

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

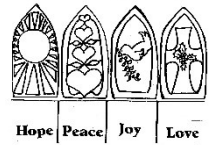
Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Enrico Fertini

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10am to 3pm & Friday 11am-4pm)

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)



## ***First Sunday of Advent – Sunday 29 November 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.*

**This Sunday at the three St John's Masses there will be the first of our Monthly Second Collections for the St John's Tower Fund.**

**Many congratulations to the six Do This In Memory candidates – now all Primary 5 – who will make/made their First Communion on Friday 27 November at 6pm – our 'final batch' - Eloise Anderson, Pennie Robertson, Joseph Brady, Alexander Barnat, Amelia Coulson and Cezary Felisiak...and to Arlene Lauder and the Sacramental Team, Frances McDevitt (music), Eliza Veitch (photography), Emily O'Brien and Fergus White (livestreaming), the faithful sanitisers, and all who have worked so well in unusual circumstances (!) to make our five celebrations so memorable.'**

## ***An Extra Sunday Mass from this Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent – and more Children's Masses***

**Fr Jock writes:** 'Each week, we are having to turn more and more people away from our three Sunday Masses, with all the Masses normally fully booked by Thursday....so from this Sunday, the beginning of Advent, we are introducing - for a trial period - a 4.30pm Mass on Sunday afternoon at St John's. A priest is only allowed to celebrate three Sunday Masses (and that's not counting our pre-recorded online Sunday 11am Mass), so this is only possible through the generosity of Fr Jim Smith who will normally be the celebrant for this extra Mass. We also, in response to the enthusiasm shown at our first Children and Families' Mass (ie Children within their Family Bubble) a fortnight ago, plan to offer two such Children's Masses every month, one month at 5pm on Saturday at St John's (instead of the 6.30pm) and 11.15am on Sunday at St Mary Magdalene's, the following month at 9.30pm and 4.30pm on Sunday at St John's.

**The next Children's Masses will be next week on Saturday 5 December at 5pm (instead of 6.30pm) at St John's and on Sunday 6 December at 11.15am at St Mary Magdalene's. These will be for Children and Family Bubbles Only..... In order to book your place at either Mass (or, when they are full, to go on the waiting list for the Children's Masses in January), please call or text Arlene Lauder on 07950880833.'**

## **Today is the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People**

The first Sunday in Advent this year falls on 29 November, which is also the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Established by the UN in 1977, this day marks the anniversary of when the UN General Assembly in 1947 issued the plan to partition Palestine into a Jewish state, a Palestinian state, and with special status Jerusalem. Please keep the people of Palestine in your prayers, and find out more about the current situation in the Holy Land from sources such as [www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk](http://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk).

*"The Christ came into the world as a brown-skinned, Palestinian-Jew who preached a message of hope that was bigger and grander than even his hearers could imagine: the coming of the kingdom of God. The coming of the kingdom and the reign of God would bring about more than just the "saving of souls." God, in and through Jesus Christ, would radically transform the social order and God would do it in partnership with humanity, despite our faults and failures." (Rev. Xavier Johnson)*

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Fr Jock writes:** 'It is obviously going to be a rather different Christmas to any other so we ask your patience and understanding as we try to organise the Masses in the best and fairest way possible – in terms of numbers, venues, times and how people book and places are allocated. More details next week but the provisional plan is to celebrate 4 Masses:

Christmas Eve – 5.30pm – St John's - Christmas Vigil Mass for Children and Family Bubble  
8.30pm – St John's - Christmas 'Midnight' Mass  
Christmas Day: 9.30am – St John's - Christmas Morning Mass.  
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – Christmas Children's Mass.'

**Advent Extras** are available at the doors of the churches – a donation is appreciated (each copy costs us about £2.00)

### AN AUTUMN AND ADVENT INITIATIVE FOR OUR TWO PARISHES

a chance to watch and reflect on a superb new series about the life and ministry of Jesus



#### THE CHOSEN

based on the Gospels and remaining true to their spirit, but with great creativity imagining life at that time and what might have been the background to the events we know so well.

