

Update from Cluster Parishes Together



St John's,
St Mary Magdalene,
St Mary's Leith,
St Ninian's and
St Teresa's

Cluster Corner – Parish
newsletters March 2019

'If two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, He will be there'

Welcome to this short summary of joint activities from our Cluster Parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St Ninians, St Mary's, Star of the Sea, St John the Evangelist and St Teresa's. During the last few years our congregations have journeyed together in faith and in getting to know one another. The Cluster planning group continue to meet regularly to continue strengthening relationships, in addition to sharing information and expertise across the Cluster. Some spiritual and social highlights for the months ahead including over the Lenten period are outlined below:-

Praying together

Our Cluster Lenten Retreat - Saturday 16 March 2019 10.30am-1pm

Mass 09.30am followed by Retreat 10.30am-1pm at Richmond Hope Hall, 227 Niddrie Mains Road, Craigmillar (opposite St Teresa's). **Father John O'Connor OP**, Catholic Chaplain at University of Edinburgh, will lead our Lenten Retreat. You are warmly invited to share an enriching experience in the company of parishioners from our five Cluster Parishes. If you wish you can bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy in the Hall at the end of the Retreat. Do sign up the list at the back of each church – and let us know if you need transport There is no charge, but donations welcome to help us cover our costs.

All Parishes Lenten Retreats -online retreat www.lentretreat.uk

"Walking together with Jesus"; from the Jesuits in Scotland. An online programme of daily prayer through Lent, with materials for running groups in parishes. Already there are many groups planned for Scotland. Join one of the three group sessions each week (from Ash Wednesday) at St Mary's Star of the Sea-

- Wednesday morning 7:15am
- Wednesday Lunch 12:30pm
- Thursday evening 7:00pm

If you would like to join one of the groups then contact info@stmarysstarofthesea.org

Lenten Talks for Young Adults with Archbishop Leo Cushley - from 5pm- 7pm Sunday 10 March, Sunday 24 March and Sunday 7 April at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh. Archbishop Leo Cushley would like to invite the young adults of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh to join him for a series of Lenten talks, to be given by himself, entitled *"On the Way - Walking with Jesus and His Disciples towards Jerusalem"*. The evening will consist of a talk by the Archbishop, Q&A, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Confession and will conclude with social time and pizza. All are very welcome.

St Mary's Star of the Sea

- **Adoration of Blessed Sacrament** - during Lent from Ash Wednesday
 - 11:30-12noon Mon-Thurs, prior to Mass
- **Stations of the Cross** - Friday 11:15 am prior to Mass at 12 noon
- **Lenten Taize** - Weekly on Tuesday's starting on 12th March to Tuesday 9th April at 7:00pm.
All welcome.

St Ninian's

- **Ignation Lent Retreat** : Walking Together with Jesus Prayer and Reflection : every Tuesday 2pm – 3pm in St Ninian's Church
- **Stations of the Cross and Mass** at 7pm every Friday in Lent

St John's and St Mary Magdalene's

- **A Ways of Praying Course** – different parishioners offering their wisdom and experience in their preferred way of praying – on Mondays at 2.30pm and Wednesdays at 7pm – Presentation/Witness/Experience.
 - Week 1 - Devotional Prayer (the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy) at St John's
 - Week 2 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Intercessory Prayer – at St Mary Magdalene's
 - Week 3 - Lectio Divina/Praying with Scripture – at St John's
 - Week 4 - The Breviary/the Prayer of the Church and Praying Online – at St Mary Magdalene's
 - Week 5 - Ignatian Prayer/Praying with the Imagination – at St John's
- **Question Time with Fr Jock** – 3 Monday Evenings (25 March, 1 April and 8 April) at 7.30pm in St John's Hall
 - a chance to ask those questions that have been gnawing away at you – about Scripture, the Church's Moral Teaching, the History of the Church, Church Dogmas, the Abuse scandal, whatever you wish to ask...and Fr Jock will do his best to respond (and open up a discussion)
- **Morning Prayer of the Church** Each weekday (from Monday to Friday) - 9.30am in the St John's Hall/Parish House
- **Stations of the Cross** - Wednesday mornings, Prayer Room Parish House after the 10am Eucharistic Service.

Socialising together

Cluster Parishes Summer Picnic: 1- 5pm Sunday 9th June @ Nunraw Abbey

For a fun filled day out in the sunshine all welcome to the bring and share picnic at Nunraw Abbey. For further details contact info@stmarysstarofthesea.org

Cluster Group D Day Landings Battlefields Visit 2019

On this 75th anniversary of the D Day landing in Normandy it is particularly appropriate that our Cluster Parish Pilgrimage will visit the sites which witnessed so much loss of life in 1944. As Christians we are keenly aware that on both sides men of the same faith fought and killed each other and both would justify their stances as fighting on behalf of their country. It is difficult to justify the use of warfare at any time as an instrument of national policy but visiting the battlegrounds of Normandy cannot but raise such difficult questions as what would have happened had the Allies lost? How would Europe have fared under Nazi control? Is there really such a thing as a 'just'war? Our visit to the beaches of Sword, Gold, Juno and Omaha will force us to think of these things. Our visits to the cemeteries of La Cambe, Bayeux and Coleville-sur-Mer cannot but evoke sadness and prayer.

These are some of the reasons why excursions to WW1 and WW2 battlefields are neither tours nor holidays. They really are pilgrimages.

This year the Cluster Pilgrimage will leave Edinburgh on Sunday 25th and return on Friday 30th August. Any enquiries for information or application should be directed to Des Brogan in St Ninian's Parish.

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If you would like to know more or contribute in any way, then contact Jennifer Morris in your Parish.