

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: 8am to 1pm & Friday 11am-4pm)
Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk
Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

23rd Sunday of the Year – Sunday 6 September 2020

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



MIKE KNOX (12.3.53 - 2.9.20)



Very sadly, we learnt this week of the death of Mike Knox at 1am on Wednesday morning in his beloved Tanzania.

Mike suffered a heart attack on Tuesday morning at his Sacred Heart Centre at Mweka in the Kilimanjaro Foothills. He was airlifted to Hospital in the capital Dar es Salaam but died peacefully there with Martin Kalula, one of the team from the Centre, by his side.

Mike taught at Holyrood HS for over three decades, and was both Principal Teacher in RE and Deputy Head there. He was also Pastoral Assistant at St John's during those years, the guiding light of the parishes' link with Legho Village in Tanzania, and the founder and main mover of Twende Pamoja.

Mike's funeral will take place in Moshi on Tuesday at 11am (our time).
It will be livestreamed on our Youtube Channel.

<http://stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com/news/mikeknox/>

He will then be buried in the grounds of his impressive Sacred Heart Centre at Mweka in a spot he proudly showed off to all his visitors (and emailed a photo of it to Fr Jock as recently as 7 June! – see photo on the right)



We will celebrate a **Memorial Mass for Mike at 7pm in
St John's on Monday 14 September**

(the Feast of the Holy Cross – the Holy Rood HS Feastday) – with the Mass livestreamed, including to gatherings at St Mary Magdalene's, St Catherine's and St Ninian's (more details in his executor Des Brogan's attachment/handouts).



**OH DEAR – NOT GREAT NEWS ON THE FABRIC
FRONT.....**

It's such a blessing and treasure to have a beautiful old building, but it's also a major responsibility of stewardship
Please read about the challenge facing St John's in the coming year – our Tower needs urgent and expensive (over £250,000) repairs, much more than we have in our bank balance and 'Restoration Fund' combined.

Proposed Tower Project at St John's

Chris Vinestock, chair of the St John's Fabric Committee writes: 'The proposed project is to address the requirement for urgent repairs to the exterior fabric of the Church following a five yearly survey of the building which was undertaken earlier in 2020. This included digital laser scanning and drone photography to aid assessment and specification of repairs.

Our Church is a 1903-06 Category A listed building in a Gothic style with towers to the front elevation. The project will address the urgent items identified in the report:-

- repair cracked and spalling stonework (mainly at high level to the front elevation towers);
- raking out and repointing extensive cracked and open joints in a suitably specified lime mortar to prevent further deterioration of the building fabric and
- repairs to the roof and defective rhones and gullies are also planned.

The condition survey was undertaken by Adams Napier Partnership, Chartered Building Surveyors and Heritage Consultants. One of the company's consultants will also act as the Contract Administrator overseeing the repair works.

Budget / Actual Costs

- Estimated total project costs - **£268,043** of which
- £33,043 is professional fees and
 - £235,000 contractual costs.

We are very aware of the many problems facing us all at this difficult time and ask for your prayers and support in order to preserve the building for future generations.

Further information and ways of helping will be highlighted in the coming weeks!'

AN APPEAL – AND SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY – FROM SCIAF FOR THE LEBANON

‘When the blast hit Beirut recently, more than 200 people were killed in the tragedy. In the aftermath of the disaster, medical services have been overrun, the government has collapsed, and starvation and the coronavirus are spreading rapidly among the poorest.

Even before the catastrophe, Lebanon was a country in crisis. Having survived decades of conflict, they then faced the fallout from the Syrian war and welcomed 1.5 million refugees who are now 30% of the population. The dramatic increase in population has stretched schools, medical services and social care programmes to breaking point. With these vital services unable to cope, it's the poorest who suffer most. The Lebanese economy is in freefall and the destruction of Beirut's shipping port by the blast is disastrous as the country imports an overwhelming majority of its food. There are already major food shortages, and the UN has warned Lebanon is about to run out of bread.

All this at the time the coronavirus is spreading through the country.

Our partners, Caritas Lebanon are working tirelessly feeding the hungry, protecting the homeless, and providing medical care for the sick and injured.

In every crisis, it's the poorest who suffer most. The explosion which devastated Beirut has compounded the poverty pandemic which already gripped Lebanon. This poverty pandemic has already claimed thousands of lives, and without our support, will claim thousands more.