**This week – Episode 3** – do watch it at home and then reflect on the questions included in this newsletter (see handout) ....and/or, if you'd like to be part of a

'house group' sharing with a few others – please contact Geoff and Sheilagh Dobson

([geoffdobson@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffdobson@btinternet.com)) – and they will send you a Zoom link – for the meeting at Tuesday at 2pm (by which time you should have watched the episode!).

**The Link for Episode 3 is below**

<https://youtu.be/0xMfU-YY3Eo>

We have DVDs available for those unable to access the episodes online.

Any questions, please contact Deacon Eddie - [ewhite@outlook.com](mailto:ewhite@outlook.com) - or ring the Parish House – 0131 669 5447

### Masses – and How/If to Book

To help us to manage the numbers, if you wish to come to one of the 'live' Saturday and Sunday Masses, please contact the parish house



**by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) only on**

**Wednesday 10am to 1pm**

**Thursday 10am to 1pm**

**Friday 11am to 1pm**

Or by email ([stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)) until Friday

**1pm. We are continuing to livestream some of our Weekday Masses from**

**the Prayer Room in the Parish House - this week on Monday and Friday**

**at 10am and Tuesday at 7.00pm** (This is partly because after every Mass in

one of our Churches, 'deep cleaning' has to take place – something that takes a considerable length of time and effort. We are so incredibly 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.**)

Please also be aware that you will need to utilize hand sanitisers as you come into and leave the church, and masks must be worn throughout the service.

Due to the COVID regulations we have limited seatings available and therefore we **advise early booking.**

We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.'



# THIS WEEK – AND IN THE COMING WEEKS

## IN OUR PARISHES

### Saturday 28 November

- 11.30am – Parish House – **Fundraising Core Group Meeting**
- 12.30pm – St John's – **Baptism of Martin Calvey**
- 6.30pm – St John's - **Vigil Mass (fully booked)**

### Sunday 29 November

- 9.30am – St John's – **Mass (fully booked)**
- 11.00am – **Full length Sunday Mass** (streamed on YouTube, pre-recorded from the Prayer Room)
- 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass (fully booked)**
- 4.30pm – St John's - **Mass (booking required)**

### Monday 30 November

- 10am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 7-8pm – Zoom/Google Meeting – **Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

To join by Zoom, click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87651700955?pwd=UTc5c2tiVWtodksyQmNTaHRBOHh1UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5170 0955

Passcode: 906481

Via Google: [meet.google.com/tyv-juvw-dfj](https://meet.google.com/tyv-juvw-dfj)

*The format is very simple and unthreatening – listening to the Sunday readings, and to a precis of Fr Jock or Deacon Eddie's homily, and then – for those who wish (but absolutely no pressure, it's more than ok to remain silent) – a chance to share one's own personal perspective, and finally, concluding with some very gentle prayer....Do give it a try....*

7.30pm – Zoom – THE LAUNCH OF THE EDINBURGH JESUIT CENTRE with a talk by **Sir Tom Devine – 'The Emancipation of Scottish Catholics since 1945'**

Zoom login information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814> Meeting ID 236 509 2814

For more information, contact [edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk)

### Tuesday 1 December

- 7.00pm – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 7.35pm – St John's **Fundraising Group Meeting**

### Wednesday 2 December

- 9.20am – St John's – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
- 10.00am – St John's - **Mass** (livestreamed, no booking required)



### Thursday 3 December

- 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's - **Mass** (livestreamed, no booking required)
- 7.00pm – St John's – **Benediction – Open to All**

**Deacon Eddie writes:** 'The heart of the Advent season is the recognition that we are a people centred on God - we wait for God and we gather to celebrate the coming of God in Jesus.

During Advent, we acknowledge there is always more to God than we can know or sense. In that acknowledgement, there is a hope and recognition of the majestic beauty and goodness of God.

On Thursday evening, you are warmly invited to join us for half an hour to spend some time before the Lord in quiet prayer and soft lighting, with periods of gentle music and silence too, before Benediction.

