

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

1st Sunday of Advent – Sunday 1 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.



RCIA : Rite of Entry to the Catechumenate – 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's

Since September, the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group has been meeting each Tuesday in the parish house, led by our catechists, Alice Codling, Colette Dempsey and Laurie Blyth, with other parishioners present as sponsors/supporters. This year we have been blessed with six 'enquirers', five of whom will enter the second stage of the process today – **Abigail Maseko, Alasdair Preston, and James Sutherland** will become catechumens, **Jessica Mzambe and Yvonne Speedman**, candidates – catechumens are those who haven't been baptised, candidates are those baptised into another Christian denomination, or Catholics who have yet to receive all the sacraments of initiation – baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

Normally, baptism and reception into the Church takes place at the Easter Vigil, though we hope that Abigail will be baptised before her return to Malawi in February.

In addition **Charley Campbell** (sadly away this weekend burying her grandmother) will enter the catechumenate at the RCIA Advent Mass on 17 December. **Please pray for them all.**

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Next Sunday, 7/8 December, is Reconciliation Sunday: with this newsletter there is an Examination of Conscience to help you prepare to celebrate reconciliation – which takes the form of a short service at the starting-time of each Mass, with several priests available.

Among the other ADVENT events and initiatives are:

- **The PACT (Portobello and Area Christians Together) ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Portobello Baptist Church – takes place today - Sunday 1 December.** 'Come and join with all the local churches to celebrate Advent together: reflections, readings and songs to start our Advent journey – and support Christian Aid with a leaving collection'. Refreshments afterwards too...
- **Cluster Advent Retreat – A step away from the bustle and into peace! Next Saturday 7 December – St Ninian's, Restalrig – 10am-1pm.** **Lynda Wright** will be guiding us – parishioners from our five cluster parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St John's, St Theresa's, St Ninian's and St Mary, Star of the Sea.

The retreat will begin with Mass at 10am, followed by tea and coffee, and then for the next couple of hours Lynda, an experienced and creative retreat giver (who ran Key House in Falkland for two decades) will guide us. The theme is

The light shines in the darkness -

a time to pause and wait in hope during this Advent season.

After the retreat, those who wish can remain to eat their packed lunches together....

Do come along and enjoy this opportunity to step away from the bustle and spend time with the Lord....The retreat is free (but a small donation would be welcome!)

Ideally, we would like people to sign up on the list at the back of both churches, in order to give us some idea of numbers. Also, please indicate if transport is required. However, anybody is most welcome to turn up on the day...

- **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 this week’s newsletter, you will see 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.’

- **SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE AND SCIAF AT CHRISTMAS**

Pauline MacInnes writes: ‘St John’s and St Mary Magdalene’s Justice & Peace Group plan to have a Fairtrade Stall and SCIAF Real Gift Vouchers for sale at St John’s this weekend - 30 November and 1 December - and also next weekend - 7&8 December. We hope you will be able to support Fairtrade and SCIAF.’



- **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 these when you ask for them.

OUR NEXT BAPTISMAL COURSE will take place this Thursday (5 December) and next Thursday (12 December) at 7.30pm in the Parish House. If you would like a child baptised, please contact Fr Jock.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 30 November 7-9pm - Duddingston Kirk Hall – ‘**Come to the Cabaret**’ – ‘Tricia, Jeremy and friends will entertain you to an evening of music and song benefitting “Music for You”, a charity which takes music into the homes of the frail elderly or housebound.’ Entrance £10 - Includes soft drinks and finger food. You are welcome to bring your own wine.

Sunday 1 December – First Sunday of Advent

10.00am-2.00pm – Bellfield – **Portobello Christmas Fair**

The organiser Carmen Chalmers writes: ‘STEKA will be taking part as one of the stalls holders. There are also 4 local choirs attending too! The link for the event is <https://www.facebook.com/events/575534232943396/?ti=icl> - for further information please contact me on 07957521470 Email - portobellochristmasfair@gmail.com

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass with RCIA Rite of Entry to the Catechumenate**

2.00pm – 4.00pm – **St John’s School Fair**

3pm – Top of the Mound, Mound Place – **Edinburgh’s Christmas Nativity Carol Concert**

‘Everyone is welcome to come along and sing Christmas Carols and join the Origin Scotland Choir, supported by St Columba’s Choir, Blackhall, St Andrews and St Georges West Choir, Salvation Army Band and Wester Hailes Education Centre at the annual Nativity Carol Concert. Bishop John Armes will give the Christmas message, and Rev Angus Mathieson brings prayers for the city while Archbishop Leo Cushley blesses the Nativity Scene. The collection this year will be for the Cape Town Gospel Choir.’

