

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

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2nd Sunday of Advent – Sunday 8 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.



This Sunday, 7/8 December, is Reconciliation Sunday:— which takes the form of a short service at the starting-time of each Mass, with several priests available. We welcome – at different Masses – and thank Fr Martin Moran OMI (Oblates of Mary Immaculate), Fr Gordon Brown, Fr Jim Smith, Fr Ian Wilson (Order of St Augustine) and Fr William Pearsall SJ (Society of Jesus – ie a Jesuit!).

A Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent (by Mairi Clunas)

Today's Gospel passage focusses our attention on the ascetic figure of John the Baptist. He urges us to change our outlook on life since God's kingdom is near. In silent prayer prepare a way for Jesus to draw near: in his presence you too may begin to see things differently.

Among the other ADVENT events and initiatives are:

- ❖ **Cluster Advent Retreat – A step away from the bustle and into peace! This Saturday 7 December – St Ninian's, Restalrig – 10am-1pm - with Lynda Wright**
The theme is *The light shines in the darkness - a time to pause and wait in hope during this Advent season.*

Advent Tuesday/Saturday mornings - 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?'

On the second Tuesday at St Mary Magdalene's and the second and third Saturday mornings at St John's we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- ❖ 10 December - 10.30am to 1pm - St Mary Magdalene's
- ❖ 14 and 21 December - 10.30am to 12.30pm - at St John's.

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 the church - can you choose a time that you would be willing to come and stay a quarter or half an hour with Jesus?'



- **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.’

- **THE REAL JESUS – Advent Talks for Young Adults with Archbishop Leo Cushley**

Both talks at the Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB – and free. For ages 16-30. Simply turn up or register on Eventbrite.

- ❖ **Really Man** – Sunday 8 December – 5pm

- ❖ **Really Present** - Sunday 15 December – 5pm

TALK - EXPOSITION – PIZZA

- **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 - 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.



Christmas Services



St John the Evangelist
Christmas Eve 6.00pm - Children’s Mass
8.30pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
Christmas Day

St Mary Magdalene
8.30pm Carol Service (tbc)
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.

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.’

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

THIS WEEK

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

5pm – Gillis Centre – **‘The Real Jesus –Really Man’ (Advent Talks for Young Adults – with Archbishop Leo Cushley**

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.

5.30pm – St Catherine’s Convent – **Deanery Meeting for the Priests and Deacons of the Edinburgh Deanery**

Tuesday 10 December

10.30am-12.30pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

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.’

Wednesday 11 December -7pm – Prayer Room, Parish House – **Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture)**

Thursday 12 December – 7.30pm – Parish House – **Baptismal Preparation Course.**

IN THE COMING WEEKS

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 Talks for Young Adults given by Archbishop Cushley)**

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 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’

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 next 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.

Christian Aid Collection - PACT (Portobello and Area Christians Together) Advent Carol Concert

Grant Sellar writes: ‘The PACT (Portobello and Area Christians Together) Advent Carol Concert at Portobello Baptist Church on Sunday 1 December was a thoughtful, reflective and joyful coming together of fellow Christians from across Portobello and surrounding area.



Thank you to everyone involved in organising the service, who participated, the refreshments afterwards and to all those who came along. The leaving collection in support of Christian Aid raised £290.12. Thank you to all for your generous donations to help Christian Aid fight poverty in areas across the world this Christmas time.’

Cluster Parishes’ Planning Meeting – Change of Date

Jennifer Morris writes: ‘As several people cannot now make the meeting arranged for 16 December, it has been decided to postpone the meeting until **10 February 2020 at 7.30pm** in the **Parish House**, Sandford Gardens.’

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’

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

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Paschal McCaul, Brian Nangle and Zbigniew Kwasniewski

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mary Salvona, Kathleen Codling, Maria Juska, Myles Durkin, Jenny Wormald, Joseph Dykes, Stan Tweedie, John Ritchie, Margaret Risi, Jane Wright, Gerad de Freitas and John Cahill