We will live stream the service but everyone who is able is welcome to join us in Church - no need to book.'

### Friday 4 December

- 9.20am – Prayer Room – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
- 10.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** (livestreamed)
- 11am - **Rosary** - Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp and on the phone (contact Maria Igoe, 07981 333219)

## **Saturday 5 December**

12.30pm – St John's – **Baptism of Freya Cairnie.**

5.00pm – St John's - **Children's Mass for children and families**

## **Sunday 6 December**

9.30am – St John's – **Mass (booking required)**

11.00am – **Full length Sunday Mass** (streamed on YouTube, pre-recorded from the Prayer Room)

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Children's Mass for children and families**

4.30pm – St John's - **Mass (booking required)**

## **Evening, Morning and Noon – A Reflection on Advent by Mairi Clunas**

This year most of us have found our normal routines disrupted and have had to adjust to a different pattern of life – which may have led some of us to a deeper or renewed spirit of prayer. Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the Liturgy of the Word invites us to vigilance and a prayerful approach to the passage of time – since it is leading us to an encounter with the Risen Lord. Traditionally, the Church does this with the Liturgy of the Hours times of regular prayer spaced throughout the day. The spirit of this form of prayer may be adopted by anyone since its essence is regularity and fidelity. To begin praying in this way choose a psalm, a hymn, which you particularly like, or simply recite the Our Father (as St Teresa of Avila recommends) and pray it through slowly in the morning before you begin your day, again around midday and in the evening with a period of silent reflection. Over time this practice will lead you gently into God's presence and help to give shape and direction to your life.

A day is not just a period of 24 hours of clock time – it is marked above all by the rising and setting of the sun. In these short days of Advent, we become sensitive to this pattern of light and dark. As today's Gospel suggests each 'time' of day has its own particular resonance and relevance. Pope Francis remarks that time 'time propels us towards the future and encourages us to go forward in hope.' At its essence there is a spirit of pilgrimage. At dawn we give thanks for the gift of the new day and open ourselves to its challenges and possibilities, seeking God's guidance, its perspective is 'future'. At midday we may be busy – but it is good to stop for a few minutes and place ourselves again in God's presence – the sacrament of the present moment, here and now. Finally, with the coming of evening we return to prayer, the Lord is always there to welcome us as we reflect on the day's events and let go of any disappointments and difficulties we may have experienced – the past. As Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP has written: 'We are oriented towards the future. The Church is an embodiment of hope since the praise of God is our final destiny and the fulfillment of our humanity.'

## **From Archbishop Leo's Weekly Ad Clerum**

**COVID-19** - Updates for our Archdiocese can be read at the coronavirus updates page on [www.archedinburgh.org](http://www.archedinburgh.org)

**Diploma in Catechetics** - More people are registering for the Archdiocese's Diploma in Catechetics. Lectures take place on a Thursday evening on Zoom, so you can learn from the comfort and convenience of your home. To register visit [bit.ly/CatecheticsDiploma](https://bit.ly/CatecheticsDiploma). Or for more info email: [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk)

**Archbishop's Advent Talk** - Archbishop Leo will give an Advent talk entitled 'Unwrapping Christmas' on Zoom this Sunday (29 November) at 7pm. The event is open to all. Please register at [bit.ly/UnwrappingAdvent](https://bit.ly/UnwrappingAdvent)

**Parish Catechists** - Are you involved in sacramental preparation of children in your parish (Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation)? You are invited to attend a Zoom event to launch the Archdiocese's new sacramental workbooks and materials. It takes place THIS Saturday 28 November at 2pm. To register, please email Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO at [archsecretary@staned.org.uk](mailto:archsecretary@staned.org.uk)

**DIY Abortion: Make Your Voice Heard** - Take part in this Zoom session to learn how to respond to the Scottish Government consultation on early medical abortion at home. You'll learn how to make the best possible response to stop unsafe DIY abortions in Scotland. Register at [bit.ly/DIYabortion](https://bit.ly/DIYabortion)

**Pro-Life Advent Rosary** - Join people across the Archdiocese on Zoom to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. **Begins this Monday at 7:00pm** and each following Monday in Advent. To register, search 'Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh' on Eventbrite.





