

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

12th April 2015

With this newsletter comes a pastoral letter from the Bishops' Conference of Scotland on the General Election. Please read it.

Please remember to return your SCIAF 'wee boxes' (if you haven't already). The UK Government will match every £1 you donate to SCIAF this Easter, but we must have this money counted and returned to SCIAF in early May, so please do hand in your Lenten offerings in good time to allow us to take advantage of this scheme.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 12th April: 1.15pm: Baptism of Leo Connal-McCabe

Sunday 12th April: 3pm to 5.30pm: St Mary's Cathedral:

The Feast of Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy Group invites you to join their celebrations. Please see posters at the back of each Church for further details.

Monday 13th April: 7.30pm: Lauriston Place: SCHOOL OF PRAYER. The first in a series of workshops being run by the Jesuit Fathers. *The Examen: Finding God in Every Day* (Peter Scally). To be followed by ...

Monday 20th April: 7.30pm: *Scripture and Ignatian Prayer* (Jim Crampsey)

Monday 27th April: 7.30pm: *Artistic Imagination and Prayer* (Gero McLoughlin)

Monday 4th May: 7.30pm: *Prayer and being called: Discernment* (Cath McManus)

Monday 1st June: 7.30pm: *Decision Making on the road through grief* (Brendan McManus)

Admission by donation. For more information visit www.lauriston.org.uk

Tuesday 14th April: 8pm: RCIA begins again . . .

Wednesday 15th April: 3pm: Funeral Service for Samuel Casement

Thursday 16th April: 12 noon: Parish House: Pastoral Team Meeting

Sunday 19th April:

9.30am: St John's: Mass with focus on Primary 4 *Do This in Memory of Me* children

11.15am: St Mary Magdalene's: Children's Mass

1.15pm: St John's: Baptism of Jay, Ellie and Layla Porteous



*REJOICE!
JESUS IS ALIVE!*

Offertory Collection on 4th AND 5th April 2015
St Mary Magdalene's - £ 903.70 St John's - £ 1976.13
MANY THANKS

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Monday 20th April: 2.30pm: St John's Church: Mass with Anointing (Healing Mass) - 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 cakes after Mass.

Sunday 26th April: Outing to Nunraw Abbey: Maria Igoe writes: 'Our minibus will leave St John's at 1pm and return at 7.30pm. The cost will be £8. Please bring a sandwich. Tea and biscuits will be supplied at the Monastery. If you wish to go, please give your name to me, 669 0247'.

Wednesday 29th April: 7.00pm: Sacred Heart, Lauriston: Good News about Catholic Social Teaching with Miriam McHardy, diocesan Justice and Peace Co-ordinator.

April 29th, 30th & 1st May: 7:30pm: Churchill Theatre: Edinburgh Telephone Choir - 68th Annual Concert featuring *A Night at the Movies*: Musical Director Jerry Gregson, Accompanist Marion McPherson with guest artists KS Dance Academy and Broxburn & Livingston Brass Band. (*Remember their wonderful concert at St John's last December!*)

May 4th Bank Holiday Club Day: 'On Monday, 4 May, from 9am to 12:45pm, there will be a holiday club day at the halls and church on Bellfield Street (formerly the Old Parish, Portobello). School children in nursery (aged 3) to Primary 7 are welcome to attend. The day will include worship, crafts, games, drama, music, a bible story, and snack. This is a sneak peak at our plans for the summer holiday club scheduled for 20 July to 24 July. The cost to attend on 4 May is £1 per child. To register your child for this one day event, please email Michelle Brown at portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com'

Sunday 10th May: 7.30pm: Portobello & Joppa Parish Church, Joppa: *The Feast of Life: A Musical of Hope from Christian Aid.* Tickets £5 (accompanied children free) from Ian Warwick 669-4906 or any Feast of Life Singers. Refreshments after the performance. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those whose have died recently, including: Samuel Casement

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Hugh Jack, Elizabeth Meagher, Alexander Holligan, Mary Quadbeck, Michael Gilmartin, John Burns, John Heron, Edmund F. Flannigan, Kathleen Scott, Charles McCann, James Ward Snr, John Rae Snr, Andrew Mannering, Richard Thomson, Alexandrina Rae Mackay, James P. Igoe, Mrs Duffy, Elizabeth Demarco (Fusco), Veronica Rowley, Elizabeth Delaney, Agnes Adamson, John Rae Jr, Julia Lacey, Robert Hazlett.

