

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](http://www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk)      Web address: [www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk)

Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: [stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)

## 4th Sunday of Lent - Sunday 22 March 2020

**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.



**We are trying to ensure the widest possible circulation for this newsletter** – by email, Facebook, website, by popping into the Churches to collect one, and also by hand delivery. If anyone is willing to deliver a newsletter to a housebound parishioner, could they please contact the Parish House, Fr Jock or a member of the Parish Team...

**As almost all of you will be aware, we are currently unable to gather for Mass either on Sunday or on weekdays as a result of the advice offered both by the Bishops and the Government.**

**However St John's Church will very much remain open for prayer and reflection** – indeed we are extending the opening times from 9am to 7pm - so that anyone who wishes may pop in...please do feel free to take advantage of this (while obviously observing the guidelines we have been given)...and please do come in to pray for our community and our world. (In order to ensure that everyone is kept safe, we need a team that can be called on to **'dampdust' the Church frequently** – please make contact with Chris Vinestock (07746 299657) if you are willing to offer your services...)

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

(Kitty O'Meara)

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK: (Peter Millar)

God of ancient calm, let your peace still us  
And your light illumine us.

God of the flowing rivers, may we discover anew your flowing spirit.

God of the lonely plains, touch these empty places within us

Where we are vulnerable enough to meet you

And where we discover a new understanding of ourselves and the world.

## Caring for Each Other

**Our new PEP (Parish Emergency Planning) Group** is meeting regularly to put together plans for pastoral and spiritual care in these very new circumstances – but please do let us know if you are over 70 so that we can contact you to keep in touch personally and let you know what support is available either now or in the future. Also if you can let us know of any parishioner who you think should be contacted, please let us know....

### **A MESSAGE FROM SCIAF FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

‘Across Scotland, we’re all working together to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from the coronavirus. Our friends, our families and our neighbours.

But in this time of need, it’s easy to forget the most vulnerable of all - our neighbours around the world who are already living on a knife edge and are looking to us for help.

This Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, is often called SCIAF Sunday.

It’s the day generous Catholics across Scotland pray for the people we serve and hold collections in their parishes for our WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal. These donations provide almost half of all the money we raise in Lent. **We urge you to give even though you cannot attend Mass.**

These are tough times for everyone, and as a charity working with some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, we need your support more than ever right now.

With any global crisis such as the coronavirus, our neighbours in the poorest parts of the world are hit hardest. There are 4,000 women in the Democratic Republic of Congo who are counting on us to help them recover from horrific sexual violence. Because of the coronavirus we may not raise the money they need.

At this difficult time, please hear their cry and respond in love.’

Jim Roarty, chair of our Justice and Peace group, adds: **‘I think it important that people be encouraged to donate directly to SCIAF in the absence of the collection in church, particularly as every £ will be matched by the government...’** (see the paragraph from Bishop Toal towards the end of Archbishop Cushley’s Ad Clerum below)

**Archbishop Cushley sent out an ‘Ad Clerum’ (‘To the Clergy’) on Thursday to his deacons and priests – we print below excerpts from it (the full letter can be accessed on the archdiocesan website) in order to offer information of what can and what can’t happen in parish life...**

### **Ad Clerum, 18 March 2020**

‘Dear brother priests and deacons,

#### **Covid-19 update**

I know that many of you are worried and concerned about the Covid-19 situation, however as you also know the Holy Father has specifically asked us to be courageous in the face of this crisis....Courage, however, does not preclude prudence and so, once again, I would like to ask all of you to make yourself aware of and carefully follow all the public health advice about how to limit the spread of this virus.

For those of you who are over 70, or who have underlying health conditions, I would like to ask you specifically to minimise your contact with others and to please let the Dean, or me, know of your health status and of the steps that you intend to take to keep yourself safe.

If any of you test positive for the virus or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, obviously please follow the present Government guidelines on self-isolation and please let the Dean, or me, know of your health status and if you need any help.

#### **Suspension of public Masses**

As you will have seen, the Bishops’ Conference, upon Government advice, decided today to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in our churches across the country. This decision was not taken by us lightly and will be reviewed regularly in the coming weeks. You can be sure that the Bishops will continue to monitor public health advice closely and that we will contact you as soon as the Government tells us that it is safe for us to congregate in numbers for the public celebration of Mass again.

Nevertheless, I urge each of you to continue to celebrate daily Mass privately, and to let your parishioners know that you will be celebrating Mass for them, even if they cannot be present. Please also encourage them in whatever way you can (on your websites, or through emails, or e-newsletters) to deepen their spiritual lives during these weeks and specifically to make acts of “spiritual communion” at the times when they would otherwise be at Mass.