**Mary's Meals Double the Love** - Donations made to Mary's Meals between now and 31 January 2021 will be doubled by the UK Government up to £2 million. You can donate through the Mary's Meals website.



## **An Advent Journey with the Scottish Laity Network Forced like Jesus Christ to Flee How shall we Sing to the Lord in a Foreign Land?**

**Evenings of Conversation – Reflection – Prayer Thursday 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm**

### **Thursday 3 December – Alison Phipps - Forced to Leave ~ Singing in a Foreign Land**

Alison holds the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow where she is also Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies, and Co-Convener of Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNET).

### **Thursday 10 December – Danny Sweeney - Forced to Leave ~ No Room in a Foreign Land**

Danny was a Civil Servant working in Yorkshire for the Home Office Asylum Directorate. The same day he interviewed with Justice and Peace Scotland for a job was the day that the 'old jungle' camp in Calais was destroyed. Danny's work and life in Scotland has kept treading a path through Calais, and walking alongside refugees and asylum seekers, seeing the frontline of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in our society.

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December ~ Hyab Yohannes and Hannah Rose Thomas - Stories of Pain, Survival and Hope leading to a Liturgy of Lament and Hope**

Hyab is an Eritrean refugee and researcher at the University of Glasgow and holder of the UNESCO RILA PhD Scholarship. He works formally for local charities and international organisations in Egypt including UNHCR, IOM, Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) and Saint Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS).

Hannah is an English artist and Durham graduate in Arabic and History, currently studying her PhD at Glasgow University as a UNESCO Scholar. While living in Jordan as an Arabic student in 2014, Hannah organised art projects with Syrian refugees for UNHCR. This experience led her to seek ways to combine her art and humanitarian work. Hannah subsequently began painting portraits of refugees she had met, to show the people behind the global crisis, whose personal stories are often shrouded by statistics.

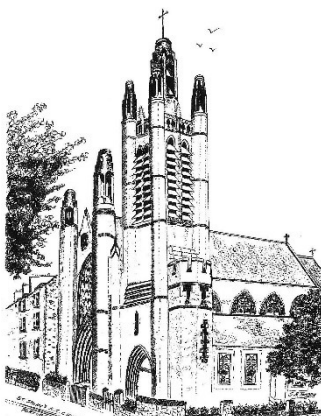
Through her art Hannah gives voice to the voiceless, lionises the isolated and prescribes dignity to the persecuted and forcibly displaced. Hannah seeks to use art as a tool for advocacy, bringing their stories into places of influence in the West.

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **Mike Knox and Twende Pamoja ( Let us Walk Together)**

Des Brogan, Maria McCann and Linda McGee, the three Twende Pamoja Trustees, write: 'We hope you and yours are well on this First Sunday of Advent and that you are now beginning to look forward to the celebrations of Christmas. It is three months since Mike left us and while he is no doubt enjoying the heavenly banquet, we are working away to try and ensure the continuation of his projects in Scotland and Tanzania. Your support is greatly needed and so we make you aware of our Christmas Appeal. Full details next week...'

### **OUR FIRST ST JOHN'S TOWER FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – A CHRISTMAS RAFFLE...**



**Catherine McAnenny writes:** 'The first initiative we have agreed on is a Christmas raffle and we have already secured some fabulous prizes. Due to the restrictions imposed on us because of COVID we won't be able to promote the sale of the tickets after Mass as we once would have done. So, instead, we hope that it will be ok if we post three books of tickets to many households in St John's...the tickets will be £2 each and will be in books of five. We would be very grateful if you would return the money and any unsold tickets back to the Parish House in the envelope that will be provided.

If any parishioners feel that they could sell more books of tickets perhaps to extended family, friends and work colleagues, please contact me on 07968970159 and more ticket books can be delivered. Similarly, if any St Mary Magdalene's parishioners are willing to help, that would be wonderful...