5pm – Portobello Baptist Church – **PACT ADVENT SERVICE**

Monday 2 December

10.30am- midday - St Mary Magdalene’s Hall - New Community Café Drop-in

10.45am – St John’s Hall - **Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Mary’s Meals.**

6.00pm-7.00pm – Parish House – **St John’s Eco Group Meeting – All Welcome**

6.30pm – St Columba’s, Upper Gray St – Monthly Vocation Mass – followed by Tea and Coffee.

7.30pm-9.30pm – Parish House – **St John’s Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

Tuesday 3 December - 7 pm - Gillis Centre – Safeguarding Training Courses for all Parish Volunteers with PVG (see noticeboard) SAFEGUARDING TRAINING COURSES FOR ALL PARISH VOLUNTEERS WITH PVG -

Peter Gillam and Alison Connelly write: ‘All volunteers in the parish who have obtained protection of vulnerable group (PVG) certification are required by the Archdiocese to attend a course which lasts about 90 minutes. This course is designed to help volunteers recognise and deal with any concerns that might arise whilst being involved with vulnerable persons. The vast majority of volunteers with PVG have attended such a course. However, there are a few who have not yet done so. **We would urge anyone who has not yet attended such a course to do so without delay.** To facilitate this requirement a course has been arranged as follows: **THIS** Tuesday 3 December at 7 pm at Gillis Centre (Arran Room), 100 Strathearn Road Edinburgh (parking available on site). If you do intend to attend, could you please contact Peter Gillam on 07771982177 (St. John’s), or Alison Connelly (St Mary Magdalene’s) so that we can let Scott Mackenzie, who is conducting the course, know the number and identity of those persons who will be attending.’



Wednesday 4 December - 6.30pm – Parish House – St John’s Fabric Committee Meeting

Thursday 5 December

10.00am – St John’s - **Requiem Mass for William Turnbull**

1pm-4pm – St John’s Hall – **Thursday Club Annual Dinner** (see St John’s section)

4pm – Parish House – **Pastoral Team Meeting**

7.30pm – Parish House – **Baptismal Preparation Course**

Friday 6 December

5.30pm-7.30pm – (starting at the) Usher Hall - **“Vigil” for Climate Justice to coincide with COP 25:**

Mike Mineter writes: ‘The idea is to have some music from 5.30pm and a speaker or two, then at 6pm start walking down Lothian Rd and along Princes Street as far as the Art Gallery. Initiators are Friends of the Earth but they are keen to make this a multi-organisation affair to illustrate the range of support for Climate Justice. Their Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/737986893342928/>’

6pm – Holy Rood HS – **Christmas Concert...followed by ‘The Grinch’.**

Saturday 7 December

10am (Mass)-1pm – St Ninian’s - **Cluster Advent Retreat with Lynda Wright.**

10am-1pm - St John’s Hall - **Pamoja Fashion**

Saturday 7/Sunday 8 December – Reconciliation Sunday

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 9 December

2.15–4.15pm - St Mary Magdalene’s - **Meeting of the East Edinburgh Singing Group for People with Dementia and their Carers**

Jennifer Morris writes: ‘The Group meets every second and fourth Monday each month from **2.15pm**



until 4.15pm. It provides an opportunity for people with dementia and their Carers to socialise and sing, with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment. There is a chance to chat over a hot cuppa or soft drink and biscuits before singing well known songs.’

2.30pm – **ST JOHN’s (NB Change of venue) - Healing Mass** – ‘The Rosary will be said at 2.15pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after Mass. Everyone is invited to the Hall for tea and cakes afterwards.

Tuesday 10 December – 7.30pm – Mayfield Church – **Edinburgh Newman Society Faith Sharing Evening** – ‘small group sharing on a range of topics facilitated by a Committee Member. This will be followed by a glass of wine and mince pies.’