Please also make sure that you have enough hosts consecrated should individual Catholics request Holy Communion at this time. Many people may even need to be taught to make such requests, as they may be quite unaware of this possibility.

Please note, and please communicate to your parishioners in whatever way possible, that there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass at this time.

### **Sunday Mass online**

I am presently arranging for Sunday Mass to be available in English, Polish, Syro-Malabar and Ukrainian on our website, each Sunday, until the situation changes. I hope all will be available from this Sunday onwards. You may also wish to look into recording or streaming Mass from your parish if you or your people have the “know how” to do so.

Even if we cannot attend Mass, we are all obliged to keep the sabbath holy, and so we will make resources available online so that people may keep the sabbath at home. They will involve the readings and prayers of each Sunday and are a suggestion to those who wish for guidance.

### **Christian Initiation at Easter**

I ask that you proceed to initiate those who are due to become Catholics this Easter. However, please do so with a shortened Easter Vigil celebration, held in private, that is for immediate family and sponsors only. The rites should be as short as possible, and must take into account all the Government’s hygiene precautions. If you are over 70 or have underlying conditions, please ask a neighbouring PP to take over instead.

### **Celebration of the Sacraments in large groups**

All other public celebrations of the Sacraments are also suspended. This includes first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, and Confirmations. At the moment, it would seem prudent for you to discuss planning for them in the new school year, that is from August 2020 onwards.

### **Visiting the Sick and Elderly, and taking Holy Communion to them**

Both you and your Eucharistic Ministers may, for now, continue visiting and taking Holy Communion to the Sick. If you or the Ministers are over 70, or have underlying conditions, please have someone else go. Those visiting must observe strictly all the Government’s hygiene precautions, especially about washing hands before and after giving Holy Communion, keeping one’s distance from each other and keeping the visit and the rites brief. If those being visited are over 70, or have underlying conditions, ask them by phone first if they wish to be visited. If they have tested positive for the virus, Government instructions limit visits to them severely, except for delivery of food, and keeping in touch by phone or other media.

### **Penance & Reconciliation**

I see no difficulty in continuing the practice of the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, providing you take into account all the Government’s hygiene precautions. This means there must be a significant distance or a barrier between the penitent and priest; that in turn suggests the use of physical barriers such as a confessional box, or a private room where priest and penitent may remain at a proper distance from each other.

### **The Anointing of the Sick & Viaticum**

This is problematic for obvious reasons. We are urged by the Holy Father to be courageous, but we too could carry the virus, so precautions are necessary. Touching head and hands is not permitted at this time. So, as with for example a bad accident, anointing should be done elsewhere on the body, e.g. just the back of the hands, using a piece of cotton wool, to be used once and then disposed of properly. You may also be required to put on a disposable gown, mask, and gloves. Please respect and comply with the hygiene rules put in place by the medical professionals.

### **Baptisms, Marriages\* & Funerals**

For now, all of these may be celebrated, but privately, that is with only immediate family members in attendance. As with other celebrations, the rites should be dignified, brief, and in keeping with prevailing Government hygiene precautions. If you have questions about a particular case, please get advice from your Dean, or me.

### **Churches to remain open**

As of 18 March, our churches are allowed by the Government to remain open. I ask you, therefore, to arrange for your churches to be kept open to let individuals come to pray. Consider exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for a time each day. If numbers come at the same time, the Government’s precautions about hygiene, distance from each other, and numbers in buildings are to be observed. Please take extra care to make sure your churches are clean, especially surfaces touched by hand. Please put signs, gel, tissues and bins in clear view.

## **Gillis Centre**

The Gillis Centre has suspended all events there until the end of May. The Centre is not open to the clergy, the public or volunteers. Staff are however still available and happy to help with any queries. Contact should be made in the first instance by telephone on 0131 623 8900 or by email. Please also keep in touch with your Dean should you have any questions about coronavirus issues affecting your parish.

## **St Joseph's Day cancelled at Sighthill**

In the circumstances, the Augustinians have had to cancel their farewell Mass at St Joseph's tomorrow. We nonetheless wish them well and look forward to another opportunity to say goodbye to them properly in the future.