**For further information on standing orders or bank transfer payments, please contact our Administrator, Enrico, in the Parish House...**

**A Reminder for those who do not have the Internet but would like to ‘access’ Mass....**  
**Maria Igoe writes:** ‘**Dial-a-Mass** offers those who are unable at this time to get to Mass and who do not have the Internet, the opportunity to hear a short Mass daily on the phone. This was started by Fr Stephen Baillie, who will now share this service with 4 other Priests, including Bishop John Keenan. It is greatly appreciated by those who have no other way to partake in the prayers of the Mass and the scripture readings. Access this by phoning 0141 473 4869.’

### SCIAF CHRISTMAS WATER APPEAL

‘Water is the most essential element for life, but for many people around the world clean and accessible water is a dream beyond anything they can hope for. Dirty water kills the poorest first. And right now, to help tackle the coronavirus, everyone needs clean water more than ever.

#### **Pope Francis - "Water is the most essential element for life"**

No parent should have to give their children water so dirty it could kill them. But that is the reality many parents face every day. They have to trek for hours to collect dirty and bacteria ridden water they know will make their children sick. When their children drink this water they'll miss valuable time at school because of stomach aches and diarrhoea. In the worst cases they'll die. **These families urgently need your help. Please give the life-changing gift of clean water this Christmas by donating to our appeal.**

**Visit the website: [www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/547-christmas-water-appeal/donate](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/547-christmas-water-appeal/donate)**

### **\*PROTOCOL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CRIBS FOR CHRISTMAS 2020\***

1. *A maximum of 4 shepherds will be permitted in the Crib.*
2. *All will have to wear a mask and observe social distancing.*
3. *Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus will be able to stay together as they form part of a family bubble*
4. *The donkey and the ox will have to obtain a declaration of non contamination certified by the Department of Agriculture*
5. *The Three Wise Men will be subject to a 15 day quarantine, regardless of whether or not they have tested negative for Covid.*
6. *The straw, moss, palm branches and other decorations must be disinfected with alcohol*
7. *The angel flying over the Crib will not be allowed due to the aerosol effect produced by the batting of his wings*
8. *The choir will be restricted to one person because of the risk of contamination*
9. *No shepherd shall be more than 65 yrs old or in a vulnerable category*
10. *All non essential participants (Romans, sinners...) are forbidden*
11. *Pilate will explain to all authorised participants how to wash their hands.*

**Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hours)**

 **0800 027 1234**

## PARISH REGISTER

***Please pray for those who have died recently: Eric Avery***

***Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Elizabeth Elton, Bill Brogan, Basil Juska, Robert Watson, Patrick McClory, Charlie McLauchlan, Willie Robertson, Margaret Risi and Jim Walsh***

**St John's Nov. 30:-** Grace Knowles (1990); Helen McKinnon (1989); Alfred Reading (1957); Connelly Family; **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;

**St Mary Magdalene's Nov. 30:-** Basil Juska (2015); **Dec.1:-** William Robertson (2016); **Dec.2:-** Archibald Mawdsley (1969); **Dec.3:-** Leonora Hanlon (1990); **Dec.6:-** Maria A Langlands (1997);

**Sick Parishioners - St. John's:** Nora Bruce, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, 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, Patricia Lawler, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Ernie Moran, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Sara Alkahankni, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Giulio Crolla, Alf MacNamara, Stan McKay, Maureen Lawrie, Mary Grady, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme

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

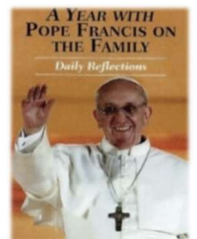
**Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including:** Joe Greenan, Martin Carr, Michael Igoe, Elizabeth Foster-Melliar, baby Josh Simpson, Katie McAnenny, Piotr and Daniela Przekop. Jack Gibson, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, baby Francesca Horwood, Peter Von Schenk, Anthony Finnerty, John Walsh, Linda McKean, Moira McConville, Kathleen Kay, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, Hazel Yeoman, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Max Middleton (aged 9), Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Jan Meise, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Carla Zanetti, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Janie Low, Ranier Carpo, William Young, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, 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, Edward Caulfield, Mike Enfield, Savannah McDonald, Pat Dignan, Sharon Anderson, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Roksan Moczulstra, Joan Brooks, Sr May Lewis, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, Jake Jorden and young Ray Donovan Syme