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

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Michele Grandone, Mgr James Rae, Gerry Gallagher, Maureen Lawrie, Jude Payne, Maria Domenica Crolla, Mary Grady, Baby Ailsa Fitzgerald, Jane McGuire, Mona Scoular, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Jenny Wormald, Erin Corbett, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Fay Dignan, Sheila Alexander, 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, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Pat Gilmartin, 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: Valentino and Paloma Rivera, Lorna Igoe, Isabel McInrue, Jeanette Amos, Anne Gallagher, Denise O'Donnell, Margaret Davis, Dorothy Jamal, John Allan, Jane Morton, Christopher Browne, Christian and John Parham, Conor Kerrigan, Rupert Ridge, Vera Hawkes, Maria St. Denis, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, and baby Ray Donovan Syme.

Readers for this Sunday:

Sam Henry & Tessa Haring

Bidding Prayers: Anne Jabir

... and for next Sunday:

Children's Mass

Bidding Prayers: Children's Mass

FOOD PARCEL SERVICE: If you would like to donate to the food parcel service supporting families in the local community, please leave donations of tinned food in the box provided at the back of the Church. Tins of tuna, hotdogs and meatballs would be much appreciated, as would any toiletries you can donate. These will be distributed from St Teresa of Lisieux Parish who are helping 8 to 10 families per week.

**ST MARY
MAGDALENE'S**

St. John's

Come along to our Spring Fayre in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 2nd May. There will be teas and coffees and home baking, a plant sale, face painting and lots more. We are looking for donations for the tombola and raffle and volunteers to help organise and join in the fun. For more information please contact Linda and Hugh Brown 665-1464.

GIFT AID: If you have not already received your new Gift Aid envelopes, please pick them up at the back of the church. If you are not already a Gift Aid Donor and would like to contribute via this worthwhile scheme, please don't hesitate to contact Pauline Connarty in the Parish Office (0131 669 5447) to find out how it works.

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 11th April HOLY SATURDAY	10.00am Mass: Peter Mcguigan & Eileen Mcglinchey 6.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	
Sunday 12th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY	9.30am: Canon Patrick Moss 1.15 pm: Baptism of Leo Connal-McCabe	11.15am: Mgr Gerard Brennan
Monday 13th April	10am Mass: Special Intention	
Tuesday 14th April	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	7.00pm Mass: Hugh Jack
Wednesday 15th April	10.00am Mass: Jimmy Igoe	
Thursday 16th April	10.00am Mass: Golden Jubilee of 4 Sacred Heart Sisters	
Friday 17th April	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	10.00am Mass: Special Intention
Saturday 18th April	10.00am Mass 6.30pm Vigil Mass: Canon Michael Cassidy	
Sunday 19th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am Mass: Helen Budge 1.15pm: Baptism of Jay, Ellie & Layla Porteous	11.15am Mass: People of the Parish

The Process of Transformation

Jesus came to bring together in unity all the dispersed people of God He is going to transform the hierarchies in which each group, each person, seeks the highest and strongest position, into a body in which each one, from the strongest to the most vulnerable, can find their place.

Jean Vanier, Signs: Seven Words of Hope, Novalis, 2013, pp. 79-80

Portobello Holiday Club: 20-24 July - for Nursery - P 7 children

Michelle Brown writes:

'Our ecumenical holiday club will run from Monday, 20 July to Friday, 24 July 2015 from 9am to 12.45pm, for nursery-aged to P7-aged children at the church and halls on Bellfield Street (formerly the Old Parish, Portobello).