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**

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**

NOTICEBOARD

A THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS’ PRAYER PARTNERS

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 on 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.

An Invitation to Help with Research into ‘Smart’ Technology options for our buildings

Frances McDevitt writes: ‘The Music Co-ordinators of our sister parishes have recently been discussing options around our use of hymn books and hymn sheets. These discussions have overlapped with Eco awareness conversations. Some church buildings (for example, PJPC - Portobello and Joppa Parish Church) make use of ‘smart’ technology during services, projecting hymns and readings onto screens while also ensuring that some printed copies are available for those who prefer.

It is proposed that our sister parishes carry out research into ‘smart’ technology options for our buildings, gathering information and costings so that informed decisions can be taken about the best ways forward for our parishes.

If this is an area of development in which you have interest or expertise, please speak to Fr Jock or myself.’

28th EDINBURGH NORTH EAST SCOUT GROUP IN SEARCH OF A GROUP SCOUT LEADER



‘The 28th Edinburgh North East Scout Group meet in St John’s Primary School, they have Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It’s a strong group with good leaders. They also have a Parents Group. But they really need a Group Scout Leader. This role involves managing & coordinating the Sections & as a liaison between the Group & District. No scouting experience necessary, training will be provided. If you would be interested in this role please contact: The District Commissioner, Rob Whitelaw, would be happy to discuss this and answer any questions.’ His email address is rob.whitelaw10@gmail.com ‘

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ARCHDIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 10-17 JULY 2020

Dr Ken Ritchie, Chairman Archdiocesan Lourdes Committee writes: ‘The annual Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage takes place 10 – 17 July 2020. Why not come on a spiritual trip of a lifetime while helping pilgrims in wheelchairs? Please visit Edinburgh-lourdes.com for details. An early expression of interest is necessary to allow Safeguarding requirements to be completed. For those aged 16 and over. If you are interested please contact Dr Ritchie direct on 01383 413508 or email drkritchie@aol.com’

Holy Rood RC High News

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

- As part of Catholic Education Week we were invited to the Scottish Parliament to listen to a cross party debate on Catholic Education. Our S6 Caritas pupils and Mrs McMeeking heard the unequivocal endorsement of the government to Catholic schools and their contribution to Scottish Education from the Depute First Minister and the other MSPs who were represented in the chamber. We are very proud of our school and urge you to share this message about our high attainment and values drive, inclusive ethos.
- We are delighted to announce that our fundraising efforts for The Rock Trust have reached a staggering £1649.68. Thank you to all involved.
- Our S1 – 3 pupils have been engaging in **Profiling**, focusing on learning conversations regarding the development of their skills across the curriculum.
- All pupils have been reviewing their recent reports, engaging in conversations with their class teachers and tutors about **next steps in learning**.
- Next week we welcome back S4 pupils who have just completed their **S4 Prelim Exams**. We are very proud of pupils' hard work so far and the support of our staff and families throughout this time.
- Date for your diary:- You are most welcome to attend our annual Christmas Concert, followed by a performance of "The Grinch" – 6pm, 3rd December, £2 (children free). All welcome

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: George Lugton and Lorraine Williamson

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Elizabeth Elton, Robert Watson, Lucia Farrelli, Willie Robertson, Canon Raymond Fitzpatrick and Bill Brogan.

St John's

Dec.1:- Elizabeth Elton (2017); Catherine Gannon (1991); Margaret Davie; Frank Rafferty; Joseph & Catherine Smith; Robert Watson; **Dec.2:-** Barbara Walker (2012); Elizabeth Ogilvie (2006); Annie Donati (1993); William O'Donnell (1993); **Dec.3:-** Jean Tunley (1997); Andrew & Mary Malcolm; Patrick McLory; **Dec.4:-** Ronnie Smith (2017); Sarah Jessiman (2003); Robert Kerr (1999); Hugh Walsh (1994); Ronald Godley (1988); John Lawler (1970); A Duffy (1950); John Scollon; **Dec.5:-** Helen Cassidy (2004); Mary Bisset (2001); Bill Brogan (1996); George Forrest (1988); Neil Donoghue (1987); Elizabeth Quinn (1980); Edmund Z Schmelter (1970); Nancy Syme; **Dec.6:-** Patrick Butler (2007); Winifred Adamson (2000); Grace Spencer (1980); Mary Meehan; **Dec.7:-** Charlie DiCarlo (1997); Thomas Holt (1972); John Tweedie

