

Update from Cluster Parishes Together



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

Cluster Corner – Parish
newsletters August 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. Since our last update in March our congregations have journeyed together in faith and socially. 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 are outlined below:-

Exploring Faith Together

Landings – Our Cluster Initiative for the Autumn – welcoming back 'resting' Catholics...

Landings - meaning "safe landings" after a time away - is for Catholics who want to take another look at the church after being absent physically or spiritually. A small group of local parishioners - "*happy Catholics*" - is trained in this Paulist ministry to run a series of 7 or 8 meetings, where faith, life stories and hospitality are shared, plus reflection on the themes in the creed, to help people get to know a few other ordinary Catholics to ease their pathway home....

THE TRAINING DAY – for the 'happy Catholics'! - WILL TAKE PLACE ON A SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER, AND TWO COURSES WILL BE OFFERED IN OUR CLUSTER PARISHES BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER

Pilgrims Together

Cluster Group D Day Landings Battlefields Pilgrimage 2019 – Our Co-Ordinator, Des Brogan, writes:

'Our Cluster Pilgrimage will leave Edinburgh this Sunday 25 and return on Friday 30 August. On this 75th anniversary of the D Day landings 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: we look forward to hearing of the stories and memories that our pilgrims will share during the week. '

St Teresa's

St Teresa's Parish are planning to have an **international day celebration** on 15 September 2019. Further details in their newsletter in the coming weeks.

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Season of creation - many events at St Mary Star of the Sea including:

- Sunday 22nd September 2019 at 4pm, Eucharistic adoration listening to Haydn's Creation.
- Friday 4th October: Outdoor Mass (Cosmic Mass) 7pm

St Ninian's

The **One World Group Annual General Meeting** is on Monday 2 September at 7.30 pm in the hall. This is open to all parishioners.

St John's and St Mary Magdalene's

- **ENQUIRY GROUP – for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Would you like to discover more about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Faith? You would be most welcome to come along to our informal gatherings on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, starting on Tuesday 10 September in the Parish House, 3 Sandford Gardens, Portobello. Contact: Fr Jock Dalrymple 0131 669 5447 Alice Codling 0131 657 1862.

- **Join in learning a new sung Mass Setting** - It is intended to introduce a new sung Mass Setting for Weekend Masses at St John's and St Mary Magdalene's soon. (The Mass Setting covers the sung parts of the Mass – the Gloria, the 'Holy, Holy, Holy', the Lamb of God' etc). A 'Mass of Peace' has been chosen. A rehearsal for musicians and singers from both parishes was held on Tuesday 20 August at 7pm in St John's Church. Parishioners were warmly invited to come along to learn the music. Refreshments were served following the rehearsal.
- **Baptisms** - The next Baptismal Preparation Course will be on Wednesday 28 August and Wednesday 4 September in the Parish House at 7.30pm – if you would like a child baptised please make contact with Fr Jock.

Other news

- **New Community Defibrillator at St Mary Magdalene's-** On Sunday 18 August Father Jock blessed the new defibrillator and St John's (Ambulance) Scotland demonstrated how to use it. Light refreshments were provided. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the purchase of the defibrillators for our parishes and communities. Special thanks goes to 'The Honesty Book' for installing the defibrillator free of charge and to the Bingham project for its contribution. The defibrillator for St John's will be in place by October.
- **The Portobello Inter Church Youth Group** restarts this Sunday, 25 August 6pm (-7.30pm) at St Mark's, Portobello - P7 to S5 – All Welcome.

Socialising together

Cluster Parishes Summer Picnic: @ Nunraw Abbey - Thanks to everyone who came along to the Annual Picnic: it was, as hoped, and despite the morning's heavy rain, a lovely fun filled sunny, warm afternoon spent at Nunraw with the Abbot and all the community.

St Mary's, Leith, Race Night Fundraiser, 21 September 2019 - Proceeds will be split between Church, the Catholic Men's Society and Let the Children Live, (the CMS Charity). Sponsorship for Races/Horse are available from Richard Bee. More information to follow, please keep the date free.

Soul Serve: Spirituality for recovery - Fundraising Quiz – St Mary's, Leith - Soul-serve is a new initiative between Sacred Heart Church and St Mary's Star of the Sea aiming to provide opportunities for those in recovery from all kinds of addiction to explore their relationships with the God of their understanding. We are holding a fundraising quiz to try to raise start-up costs, with one of the winners of University challenge! Please save the date to join us at St Mary's on Thursday 26 September. Tickets £5 to include quiz and supper. ALL WELCOME!!!!

Future Event to look forward to - **St Andrew's Night:** more information to follow.

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