

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE
35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple: 0131 669 5447

Deacon – Revd Eddie White 07986 015772

Pastoral Team: Alice Codling, Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Karen Blair (Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am to 3pm)

Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com



3rd Sunday of Advent – Sunday 15 December 2019

WELCOME . . . If you're visiting, are new to the area, or just live here, you are most welcome in our sister parishes. We are delighted you have joined us. If you are new to the parish please make yourself known to Fr Jock and ask for details of how to register on the parishes' roll.



A Reflection on the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent (by Mairi Clunas)

John, now in prison, experiences a severe trial of faith towards the end of his life. Jesus is not the sort of Messiah he had been expecting, yet he wants to trust him. Our faith too, is often tested – especially by news of conflicts and disasters, yet Jesus' presence remains near. Look for the small signs of his coming to meet and accompany you each day. Emmanuel, God is with us.

A THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS' PRAYER PARTNERS – and another chance this Sunday after the 9.30am Mass to Meet'n'Greet.

Arlene Lauder writes: 'Thank you to all who have signed up to be Prayer Partners for this year's 'Do This In Memory' children. The response was so good that all the children now have 2 parish prayer partners. **The next 'Meet n Greet' will be this Sunday 15 December at St John's church after the 9.30am Mass where you are warmly welcome to come and meet 'your' young person.** There is also a full list of all the children with their corresponding prayer partners at the back of both churches.



Christmas Services



Christmas Eve

St John the Evangelist

6.00pm - Children's Mass

8.30pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

St Mary Magdalene

8.30pm Carol Service (tbc)

Christmas Day

10.30am – Children's Mass

There will be celebrations in the Hall at St Mary Magdalene's after the Carol Service and St John's after the Vigil Mass. There will also be **Mass at St John's at 11am on the 27th for the Patronal Feast of St John**, and a celebration in the Hall afterwards.

Among our ADVENT events and initiatives are:



Advent Friday/Saturday morning - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Pauline MacInnes and Jennifer Morris write: 'Preparing for Christmas is usually such a busy time, shopping, baking, meeting up with friends etc. What about making time to meet up with Jesus, whose Birthday we are preparing to celebrate?'

This Friday at St Mary Magdalene's and this Saturday at St John's we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

This will give us an opportunity to spend a little time with Jesus to find peace, give thanks and pray for all our loved ones and for all those who find Christmas a very difficult time.

There will be a form at the back of each church - can you choose a time that you would be willing to come and stay a quarter or half an hour with Jesus?'

- **'The Real Jesus' – Advent Talks for Young Adults (16-30) with Archbishop Leo Cushley – Gillis Centre – 5pm – Sunday 15 December**

The second of three talks 'The Real Jesus – Really Present' - will be held at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB – **for ages 16-30**. Free - Simply turn up or register on Eventbrite.
TALK - EXPOSITION – PIZZA

- **In Prison for their Principles – an invitation to write a letter this Christmas in support of a Christian victim of torture**

A message from the Justice & Peace Group: 'In a handout accompanying last week's newsletter, you will have seen descriptions of prisoners in jail for their religious beliefs, for defending civil rights and rights for women. These have been supplied to us by Action by Christians Against Torture. If you would like to express your support and solidarity with these victims of persecution, we have a supply of cards at the back of the church. Simply write your message and the name of the person(s) to whom you are sending it and we will arrange for them to be sent to the prisons where they are held. Please note that for those in the notorious Evin prison in Iran, there should be no mention of Christmas or Christianity.'

- **Christmas Postage Stamps**

Last Christmas, there were some problems obtaining Christmas stamps with a religious theme as some of the Post Offices didn't have enough stock. This year, a letter has been sent on behalf of all the churches in Portobello, Bingham, Magdalene and Duddingston to all the Post Offices in our area - Bath St, ASDA and Milton Road - asking them to make sure that they have an adequate supply of Christmas stamps which actually reflect the real meaning of Christmas so hopefully there should be no problem obtaining

Next Sunday, there is the **Annual Leaving Collection** at Masses at St John's for our/their twin community of **Legho Village in Tanzania**. On the last but one side of this newsletter is a letter and update from Mike Knox who describes how there are now two sizable Young Adult Small Christian Communities in Legho – and the plan is to develop a Youth Centre and Youth Area there : he is keen that our collection go to providing a fence to demarcate this Youth area.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 15 December

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with P4 Do This in Memory of Me children**

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Children's Mass + P3 – Rite of Illumination Candles**

5pm – Gillis Centre – **The Real Jesus – Really Present (Advent Talk for Young Adults given by Archbishop Cushley)**