Advertising flyers and registration information will soon be available in May from the participating churches, local schools and the library. We are also having a one-off trial day on Monday, 4 May from 9am to 12.45pm. To register your child for this one-day event, please email me at portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com

For this year's holiday club, we will be using the Scripture Union material called Waste Watchers! The Waste Watchers material will take us on an exciting adventure through the story of creation, some of Jesus' miracles and his death and resurrection. The theme is the environment - God made a perfect world but then humans destroyed it. Through the week the children will learn how having Jesus in their lives can bring back the beauty.

We will be having a mixture of crafts, games, drama, music, Bible stories, quizzes, and lots of fun as we share the Gospel message with the children who come along. We are also inviting secondary school-aged children to take part as junior leaders and there will be two youth nights for those volunteers during holiday club week as well, which will be social events held at the Portobello Baptist Café.

On Thursday, 23 July, we will hold a parents' and friends' evening at the church to share more about what happens at holiday club.

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering to help, contact Michelle Brown and Bel Reynolds at portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com

Imagine . . . Easter Sunday Morning . . .

Mary, Just Before Dawn

*In the night the woman rocks in a chair,
rocking for the son now gone.*

*Her pierced heart still broken and bleeding,
beating with hope against hope
and for love now lost.*

*The wick she had trimmed, the light she had
tended now gone out,
in a last breath, she saw
but could not grasp.*

*Her hope
her sun
lost in a moment of moments
of helpless grief,
unending.*

*Numbness of night
with the heavy promise
of inevitable dawn
and the sharp knife of the day.*

*But still, in the place and space
unbelievable,
inconceivable,
a distant star, half glimpsed
hangs behind the cloud.*

*Then
in a moment unexpected
unannounced
the morning star
is in her eyes
dazzling*

*and life
and love
and warmth flood the room
and fill all to all fullness.*

*A sunrise gaze
seen with open eyes
on a day never ending.*

*No words spoken
No words needed.*

Looking in the Right Place

There is a story told by the American-born teacher, Gangaji, in *The Diamond in Your Pocket*, of a thief who stole only the most exquisite gems. He would hang around the diamond district to see who was buying the gems, so that he could pick their pockets.

One day the thief saw a well-known diamond merchant buy the jewel he had been waiting for all his life. It was the most pristine, the purest of diamonds. Very excited, the thief followed the diamond merchant as he boarded the train, getting into the same compartment. He spent the entire three-day journey trying to pick the merchant's pocket and steal the diamond.

When the diamond merchant got off the train the pickpocket followed. Finally, very frustrated, he walked up to the merchant and asked how he had hidden the diamond from him.

'Well, I saw you watching me in the diamond district,' the diamond merchant replied, 'and I suspected you were a pickpocket. So I hid the diamond where I thought you would be least likely to look for it - in your own pocket.' He then reached into the thief's pocket and pulled out the diamond.

It is the same for our own buried treasure.

'Your own hidden treasure,' Gangaji writes, 'is in your pocket right now, in the pocket of your heart.'

Augustine's great discovery that within each one of us, in the depths of our hearts, lies hidden treasure changed his life and it can change ours. 'How much treasure we have within us,' he declares, 'but we do not dig for it!' Most of us, of course, could reply that we do not know, perhaps have never been shown, where or how to start looking for it.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus in one of his parables likens the kingdom of God to hidden treasure. Jesus said to the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it' (Matthew 13:44-46).

If we knew just how much treasure is within us we would surely take time in our busy lives to search for it, to find the pearl of great price buried in the field of our lives. We would make time to spend in God's presence.

If we are prepared to sit in silence and journey to the still centre of our being we shall discover that we have everything within us for our spiritual journey, and there are blessings at each step along the way. What we find on the journey will be different for each one of us. The journey may look the same, but each one's story is unique. We each find our own truth, our own treasure.

As a famous sculptor said of one of his pupils, 'I showed her where to find gold, but the gold she found was truly her own gold.'

From *Finding Your Hidden Treasure: The Way of Silent Prayer*, Benignus O'Rourke, DLT, 2010