St John's

Dec.8:- Margaret O'Brien (2001); Robert Taylor (1998); Kathleen M Codling (1977); James Waldie; **Dec.9:-** Mary Salvona (2017); Jenny Wormald (2015); May Maclean (2007); S. M. Nelson (1985); Frank McGuire (1979); Bridget Lawrie (1990); **Dec.10:-** Jimmy Duke (2014); Vincent Kelegher (2003); Margaret T Ward (2001); Mary McLauchlan (2000); Joseph Dykes (1985); Maggie Bonner (1982); Michael Keogh (1948); James Anderson; **Dec.11:-** Stan Tweedie (2014); Mary Meehan (2006); Bridget & Michael Meldrum; Annie Shrivener; **Dec.12:-** John Ritchie (2016); Valerie Messent (2003); Myles Durkin (1975); Margaret Riach (1960); Ann Cassidy; James Daly; **Dec.13:-** Jane Wright (2016); John Dalrymple (2016); James Quinn (1991); Joseph P Gannon (1968); Agnes Stone (1964); **Dec.14:-** John Cahill (2017); Isabel Garvie (2015); Peter Brown (2004); Annie C Dobson (2002); Margaret Donaldson; Margaret Ward

St Mary Magdalene's

Dec.9:- Richard Sheppard (1973); Mary MacDougall (1969); **Dec.10:-** Maria Juska (2015); **Dec.11:-** Winifred Graham (1981)

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: Sam Burns, Ella Ayers, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, Elizabeth Mackail, John Prior, Sheila Service, John Newell, Ray Donnelly, Michael McPhillipps, 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: Hannah Muldoon, 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 Jorden, George Collins, Ena McCann, John Donnelly, Noel Flanagan, young Ray Donovan Syme.

Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
1 December 2019	£540.99 (including £344.00 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £50.00) – overall figure: £590.99	£945.15 (including £564.90 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £403.50) – overall figure: £ 1348.65
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>		

ST MARY MAGDALENE		
	Readers for Sunday	Bidding Prayers
8 December	Eileen Igoe & Ania Rekowska	Jean Douglas
15 December	Children's Mass	
22 December	Sam Henry & Martha O' Hanlon	Anne Jabir

This Tuesday - 10 December - between 10.30am and 1pm, St Mary Magdalene's will be open for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in the Day Chapel. Refreshments will be available in the Hall.



Congratulations to the 200 Club winners
 October - no. 36 - **Peter Davis** £25.00 and
 November - no. 19 - **Mary McGovern** £25.00
The December draw will be £25.00 + £200 prize money.

If you are interested in joining the 200 please get in touch with Madge Moyes.

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.

Fran Lawson, Fundraising Officer, Mary’s Meals writes; ‘We would like to thank you for welcoming our Mary’s Meals volunteers once again to your parishes of St John’s and St Mary Magdalene’s on 16/17 November. Raffle ticket sales plus donations totalled £323.64 plus 28 bags of textiles for recycling were also donated. We are so grateful for this wonderful generosity which will help us continue our mission of providing more than 1.5 million of the world’s poorest children with a nutritious daily meal in school. Please convey our heartfelt thanks for everyone’s continued faithful support of Mary’s Meals all year round. Because of this generosity, children who would otherwise be working or begging to survive are now in classrooms with full stomachs, delighted to be learning. May we also ask you to continue to remember Mary’s Meals and our mission in your prayers.’

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST			
Saturday 14 December	Chris Vinestock, Joyce Martin, Bozena Tansey	Sunday 15 December	Enrico Fertini, Anne Dixon, Cathy Volpe, Eliza Veitch, Penelope MacLellan Hawkes

An earring has been handed into the Parish Office - if this might be yours, please do get in touch with Karen direct.

Many congratulations to Fergus White, recently selected – at the age of thirteen - for the (American Football) Great British Lions Under 17’s Squad....so having to take Sundays out from playing the guitar in the St John’s music group.

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 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: ‘St John’s Eco Group had its fourth meeting on Monday evening. It was wonderful to see new faces, as well as a delight to see familiar faces! Thank you, also, to parishioners who contributed by e-mail.

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 /Trade Craft 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 wildflower 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!’



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

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 7 December St Ambrose - Memorial	10.00am: - Mass – 6.30pm:- Mass – Joseph Jordan	at St Ninian's (SI)
Sunday 8 December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am:- Mass – People of the Parishes	11.15am:- Mass – Helen Budge
Monday 9 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - SOLEMNITY	2.30pm – Healing Mass - Mary Salvona	
Tuesday 10 December	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	9.25am–9.55am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am :- Mass - Maria Juska
Wednesday 11 December	10.15am:- Mass – Bill Brogan & Margaret Risi (NB CHANGE OF TIME)	
Thursday 12 December	10.00am: - Eucharistic Service	7.00pm:- Mass - Myles Durkin
Friday 13 December St Lucy - Memorial	9.00am–9.45am: - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am:- Mass – Andrew and Mary Smart 3.00pm: - Divine Mercy Devotions	
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