Monday 16 December – 10am – St John's – **Mass with St John's P3**

Tuesday 17 December – 7.30pm – Parish House – **RCIA Mass and Party**

Wednesday 18 December – 10am – St John's – **Mass with St John's P7**

Thursday 19 December

St Mark's Episcopal Church, 287 Portobello High St – **An Exhibition of Cribbs and an Evening of Community Carol Singing**

2-6pm – **Bring your own crib to display in the church** Refreshments will be provided

6-7.30pm – **Community Carol Singing – all welcome**

7pm - Diadem, 539 Gorgie Road, EH11 3AR – **Bethany Prayer Day** (see Noticeboard)

Saturday 21 December - 9am - Our Lady of Loretto, Musselburgh – **Requiem Mass for Dr Alice Doherty**

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 23 December – 6-7.30pm – Community Carol Singing in Bingham – (please meet outside St Mary Magdalene’s at 5.45pm)

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve
6pm – St John’s – Christmas Eve Children’s Vigil Mass
8.30pm – St John’s – Christmas Vigil Mass
8.30pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – Carol Service (tbc)



Wednesday 25 December – CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30am – St Mary Magdalene’s – Christmas Children’s Mass

Friday 27 December – 11am – St John’s – Mass for the Patronal Feast

Friday 28 December – 12 noon – St Margaret’s Chapel – Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents - with Archbishop Leo Cushley. ‘It will be held in St Margaret’s Chapel, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB. Drinks & Refreshments will be served afterwards. Free Parking available. prolife@staned.org.uk’

Friday 3 January – 12.30pm - St John’s Hall – Epiphany Meal and Celebration with the Edinburgh L’Arche Community (see noticeboard)

Sunday 12 January
9.30am – St John’s - P3 Children’s Mass
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s - P4 Do This in Memory Mass

Tuesday 14 January – Departure of Group of Parishioners to Legho, Tanzania, and Steka, Malawi.

NOTICEBOARD

EPIPHANY MEAL WITH THE EDINBURGH L’ARCHE COMMUNITY – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Mary Iannarelli writes: ‘Helpers are required to set up on the afternoon of Thursday 2 January 2020 and also to assist on Friday 3 January from 11.30 am. The event is a wonderfully inclusive celebration with our L’Arche friends. Volunteers can contact me on 07534 666439.’

AN INVITATION FROM BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST TO BETHANY PRAYER DAY – 7PM -

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER: **Naomi Miller**, Care Van Coordinator, writes: ‘Each month Bethany staff come together in prayer and thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. We would like to invite all our Bethany Care Shelter Volunteers along to Diadem on the 18 December for Bethany prayer day. There we will have time in prayer to thank the Lord for the Winter Care Shelter and all who help make it a safe and loving environment. You are invited to arrive at 7pm at Diadem, 539 Gorgie Road, EH11 3AR. You will be welcomed into Diadem by Bethany staff. Tea, Coffee and maybe a biscuit will be available. Staff will share how the Shelter has been going and share some good news stories.

We would then break off into small groups for Prayer. This is estimated to last around 30 minutes. The prayer evening will finish around 7:45pm. There is no need to reply to this email. Please just come along to Diadem on the 18th.’

CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS - CAN YOU HELP?

Pamela Hanlon writes: ‘Every year Crisis Centres provide vital services to people at one of the hardest times of the year. At Christmas, and throughout the year Crisis helps people directly out of homelessness, and campaign for the social changes needed to solve it altogether. For Crisis to offer the services they do over the festive period they ask for volunteers to do as few or as many shifts as they feel able to do. I was not looking forward to my first Christmas period completely on my own, so decided to volunteer for a few shifts, as I felt I would be able to offer something based on my experience and skills set. Crisis also ask if you would like to be a sponsored volunteer. A sponsored volunteer is someone who, as well as volunteering for shifts asks people to sponsor them to raise much needed funds

to continue the work of Crisis, and I hope some of you will consider doing this through the link provided. If you have internet access more information can be found about Crisis at www.crisis.org.uk. Thank you.'

ST MARY'S PLAYGROUP, 63 East London Street, Edinburgh EH7 4BW



The Playgroup is open Monday – Friday (drop off 8.45am – collection at 11.45am) children 2½ to 5 years welcome. £10 per morning includes snack and milk. For further information please contact Gail Dempster stmarysplaygroup@aol.com 0131 556 1634.

Holy Rood RC High News

Joan Daly writes: 'Here is the update of recent events/news from Holy Rood, your Cluster Secondary School.