St Mary Magdalene's

Dec.1:- William Robertson (2016); **Dec.2:-** Archibald Mawdsley (1969); **Dec.3:-** Leonora Hanlon (1990); **Dec.6:-** Maria A Langlands (1997); **Dec.7:-** Thomas Burdell (2000);

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: 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, Jean McCraw, Mary Glancy, 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: 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: Johan Reape, Emily Bromet, Maureen Callaghan, 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, Alice Doherty, Martin Doherty, John Clark, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Joseph Daly, Roksana 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
24 November 2019	£ 330.74 (including £128.00 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £40.00) – overall figure: £374.74	£830.36 (including £443.40 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £439.50) – overall figure: £1269.86
Special Collection (Education Sunday)	£128.19	£291.85
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>		

ST MARY MAGDALENE		
	Readers for Sunday	Bidding Prayers
1 December	Emma Dewar & Lexvi Sanchez	Peggy Ferguson
8 December	Eileen Igoe & Ania Rekowska	Jean Douglas
15 December	Children's Mass	

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 each Thursday evening at the Bingham Community Centre at 7pm.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST			
Saturday 7 December	Jim Roarty, Patrick Shannon, John Lawler	Sunday 8 December	Eddie Clark, Pauline Connarty, Gena Gallagher, Tracy Burgess Mary Iannarelli



Gena Gallagher writes: 'The Thursday Club will be holding their **Annual Christmas Dinner** on Thursday 5 December at 1.0pm-4.00pm in St John's Church Hall. Any Senior wishing to join us please get in contact with me on 661 1311. This will be the last get-together this year! The Thursday Club will resume on Thursday, 9 January 2020.'

The next Pamoja Fashion Sale will be held on Saturday 7 December from 10am-1pm in St John's Hall – All welcome

Maria Igoe writes:

- '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 Charity Coffee Morning will be on Monday 2 December after Mass in the Parish Hall. Donations will be given to Mary's Meals. Please come along.
- 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 - Frances McDevitt writes: 'Thank you, again, to all who have contributed to the Eco Audit conversation. The parish is now registered with Eco-Congregation Scotland, a community of over 450 Scottish Christian congregations which have pledged to raise awareness of and to care for God's creation. Our registration certificate will be displayed in the church and the parish is listed in the most recent ECS newsletter (<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=a37b4ff760ffcc7fd1c3611b4&id=bc283ac99a>)



The Eco Group will meet at 6pm on Monday 02 December 2019 in the Parish House. All are most warmly invited to attend or to contribute via e-mail (sfmcdevi@gmail.com)

AN INVITATION TO WRITE A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF A CHRISTIAN VICTIM OF TORTURE

Below are descriptions of prisoners in jail for their religious beliefs, for defending civil rights and rights for women which have been supplied by 'Action by Christians Against Torture'.

Please send a message to Saheb Fadaie, Yasser Mossayebzadeh, Mohammadreza Omid and Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, Iran



Saheb Fadaie [left] is a member of the Church of Iran house church network in Rasht, capital of Gilan province. In July 2018 he, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani [right] and fellow church members Yasser Mossayebzadeh [bottom left] and Mohammadreza Omid [bottom right] began ten-year prison sentence for 'acting against national security', 'propagating house churches', and 'promoting Zionist Christianity'. In September 2018 Saheb received another sentence (18 months) for 'spreading propaganda against the regime' following a house church meeting in the home of Fatemeh Bakhteri, who was



sentenced to 12 months in prison, beginning 31 August 2019. All are in Evin prison. In September 2016 Saheb, Yasser and Mohammadreza were sentenced to 80 lashes each for the consumption of alcohol (communion



wine). Non-Muslims are permitted to drink alcohol in Iran but since leaving Islam is forbidden converts to Christianity are not recognised as non-Muslims and thus may not drink alcohol. The outcome of an appeal against this punishment is awaited. In October 2019 Youcef went on a three-week hunger strike, which had a detrimental effect on his health. The prison authorities undertook to look into it. [Church in chains]



Send a message (non-religious) to each of the individuals if you wish.