The Lebanese sheltered our Syrian sisters and brothers when they desperately needed it – **we cannot forsake them now.**



By donating to this appeal, you'll be helping the poorest and most vulnerable in Lebanon and reaching out to Syrian refugees who desperately need our help.

Donations can be made after the Masses this w/e - Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 September - or handed in to the parish house at any time. Alternatively you can donate directly to SCIAF online - go to sciaf.org.uk and click on Lebanon Crisis Appeal.'

AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATOR FOR OUR TWO PARISHES

The Sister Parishes of St John the Evangelist and St Mary Magdalene are seeking an open-hearted and experienced administrator to come and join the parish house team on a flexible, part-time basis (20 hours per week) to support our two Parishes.

The Administrator will facilitate the day-to-day administrative operations working closely with the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Team. The role also involves some financial tasks such as supplier payments, basic bookkeeping, and transaction input to the accounting system. Informal enquiries and to receive full details of the role and how to apply are available from Fr. Jock Dalrymple

jockdalrymple@postmaster.co.uk T: 0131 669 5447

*Closing date for receipt of applications **this Monday 7 September** with interviews anticipated week commencing Monday 14 September 2020.*



STARTING UP OUR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES AGAIN - BEGINNING WITH BAPTISMS...and continuing with First Communions

Fr Jock writes: ‘In the coming weeks, we are aiming to catch up on our backlog of baptisms. If you are wishing to have your child baptised, please make contact with me on 0131 669 5447 or via the parish email address. At the moment, our parish baptismal course is suspended but we hope to resume either on-line or in person as soon as we can.

We will shortly also be contacting by letter those families who are waiting for their child to make their First Communion - with our plans for the celebrations....

Masses This Week – and How/If to Book

For our Sunday Masses, people still wanting a place for this weekend (5/6 September) need to ring the main parish phone (669 5447) or email the parish email address to see if a place is still available and someone will get back to you. To help us to manage the numbers, **if you wish to come to one of the live Masses, please contact the parish house by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) or by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) to book your place.**

If phoning to book a place for Sunday Mass, please do so between 10am and 12 noon between Wednesday and Fridays only when there will be someone there to take your call. **We will not take any bookings by email or phone before 10am on Wednesday** (We will also be asking for – and keeping – your name and telephone number for ‘track and trace’ requirements). Bookings will be on the basis of ‘first come, first served’ but we will make sure that all those who wish to attend Mass in either Church will have their turn the following week, if a place is not available this week.

Please be aware also that you will need to utilize hand sanitisers as you come into and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service. You will also need to be escorted to your seat which you will not be able to choose.

For the moment, we are continuing to livestream some of our **Weekday Masses** from the Prayer Room in the Parish House - this week on Monday at 10am and Tuesday at 7pm, and Friday at 10am (This is partly because after every Mass, ‘deep cleaning’ has to take place – something that takes a considerable length of time and effort. We are so very grateful to our welcomers, stewards and cleaners who are making it possible for us to have our churches open – and always open to new volunteers.)

This week, there will be a Mass in St John’s on Wednesday at 10am, and in St Mary Magdalene’s at 10am on Thursday (No booking required for either of them).

Children’s Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Arlene Lauder writes:



‘Zoom Children’s Liturgy sessions are continuing. Why not join us this Sunday 6 September where we will be starting around 11:15 am? To be included, please send your email address to Arlene at Lauder.82@btinternet.com by 4pm on Saturday 5 September. Please tell us your full name, your child/children’s names and which mass you would normally attend, this information is for our register to keep all involved safe. ****Please note that we will automatically send the Zoom link by email to everyone who has joined us before’.****

THIS WEEK AND THE COMING WEEKS

Monday 7 September

12midday – Warriston Crematorium – **Funeral Service of Tom O’Malley**
5.00pm – Skype - **PEP Meeting** (PEP – Parish Emergency Planning Group)
7pm – **GOSPEL SHARING BY ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87352878892?pwd=MmxKR25ETjVTaExjRGduQVlSbGlmZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5287 8892

Passcode: 812060

The format is very simple – the readings...the Sunday homily...a time of sharing...and ending with prayer.

For those who are shy of speaking out, there’ll be a chance to type a thought instead...ALL WELCOME (and, if possible, have your missal or Jerusalem Bible ready – spare copies available for borrowing from the Parish House).