## **SCIAF Sunday 22 March 2020**

Unhappily, our annual missionary appeal on behalf of SCIAF will be seriously affected by these events. You may still encourage your people to help with SCIAF's appeal this Sunday, including by making donations online. Here is Bishop Toal's message in the circumstances:

**“As we face the present crisis in our world the number of people able to attend Sunday Mass in our parishes is rapidly falling and this will have a massive effect on our parish finances and our ability to maintain our churches and ministries, and our charitable activities. One immediate casualty is bound to be our collection on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent for SCIAF. I would encourage the faithful to continue to support the SCIAF “Wee Box “Appeal for the Groups of Vulnerable Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, both through filling the Wee Boxes and through making donations on-line. I think the on-line donations, accessed through [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk), will be vital this year in maximising our donations. These donations, which can be made up until 20<sup>th</sup> May, will benefit from UK Government Match Aid, whereby every £1 donated is worth £2. I hope people will respond well and continue to support the poor abroad and at home, even as we experience our own difficulties and uncertainties.**

**+Joseph Toal  
Bishop Chair of SCIAF”**

## **Day of Prayer, 22 March 2020**

**Please join all the Churches in the UK in the Day of Prayer, scheduled for this Sunday. As we do every Lent, and more fervently today, we pray that the Lord may spare His people.**

Finally, I would also ask you to encourage everyone to pray the Memorare once a day to our Lady, Health of the Sick. She will surely hear us in our time of need.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

+Leo Cushley

Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh'

## **The Memorare**

**REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary**, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## **THIS WEEK**

**The Requiem Mass for Mary Glancy on Monday 23 March has been postponed**

**Tuesday 24 March – 10am – St John's – Requiem Mass for Alison Thompson (Family only)**

**Wednesday 25 March – 11am – St John's - Funeral Service for John Monaghan (Family only)**

**Thursday 26 March – 9.45am – St John's – Requiem Mass for Jean Greig (Family only)**

## **IN THE COMING WEEKS**

**SUNDAY 5 APRIL – SUNDAY 12 APRIL – PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

## NOTICEBOARD

### **Last Sunday Dr Jim Jack of Duddingston Kirk celebrated 30 years in the Ministry**

Geoff Dobson writes: 'We at St John's and St Mary Magdalene's would like to congratulate the Rev. Dr. Jim Jack on his thirty years of Ministry in the Church of Scotland as a 'Servant of The Word and Sacraments.' Last Sunday some of us from our two parishes joined Duddingston Kirk in celebrating Jim's life of Christ centred Service. Several old friends spoke with great love and appreciation of his work. His rejoinder was typically amusing and humble: "Father forgive them for their exaggerations and ..... Father forgive me for enjoying them." May the Lord Bless you even more greatly, Jim, in the years ahead....'

### **URGENT REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FROM L'ARCHE, EDINBURGH**

**Kirsty McCrimmon, the acting Community Leader, writes** 'to ask if you or anyone in your network could come and volunteer in one of our houses, or if you know of anyone who could come and work with us on a relief contract. We are really struggling to cope at the moment, and need people who can come and cook, clean, and offer companionship to our core members. Please pass this email on to anyone who you think may be interested. Our main office is closed, so email contact is the best way at the moment [edinburgh@larche.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@larche.org.uk) or ring my mobile 07387 106307.'

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

## **PARISH REGISTER**

***Please pray for those who have died recently: Pez Nye, Tony Conway and John Monaghan***

***Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mary Anne McGovern, Betty McEwing Helen Budge, Mgr Tony McNally and Helen Hanlon***

#### **St John's**

**Mar.22:-** Hilary Bell (1998); Dennis Sweeney (1955); Rose Daly ; **Mar.23:-** Nigel Tosney (2014); James White (2013); Patricia Durkin (2008); Cecilia McLaughlin (2000); Thomas Thomson (1997); John Berry (1977); Helen McCann (1974); William Clarke (1964); **Mar.24:-** Sarah Waugh (2010); Barbara Conlon (2009); Margaret Phair (2007); Alexander Sharp (1997); Bernard Coll (1965); **Mar.25:-** Margaret McCartney (2012); Frank Connelly (1992); John Allen (1964); Maurice Brosnan ; Natalie Valente; **Mar.26:-** Mary Brown Fusco (2005); Angelo Young (1995); **Mar.27:-** Eileen McCann (2017); James Lacey Jun. (1991); Alice Baron (1970); Dorothy K Lynch (1964); Sarah Ferrier ; **Mar.28:-** Helen Hanlon (2019); Bridie Hughes (1994); Charles Marrins ; Edward Baxter (Killed in action) (1943);

#### **St Mary Magdalene's**

**Mar.23:-** James Owens (1968); **Mar.24:-** Mary Ann McGovern (2019); **Mar.25:-** Stephen Archibald (1998); James Donoghue (1983); Kathleen Edwards (1981); **Mar.26:-** Elizabeth McEwing (2019); Helen Budge (2002); **Mar.28:-** Irene Valentine (2013)

***Sick Parishioners - St. John's:*** Susan O'Hara, David Reid, Molly Lugton, Jamie Clark, Sheila and Pat Tansey, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Sheila Alexander, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Marie White, Cathy Walls, Anna Butler, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Giulio Crolla, Alf Macnamara, Stan McKay, Hugh Shannon, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

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

***Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:*** Ellen Green, Adrian Aylward, Andrew Preston, Celine Diniz, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Audrey Burgess, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Margaret Lee, Joan Bonnar, Mekala Osborne, Jean Nelson, Frances Green, Felicity McCluskey, Stephen Fernie, Maureen Henderson, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Anthony Finnerty, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Peter Hanley, Hazel Marshall, Sr Veronica Marshall, Martin Doherty, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Joseph Daly, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden, George Collins, Ena McCann, John Donnelly, Noel Flanagan and young Ray Donovan Syme.