[Name of Prisoner]

Evin Prison

Tehran Province, Tehran, District 2, Islamic Republic of Iran

Please send a message to Mancho Bibixy, Cameroon



Arrested without warrant by soldiers and after over 14 postponements of hearings, radio journalist Mancho Bibixy was sentenced in May 2018 by a military court to 15 years in prison and a huge fine (c. 409, 000 euros) for 'acts of terrorism, secession, propagation of false information, revolution, insurrection, contempt of public bodies and officials and hostility against the fatherland'. In poor health owing to bad and overcrowded prison conditions,

he can communicate with his family only with the authorization of the Prosecutor and by paying fees. When he was arrested he was considered a leader of a peaceful demonstration against the marginalization of the English-speaking minority. The authorities' response in the conflict has been very violent, including the use of live ammunition against protesters, mass arrests, torture, humiliation and intimidation.

Send a message (religious or non-religious)..

Mr Mancho Bibixy

Yaoundé Central Prison

1000 Yaoundé

Cameroon

Please send a message to Nasrin Sotoudeh, Iran



Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent human rights lawyer in Iran, has been sentenced to a prison term totalling 38 years and 148 lashes for defending women's rights — the harshest sentence recorded against a human rights defender in Iran in recent years. A lawyer, she has a husband and two children. Nasrin Sotoudeh was arrested at her home on 13 June 2018 and later informed that she had been convicted on seven charges and sentenced to 33 years in prison and 148 lashes. The charges include 'inciting corruption and prostitution', 'openly committing a sinful act by... appearing in public without a hijab' and 'disrupting public order'. Although there is some confusion over the judge's ruling and its actual implementation, it appears that he applied the maximum statutory sentence for each of her seven charges and then added another four years to her total prison term, raising it from the statutory maximum of 29 to 38 years.

Send a message (non-religious).

Evin Prison
Tehran Province
Tehran
District 2
Islamic Republic of Iran

A Prayer for Christian Prisoners

Loving heavenly Father, we pray for the many Christians — many of whom have been falsely accused of crimes or deliberately set up to fall foul of the law — who are being held in prisons, both at home and abroad, simply because they are believers in Your name.

Lord we pray that You will be with each one in their imprisonment. Break any bonds of fear and bitterness — and may the love of Jesus be shown forth in their actions and attitudes, so that those with whom they have to do recognise that there is something very special about them and the God Whom they serve.

Set each one free, we pray, not only from their physical incarceration but also from their spiritual prison. Help them to rest in the Lord Jesus, knowing that in a small part they are participating in the fellowship of His suffering.

Use each one as a witness of Jesus Christ and may many be drawn into the kingdom of God, simply because of the gracious love which they display in their time of great difficulty. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

[<https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Prisoners>]

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 30 November ST ANDREW - SOLEMNITY	9.00am–9.55am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am: – Mass - People of the Parishes 10.30am: - Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.30pm:- Mass – Basil Juska	
Sunday 1 December 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)	9.30am:- Mass – Robert Watson	11.15am:- Mass – Lucia Farrelli & Willie Robertson
Monday 2 December	10.00am:- Mass – Canon Raymond Fitzpatrick	
Tuesday 3 December St Francis Xavier - Memorial	10.00am: - Eucharistic Service	9.25am–9.55am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am :- Mass – Josephine Connelly & Winifred Maughan
Wednesday 4 December	10.00am:- Eucharistic Service	7.00pm:- Mass – SI (for good health)
Thursday 5 December	10.00am: - Requiem Mass for Billy Turnbull	
Friday 6 December	9.00am–9.45am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am:- Mass – Bill Brogan 3.00pm: - Divine Mercy Devotions	
Saturday 7 December St Ambrose - Memorial	10.00am: - Mass – at St Ninian’s (SI) 6.30pm:- Mass – Joseph Jordan	
Sunday 8 December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am:- Mass – People of the Parishes	11.15am:- Mass – Helen Budge

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