Tuesday 8 September – 11am – Moshi, Tanzania – Funeral of Mike Knox

Friday 11 September

11am - Rosary - Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp and also on the phone (contact Maria Igoe – 07981 333219).

Saturday 12 September – 12.30pm – St John’s – **Baptism of Ava Dewar.**

Sunday 13 September – 12.30pm - St John’s – **Baptism of Jeremiasz Sek.**

Monday 14 September – 7pm – St John’s – **Memorial Mass for Mike Knox.**

NOTICEBOARD

From Archbishop Cushley’s Recent Ad Clerum (‘To The Clergy’)

Pregnancy Support – How Can I Help?

The Archdiocesan Pro-Life office aims to start a pregnancy support service and wants your help. An online event takes place on **Saturday 5 September** featuring Sr Roseann Reddy who will share her experiences from running the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative for over 20 years. Register on Eventbrite by searching ‘Pregnancy Support – How Can I Help? Or visit the events section of the Archdiocese’s Facebook page.

Street Pastors

Edinburgh Street Pastors are recruiting new volunteers. Training will take place on the weekends of 18 to 20 October and 15 to 17 November and will be run on the Friday evening, Saturday part day and the Sunday afternoon of both weekends. If you are interested please email edinburghsp.training@gmail.com or call 07523 267 906. For background information see www.streetpastors.org.

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)

 0800 027 1234

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently: Mike Knox, Michael Brady, Eta McShane, Fr Michael O’Brien and Matthew Greig.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: James Connelly, Anne McGeachie, Elspeth Wallace and Caroline McTighe

St John’s

Sept.6 :- Catherine Lawler (1984); Geraldine Durkin (1950); Mark Cunningham; Lorna Demarco; **Sept.7 :-** Mary Ann Lynch (1995); Tom Blore (1991); Giovanni Crolla; Dinah Spence; **Sept.8 :-** Josef Kraska (1991); David Docherty (1943) **Sept.9 :-** Caroline McTighe (2017); Mary Gilchrist (2005); Thomas Molloy (1996); Jeannette Kempton (1993); **Sept.10 :-** George Malcolm (1997); Kenneth G Bevan (1996); Alexander Baird (1986); **Sept.11 :-** Jimmy Maughan (2016); James McGrory (1997); **Sept.12 :-** Alec Gilroy (2016); William and Theresa Morrison (1991); Bridget Service (1979); John McCann (1976)

St Mary Magdalene’s

Sept.6 :- Matthew Lynch (1982); **Sept.8 :-** Anne McGeachie (2018)

Sick Parishioners - St. John’s: Alice Neilson, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Chloe Sutherland, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Molly Lugton, Sheila 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, Anna Butler, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Guilio 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: Agnes Harvey, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Elizabeth Mackail, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Denis Davidson, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Prior, Sheila and George Service, John Newell, Ray Donnelly, Michael McPhillips, 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: Albi Stanley, Casimierz Cichocki, John McCall, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Lesley Barker, Hazel Yeoman, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Catriona MacKinnon, Max Middleton (aged 9), Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Emilia Iheji, Jan Meise, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Carla Zanetti, Peter Hanley, Fr Christopher Delaney, Jennifer Kay, Janie Low, Ranier Carpo, William Young, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Gerry Mulvenna, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, 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, Felicity McCluskey, Stephen Fernie, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Anthony Finnerty, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Sr Veronica Marshall, Martin Doherty, Maureen Connolly, Diana Hibbert, Roksana Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jordan and young Ray Donovan Syme.



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
30 August 2020	£175.00 (including Gift Aid of £95.00 and £124.00 Direct Debits – ie £295.00)	£957.76 (including Gift Aid of £622.30) and £744.00 Direct Debits – ie £1701.76

Many congratulations to Betty and Bob Kelly, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on Thursday 3 September.