## ST MARY MAGDALENE

**Jennifer Morris writes:** 'Due to the risks posed by Coronavirus:

- the **Singing Group for Dementia** which usually meets at St Mary Magdalene's on the second and fourth Monday of the month has, with great sadness, **temporarily suspended its meetings**. There will **not be meetings on 23 March or 13 April**. Hopefully this temporary suspension will not last too long.
- The Community Initiative in Bingham L (Community Café/Drop-In held on Monday mornings from 10.30am to midday in St Mary Magdalene's is also temporarily suspended.

We will let you know as soon as possible when these events Singing Group will restart.'

### **URGENTLY WANTED! Some new 200 CLUB participants....**

For the paltry amount of £1 per month you can enter into our Parish fund raising club. Better still, you can increase your odds of winning by owning as many numbers as you wish at £1 each. There is a monthly draw with the winning number receiving the prize money. More excitingly, twice a year (June and December), we have a large prize draw which all numbers are entered in, so again the more numbers you own the better your odds of winning. Our prize monies have been £25 each month with the additional two big pay outs of £200, however, if we do not get some more members we will need to review i.e. reduce the prizes. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH while enjoying the little bit of fun of the gamble. **Contact Madge or Robert Moyes to sign up.'**



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
15 March 2020	£220.38 (including £109.38 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £50.00) – <b>overall figure: £270.38</b>	£841.53 (including £387.30 gift aid) Direct Debits - (an additional £384.75) – <b>overall figure: £1226.28</b>

*Thank you for your generosity*

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

**Warm birthday greetings to Evelyn Buckley, 80 on Saturday 7 March  
..... and to Margaret Reilly, 60 on Thursday 12 March**

**The 2020-21 Gift Aid envelopes** will be available for collection from this w/e **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March** from the back of the Church.

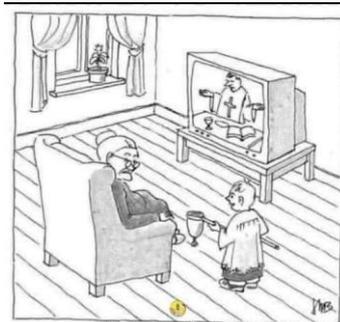


If you would like to set up a standing order or join the Gift Aid scheme then please do let Gary, Siobhan or Karen know.

**Thank You!**

**A message of thanks from Twende Pamoja.** 'Pamoja fashion raised £318.00 last weekend many thanks to our loyal supporters.'

**Maria Igoe writes:** 'During the crisis, **Morning Prayer** will be said. Parishioners who are familiar with 'the Office' will guide you in this prayer.'



## Masses, Devotions and Services

	<b>St John the Evangelist</b>	<b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
<b>Saturday 21 March</b>	10.00am :- Morning Prayer 10.30am:- Sacrament of Reconciliation	
<b>Sunday 22 March</b> <b>4th SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	10.00am :- Morning Prayer (participants scattered around the church...)	<b>DAY FOR PRAYER</b>
<b>Monday 23 March</b>	<b>10.00am:-</b> Morning Prayer [Mary Glancy's funeral has been postponed]	
<b>Tuesday 24 March</b>	<b>10.00am: Requiem Mass for Alison Thompson (Family only)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 25 March</b> <b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD - SOLEMNITY</b>	<b>10.00am:-</b> Morning Prayer <b>11.00am:- Funeral Service for John Monaghan (Family only)</b>	
<b>Thursday 26 March</b>	<b>9.45am:- Requiem Mass for Jean Greig (Family only)</b>	<b>10am- 11am</b> - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament [Big Church]
<b>Friday 27 March</b>	<b>9.00am–9.55am:</b> - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10.00am:-</b> Morning Prayer <b>3.00pm:</b> - Divine Mercy Devotions	
<b>Saturday 28 March</b>	<b>10.00am:-</b> Morning Prayer <b>10.30am:-</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation	
<b>Sunday 29 March</b> <b>5th SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>10.00am:-</b> Morning Prayer	