Offertory Collections	St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
22 November 2020	£55.00 offertory and £5.00 Gift Aid - <b>£60.00 total</b>	£533.18 (including Gift Aid of £122.40) and £650 Standing Orders – <b>£ 1183.18 total</b>

**A Message from Theresa, the St Mark's Administrator (01316291219):** Before lockdown, someone from the community of St John's and St Mary Magdalene's bought two tickets for the **Ben Kearsley** concert that's now been cancelled. They need to be refunded, but Theresa doesn't have their details: she asks if the would-be concert goers – could show up (Wednesday coming would be fine, from 10am to 11.30am).

*“The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded. That is what the angel proclaimed to the shepherds in Bethlehem: -Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people- (Luke 2:10). When a person discovers God, the true treasure, he abandons a selfish lifestyle and seeks to share with others the charity which comes from God.”*



## ‘WHERE I FIND GOD’ – Nuala Murray

*Nuala Murray is married to Paddy and they have three children, Simon, Anna and Ronan. She lives in Quin, Co. Clare. She is an accredited spiritual director and school chaplain. She loves to spend time in Glenstal Abbey and is an Oblate of the Order of St Benedict.*

I think that we see God through the lenses of our own lives: cultural, psychological or any other factors that have a hand in shaping our lives. Therefore, finding God in the midst of life can be difficult. A lot of the spiritual traditions put the emphasis on seeking God, always seeking, and this has acted as a safeguard in my own life. So where do I seek God? At a general level, I would have to say ‘everywhere’, because I truly believe that God’s spirit, the Holy Spirit, imbues all created matter. The Rule of St Benedict suggests that we should treat the utensils of the kitchen as if they were as sacred as the vessels of the altar, I find this extremely rich in what it suggests. We have all got lost in the midst of preparing a meal, baking, hoovering, even ironing; there is a solace in this kind of active solitude that brings me into the companionship of God and community if all householders before me.

Finally, I think we experience God in those moments when life leaves us speechless, when we are moved to tears of joy or tears of helplessness before tragedy and pain. I like to think that tears are literally the “expression” of God in our lives; when life is too much, and words are too little God takes the initiative and speaks. Tears flow one into the next, self-created images, boundaries and inhibitions melt and God speaks in God’s own fashion: universally, timelessly, and creatively. I would have to say therefore that I find God most powerfully present when I allow myself to break down before the highs and lows of life and dare to believe that God is indeed truly with me.

# THE CHOSEN



<https://youtu.be/0xMfU-YY3Eo>  
(Link for Episode Three)

The Chosen is a 2020 television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins.

It is the first multi-season series about the life of Christ, and season one was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time.

## **Episode Three: "Jesus Loves the Little Children".**

*Jesus befriends the children who discover his camp on the outskirts of Capernaum...*

- a) I notice the graphics which accompany the music at the start of each episode...  
How hard is it for me to find the appropriate language that might allow me to gently 'swim against the tide' of perhaps my wider family, culture at work or school or the friendships groups to which I belong?
- b) Jesus is portrayed as playful, natural and approachable to children. How does this compare to my previous understanding of Jesus, perhaps from school days? How has my image of Jesus changed, if at all, over the years?
- c) When the children recite the 'Shema', Jesus looks on them with love and is greatly moved. Can I consider that He may also look upon me in the same way? How does this affect me?
- d) What are the characteristics that Jesus portrays that frees up the children to follow Him? And what are the characteristics of the children that Jesus finds so endearing? I reflect on these and wonder what I am being invited to notice...