Many thanks to the Walls family for their very generous gift of £1000 to St John's in memory of their Mum, Cathy, who was buried in Dundee last Monday. It has been agreed with them that their donation will go towards the installation of Wifi in the church itself.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye in the next few weeks to Fr Syriac and Fr Mathew, Capuchin Friars from Kerala in India, who have been looking after the parishes of St Ninian's and St Teresa's in the last few years, and been good friends to our two parishes. Below is the message Fr Syriac wrote in St Ninian's newsletter last week – before moving for a short period to live in Craigmillar with Fr Mathew (until flights resume to India):

*'Dear Parishioners and Friends,
It is with gratitude and love that I write this letter to you. We have been travelling together for the last four years. At last my time has come to say 'goodbye' to you all. Certainly, I know that it is not at all a right time for a shepherd to leave his flock, especially at this moment of anxieties and worries. But our Lord has always a better plan for each one of us. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all for your support, friendship, and kindness during these past years. I have been very blessed, and I am very thankful. As a token of my gratitude, I will be offering a Thanksgiving mass for all of you on Sunday 30th August, and that afternoon I will move to St Teresa's Craigmillar where I am going to be until I fly off to Kerala, India. I assure you of my continued prayers for all of you and please do the same for me and my future missions.'*



This letter written on 13 March this year by the Bishop of Avellino in the South of Italy to the cloistered nuns in his diocese, was circulated within the Westminster Diocese by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. It was described by one person as the most beautiful letter she had ever seen. The lockdown we have all endured has ended for most of (for the moment at least...) but the letter is still very worth reading, and might well be of help to all who are perpetually 'locked down' through age or infirmity.

TO THE CLOISTERED NUNS – A LETTER FROM THE DESERT

We turn to you, sisters living behind walls, to ask for your prayers. We ask during this time of special danger and struggle which our communities are experiencing, that you keep your arms raised like those who did so for Moses on the mountain. Our resilience depends on your insistent intercession, as does our future victory. You are the only Italians not to flinch in the face of the downpour of decrees and restrictions which have drenched us in recent days. This is because what we have been asked to do for a time is what you have always done, and that which we put up with, you have already chosen.

Teach us the art of being content with nothing of living in a confined space, without going out but yet with the art of being charged with the need for that inner journey which requires neither fresh air nor trains. 'Give us some of your oil' so we can learn that the spirit cannot be imprisoned and that the smaller the space, the greater is the opening onto the heavens.

Teach us that it is possible to live with very little and to live in joy. Remind us that poverty is the unavoidable condition of every being because, as Primo Mazzolari has said, 'to be poor, we only have to be human'. Teach us again about the savour of little things, you who smile at a lily flowering outside the window and who salute the swallows when they come to tell us that spring has arrived, you who are moved by sorrow and yet can still delight in the miracle of bread rising in the oven. Give us back that delight in the small things.



Tell us that it is possible to be close without being together in the one place that we can communicate from afar, kiss without touching, enrich each other with the caress of a glance or a smile, quite simply, just to look at each other. Remind us that the word is important if it has matured for a long time in the heart, if it has been lightened in the storeroom of the heart, if we see it flower on the lips of another when it is spoken quietly, without shouting or being sharpened to wound. Above all, teach us the art of silence, of the light which touches the windowsill, of the sun who rises 'like a bridegroom coming from his chamber', or the art of the sunset in a heaven tinged with fire, of the evening quiet, of the lit candle which throws a shadow across the walls of the choir.

Tell us again that it is possible to wait for an embrace, even to wait a lifetime, because 'there is a time for embracing and a time to refrain from embracing' as Quotheth says in the Book Of Ecclesiastes. Our President Conte has said that when this time of danger and restriction is over, we will once again embrace with celebration. For you, sisters, there have already been twenty, thirty, forty years of waiting ...

Teach us to do things slowly with solemnity and without rushing, to pay attention to details because every day is a miracle, every encounter is a gift, every step an entrance into the throne room, like the step in a dance or the movement of a symphony.

Whisper to us that it is important to wait, to send a kiss, a gift, a caress, a word, because waiting for the feast strengthens the light because 'the best is yet to be'. Help us to understand that an accident can be a grace, and a disappointment can hide a gift, that a parting can deepen the love and that distance can lead to being together finally.

To you, mistresses of the hidden and happy life, we entrust our discomfort, our fear, our remorse, our missed appointments with God who always waits for us. Take all this into your prayer and restore us to you, to the fragrance of flowers and to days of peace. Amen.

Children's Letters to God



Dear God,
I keep waiting for Spring but
it never come get. Don't
forget.

Mark



You don't have to
worry about me. I
always look both ways

Dean

Dear God,
I am doing
the best I can.

Frank

We read Thos. Edison
made light.
But in sun. school they said
you did it.
So I bet he stoled
you r idea.
Sincerely,
Do NNa



GOD,
I WOULD LIKE
TO LIVE
900 YEARS LIKE THE
GUY IN THE BIBLE
LOVES
CHRIS

