.50 St John's - £ 880.38
MANY THANKS.

Please pray for those who have died recently, including: Aruba Jabir, Annie Rushe, and Francis Harvey.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Mary McNally, Sandy Mackay, Mary & Pat McClory, Mary Gallagher, Francis O'Connor, Jean Malcolm, Alexander Paton, Eileen Flannigan, Francis Rooney Jr., Joseph Desmond, Thomas Heaney, Francis Rooney Sen., George & Esther Watters, The Laurie Family, the Harrison Family, The Clyne Family, the Lynch Family, Alice Taylor, Cecelia McIntyre, Tom Brennan, Elizabeth Welby, Anne Bridget Gallagher, James McGravie, John Scally, Molly Govan, Raymond Demarco, Mary Sweeney, (Baby) Carol Begg, James Cordery, Arthur Scholan, John Callaghan, Hugh Docherty, Francis Skey, Ian Holligan, William Pringle, James Moran, Mary Fusco, David Headspeath, Marjory Graham, Margaret Gowans, James O'Brien Sen., Alexandrina Bell, Joseph Mullan Sen., and Joseph Mullan Jr.

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, Ann Ward, Paul Bainbridge, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

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

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Anne-Louise Dalrymple, baby Ava Gillies, 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 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 Church will be open and warm all day - with music playing quietly and Advent and Christmas reading/meditation on offer - for people to pop in for a time of quiet on the busiest of pre-Christmas days.

WEDNESDAY 24th December: 7pm: Royal Infirmary: Carol Singing with the Salvation Army Band ... gathering in Board Room One (second floor). 'We would be delighted if friends from the local churches could join us. (As in previous years, parking will be free.)'

SATURDAY 27th December: 10am: St John's: Mass on the Patronal Feast of St John...followed by a little celebration in the Hall.

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Remember the Christmas season continues right through to the Feast of the Epiphany (on the 4th) and The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (on the 11th) - so we offer an evening retreat on ICONS....

SUNDAY 4th January (The Feast of the Epiphany): 7-9pm: St John's Church: "This is my son, the beloved" Images of Christ revealed through iconography. Join us for prayer around the icon of **The Baptism of Jesus.** A retreat facilitated by Diocesan Retreat Team, Sr Kathleen Curran UJ and Juliet MacKellaig.

PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS – A Reflection by PJ McCamphill

'Here I am again
wondering what present to buy for Christmas
and forgetting that the best present I can give
is just to be
present

present to the family who grew with me
to the friends whose joy bubbles my life
to the sick whose pain heavies my heart
to the lonely whose longing is for a visit
or a word or a gesture
to the down-of-heart whose sorrow saddens
my joy

present also, if only in prayer, to those I just don't like
to those who annoy me
those I've quarrelled with during the year

present from the busyness of life
with the gentleness of the Child
to as many as I can
this Christmas time

present by prayer, visit, text, card, email

present to Jesus the Child
who is present to me
always.

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 20th December	10.00am Mass: Communion Service 6.30pm Vigil: Joyce Hughes	10.00am Mass: Jim Marin
Sunday 21st December <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	9.30am Mass: Sandy Mackay	11.15am Mass: Mary & Pat McClory
Monday 22nd December	10.00am Mass: William Smith <i>Morning Mass followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.</i> 7pm to 8pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Tuesday 23rd December <i>Memorial of St John of Kanty, Priest.</i>	10.00am Mass: Special Intention <i>Morning Mass followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	
Wednesday 24th December <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	10.00am Communion Service 6.00pm Christmas Children's Mass: Andrew Noctor 8.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass: Special Intention	10.00am Mass: Mrs Sneddon <i>Morning Mass followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> 8.30pm Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 25th December <i>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD</i>		10.30am Christmas Children's Mass Timothy Regan
Friday 26th December <i>FEAST OF ST STEPHEN</i>	10.00am Communion Service 3pm to 4pm: <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	
Saturday 27th December <i>FEAST OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST</i>	10.00am Feast Day Mass Special Intention 6.30pm Vigil: Anne Rushe	
Sunday 28th December <i>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</i>	9.30am Mass: People of the Parish	11.15am Mass: Special Intention (Christmas Bouquet)

*Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
 For he has visited his people,
 He has come to their rescue and he has raised up for us
 A power for Salvation.*