- We were treated to a wonderful musical extravaganza at our annual **Christmas Concert**, whilst theatrical talent was very much on show at a very entertaining performance of “**The Grinch**” – it was great to see a packed hall for this annual event. Thank you to all who attended.
- All pupils been learning about the different political parties and participated in a mock election. Results to come in due course.
- Senior pupils return from a Maths weekend in Cologne.
- All S3 pupils have been working on **Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)** since September after moving the programme into PSE. Pupils have been visiting and engaging with their chosen charities, culminating in the class presentations this week. 8 Groups battled it out at the showcase final. The winning charity, receiving the £3000 cheque, is “Support in Mind, a charity which is focused on suicide prevention. Well done to the winning team Lucas Martin, Todd Burgess, Pierino Crolla and Matthew Korecki Aquirre.
- All S2 pupils participated in an **Italian Fashion Show** and showed off their linguistic skills and style at the same time. A wonderfully engaging learning experience. Bravissimi!
- Meanwhile the fundraising for the **Advent Charity**, Scottish Association for Mental Health, continues.

Please ask your friends and families to follow us on twitter @HolyRoodRCHigh'

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours) : ☎0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Alice Doherty, Jean McCraw, Mary Clason, Elizabeth Bath, Jack Burns (aged 14) and Elizabeth Ferguson

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Margaret Knowles, Hilda Prior, Mary McInally, Tina Stevenson, George Smith, Alice Taylor, Pat McHugh and Sandy Mackay

St John's

Dec.15:- Sarah Carty (2001); Janet Peters (1993); William Cotterell (1984); Jeannie O'Brien (1959); Edward D Maher (1958); Catherine Carvell; Catherine Connell; **Dec.16:-** Winifred Curran (2012); Margaret Mary Dick (2001); Patricia Scott (1999); John Nolans; **Dec.17:-** Annie Nelson (2005); William Cotterell (2000); Elizabeth Grieve; Mary Meehan; Maurice O'Neil; **Dec.18:-** Robert Devine (2001); Pauline Iannarelli (1968); Agostino Nicora (1964); **Dec.19:-** Margaret Knowles (1998); William Rafferty (1989); Derek Aitken (1987); Robert Greenan; **Dec.20:-** Paddy Breen (1988); Frances Welby (1949); **Dec.21:-** Eileen Flannigan (2012); Alexander Paton (2001); Jean Malcolm (1998); Mary Gallagher (1992); Francis O'Connor (1969)

St Mary Magdalene's

Dec.15:- Baby Colin Newall (1968); **Dec.16:-** Patricia Scott (1999); **Dec.19:-** Mary McInally (2006); Joseph J McKenzie (1979); **Dec.20:-** Jim Marin (2010); **Dec.21:-** Elizabeth McEwan (1996)

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Mary Glancy, Betty Dougal, Alison Thomson, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Sheila Alexander, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Pat Tansey, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Marie White, Cathy Walls, Anna Butler, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, Rose Thornton, Alan Lugton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Guilio Crolla, Alf Macnamara, Stan McKay, Hugh Shannon, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathy Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla, Lorraine Syme.

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Sam Burns, Ella Ayers, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Elizabeth Mackail, John Prior, Sheila Service, John Newell, Ray Donnelly, Michael McPhilipps, Agnes Harvey, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Chris English, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Denis Davidson, Laurie Wallace, Annie Watson, Isobel Phillips, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Jude Ferguson, Mary & James Muir.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Maureen Callaghan Billy Cavanagh, Hannah Muldoon, Johan Reape, Emily Bromet, Margaret Lee, Seamus Hughes, Joan Bonnar, Mekala Osborne, Jean Nelson, Frances Green, Felicity McCluskey, Stephen Fernie, Maureen Henderson, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Anthony Finnerty, Celine Dinis, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Peter Hanley, Pez Nye, Hazel Marshall, Sr Veronica Marshall, James Clerk, Martin Doherty, John Clark, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Joseph Daly, Rokšana Moczulstra, Wendy Lochhead, Joan

Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Ellen Green, Kathleen McConnell, Jake Jordan, George Collins, Ena McCann, John Donnelly, Noel Flanagan, young Ray Donovan Syme.

Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
8 December 2019	£279.01 (including £83.00 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £50.00) – overall figure: £329.01	£755.26 (including £288.65 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £403.50) – overall figure: £ 1158.76
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>		

ST MARY MAGDALENE		
	Readers for Sunday	Bidding Prayers
15 December	Children’s Mass	
22 December	Sam Henry & Martha O’ Hanlon	Anne Jabir

Do please support our new community initiative – from 10.30am to midday (every Monday) in St Mary Magdalene’s Hall a **Community Café/Drop-In (Free tea and coffee and friendly chat)** – **all most welcome.**

All those interested in singing the carols/songs on 23 December around Bingham are cordially invited to join the practice **this Thursday evening** at the Bingham Community Centre at 7pm.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

We are all conscious about climate change and are always looking to improve in ways we can help the environment! Would you consider receiving your weekly newsletter by e-mail? Using e-mail would let us reduce the amount of paper and ink we use and save ‘wear and tear’ of the photocopiers. If you would be happy to receive your newsletter electronically all you have to do is send an e-mail to Karen our Parish Administrator at stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com. The bonus is you receive the newsletter on a Friday afternoon. The newsletter is also available online via our parish websites and Facebook Page.

Why not visit our parishes’ Facebook page
www.facebook.com/StJohnsAndStMaryMagdalenes

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST			
Saturday 21 December	Pauline MacInnes, Jackie Plews, Matt Gorrie	Sunday 22 December	Linda Moran, Pat Whyte, Anna Tanzi, Phyllis McLeay, Bernie Gallagher

A New Kitchen in St John’s Hall? If you are willing to become part of a group looking into the feasibility of extending and developing the hall kitchen, please contact Fr Jock.....

Pamoja Fashion raised £335.00 last weekend - many thanks to everyone. The next sale will be Saturday 1 February.

Maria Igoe writes:

- ‘The next Charity Coffee Morning will be held in the Hall on Monday 6 January after Mass. Donations will go to Mary’s Meals. Please come along.
- During Advent, Morning Prayer will be said at Our Lady’s altar before Mass or Eucharistic Service from Monday to Thursday. Please come along to join in this prayer.
- The Stall has on sale Christmas cards, Advent calendars and candles. The cards show the real meaning of Christmas. Please come to the Stall to see what is on offer.’

Eco Group Update– 3rd Sunday of Advent 2019

Frances McDevitt writes: 'The Christmas season gives us an opportunity to consider our collective use and disposal of particular resources. The Eco Group offers these thoughts.

- ✓ Buying FSC approved cards (the Forest Stewardship Council helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home), such as the Fair Trade cards being sold in the church stall, means that the cards are made from responsibly managed forests.
- ✓ You might even like to investigate 'plantable' cards which are impregnated with wild flower seeds and can be planted outdoors in the Spring.
- ✓ Wrapping paper which can be recycled is also a good choice! Try to avoid paper with glitter or a plastic coating. If it crumples up easily, it can generally be recycled!
- ✓ A locally-sourced 'real' Christmas tree from a well-managed forest which minimises the use of pesticides would be another good choice!



An Advent Poem

This time of Advent comes to a climax in many churches with seven traditional "O Antiphons" in Latin and chant which cover the last days before Christmas with beautiful verses of praise to Christ as God become as one of us - taken from the promises of the prophets in the Old Testament. Each begins with "Oh", and the feast concludes the celebration. Here is **a modern Advent poem by Canon Andrew Monaghan** which does the same with what people long for, both in Advent preparation and in Christmas celebration.

Oh that pain should leave our troubled lives.

Oh that loneliness should be transformed.

Oh that homelessness should ease and homes be built.

Oh that war should cease to devastate our lives.

Oh that selfishness should end and heal our world.

Oh that politicians might begin to tell the uncomfortable truth.

***Oh that churches leave behind their arrogance and exclusiveness, and find again the God
become as one of us.***

Oh that Advent might give way to Christmas.

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 14 December St John of the Cross - Memorial	10.00am:- Mass – Peter Sharkey & Eileen Dean 10.30am: - Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.30pm:- Mass – People of the Parish	
Sunday 15 December 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am:- Mass – Janette Lonie	11.15am:- Mass – Canon Stephen Judge
Monday 16 December	10.00am:- Mass with P3 children - George Smith	
Tuesday 17 December	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	9.25am–9.55am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am :- Mass – SI
Wednesday 18 December	10.00am:- Mass with P7 children – John and Pat McHugh	
Thursday 19 December	10.00am: - Eucharistic Service	7.00pm:- Mass – Margaret Knowles
Friday 20 December	9.00am–9.45am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am:- Mass – SI 3.00pm: - Divine Mercy Devotions	10.30am-12.30pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 21 December	10.00am:- Mass – Sandy Mackay 10.30am–12.30pm: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.30am: - Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.30pm:- Mass – Yvonne Lyon	
Sunday 22 December 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am:- Mass – Alice Taylor	11.15am:- Mass – People of the Parish

