

## THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Parish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple:

Deacon – Revd Eddie White:

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

0131 669 5447

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 Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

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

# Corpus Christi - The Body and Blood of Christ - 6 June 2021



### THE LAST SUPPER AS ENVISAGED BY FR SIGER KODER, A GERMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

*The scene includes, sitting at the table of the Eucharist, a Jew, a beggar, a prostitute and a wounded African 'guest worker' in the striped pyjamas of the Nazi Holocaust. (See below)*

Sieger Köder (1925-2015) was a prisoner of war during World War II. He trained as a silversmith and painter and worked for some years as a secondary school art teacher. At the age of 41 he went to study theology in Tübingen and was ordained a priest in 1971. He combined his vocation as a parish priest with his work as an artist, producing numerous paintings, altarpieces and stained glass windows for churches within and outside Germany. Köder's work shows the artistic influence of Chagall and is distinctive for its strong colours and robust, chunky figures. It expresses a distinctively earthy theological and spiritual interpretation of biblical and abstract themes, and a warm, inclusive ecclesiology, very much in line with that of Pope Francis. There is

challenge, anger, humour and deep tenderness in his depictions of biblical scenes, and always an eye for the human response to God's communication. Köder's painting is the visual expression of a lifetime of preaching and of sacramental and pastoral ministry. He shows the cost of discipleship in the prophets and judges of the Old Testament, and in those who met Jesus in the gospels; but he also shows the full range of personal responses to Jesus in the features and body language of minor figures in the crowd. Most famously he painted the fresco of the Last Supper at the start of this newsletter for the German College in Rome, which trains future priests for his home country.

Köder's wartime experiences profoundly influenced his depictions of the Passion of Christ and human suffering and evil. In later life Köder's work became world famous and he won many awards, including, in 1985, the honorary title of Monsignor and the Order of Merit from Pope John Paul II. He was a deeply modest man and found those who came to see 'the great artist' a trial. In a newspaper interview he once remarked, 'People come to Ellwangen asking to see the painter. If they're that interested in the painter, then they haven't understood the paintings'. (Sr Gemma Simmonds)

**Included in this newsletter is an important Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Cushley.**

**This weekend there is also the delayed Annual Collection for the Day for Life** (always celebrated on the Feast of the Visitation on 31 May).

**Many Congratulations to the P4 pupils who will make/made their First Communion on Saturday 5 June - Amilya Gilhooly, Lucia Frances Fay, Evie Fraser and Victoria Bosustow ... and asking for prayers for those who will make their First Communion next Saturday, 12 June – Serin Kazimoglu, Archie Crawley, Oscar Currie, Emma Garcia Sancho Heney, Aine Jones, Sophia Baczyk and Emi Mielnik-Kosmideska.**

### **Advance Warning of our next Baptism Preparation Courses**

at 7.30pm in St John's Hall on **Thursday 22 and 29 July**. .... please contact Fr Jock by phone or email if you wish to have a child baptised and would like to enrol for the course.

### **Link for Night Prayer/Compline**

This Saturday - June 5 - 9.15pm     <https://youtu.be/Jbs5oZEGk8g>  
This Wednesday - June 9 - 9.15pm     <https://youtu.be/Ymf9k6LNakY>

### **A Reflection by a Parishioner on the Feast of Corpus Christi**

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus is like a diamond with different facets, each interconnected but beautiful in themselves.

- ❖ We have the Body and Blood of Jesus, God made man, who came on earth to show his fellow human beings, by his life, death and resurrection, the way to eternal life.
- ❖ He gives us, also, his Body and Blood to be sharers in that life
- ❖ And we, carrying the Body and Blood of Jesus in our bodies, become his Body and Blood in this world, charged with carrying out the mission of Jesus – effectively, we become the instruments of the work of Jesus Christ in the world, as captured beautifully in a prayer of St Teresa of Avila.

*“Christ has no body now but yours.*

*No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.*

*Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.*

*Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.*

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”*

# THIS WEEK

## Saturday 5 June

12.00 noon – St John's – **Mass with First Communions – livestreamed, by invitation only**

6.30pm – St John's - **Vigil Mass - livestreamed, booking requested, a few seats still available**

## Sunday 6 June – FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with baptism of Sorley Haller-Zurowski - livestreamed, fully booked**

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube**

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass – Places available**

## Monday 7 June

1.00pm – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Christine McManus - livestreamed, no booking required**

4.30pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**

7.00pm – Skype – **Meeting of Cluster Parish Priests and Pastoral Council Chairs**

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All - to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82312481554?pwd=YjM2QXhZTW1yTHNoY0ZZbXBVNnF3QT09>**

**Tuesday 8 June – 11.00am – Mass for the Newly Confirmed P7 pupils – Open to all - livestreamed**

**Wednesday 9 June – 9.30am – St John's – Requiem Mass for Harry Haston - livestreamed, no booking required**

## Thursday 10 June

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass - livestreamed, no booking required**

7.30pm – St John's Hall – **Baptism Preparation Course 2**

## Friday 11 June – FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

10.15am – St John's – **Mass – livestreamed (NB Change of time)**

11am - **Rosary Group** – 'Anyone can join, especially if you have Facebook Messenger, but also on WhatsApp, or just on the phone. Sometimes it takes time for us all to join in, but we always manage. Please join us.

Message Maria Igoe on 07981333219 or [mariaigoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mariaigoe@yahoo.co.uk)'

## Saturday 12 June

12.00 noon – St John's – **Mass with First Communions – livestreamed, by invitation only**

6.30pm – St John's – **Mass – livestreamed, booking required**

## Sunday 13 June

9.30am – St John's – **Mass with - livestreamed, booking required.**

11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass - pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube**

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass - booking required**

### BOOKING PLACES AT MASS

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) or by email ([stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am to 1pm) only.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Arlene Lauder writes:** 'It is hard to believe that 14 months after the first Zoom children's liturgy session we are still going strong and the young people of our two parishes are as enthusiastic as ever. We are delighted to have a regular number of families joining us each week at 11:15 am zooming in to hear the Liturgy of the Word at their level.

If you would like to join us or know of a family with children of primary school age, please get in touch, just email [lauder.82@btinternet.com](mailto:lauder.82@btinternet.com) and we will add you to the link list.'

## IN THE COMING WEEKS

Thursday 17 June – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Funeral Service for Graham Neilson.**

Saturday 19 and 26 June – **12 midday – First Communions**

### Archbishop Leo’s Weekly Ad Clerum

**Mental Health event** - The Archdiocese is hosting an event titled ‘Mental Health and the Pandemic: How can we respond?’. It takes place on Monday, 7 June, 7:30-8:30pm (Zoom webinar) and features Father Tony Lappin and Professor John Crichton. Register at [bit.ly/MentalHealth\\_Webinar](https://bit.ly/MentalHealth_Webinar)

**ACN Benefactors’ Day** - Bishop Robson will celebrate Mass to mark Aid to the Church in Need’s benefactors’ day on Thursday, 10 June at 10am. You can watch it on the livestream section at [www.dunkelddioecese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelddioecese.co.uk)

## NOTICE BOARD

### St John’s Church Tower

**Chris Vinestock**, St John’s Fabric Co-ordinator, writes: ‘We are very pleased to announce that repair works on St John’s Church Tower and the surrounding areas will start on Monday week, 14 June.

The works will continue throughout the summer until mid-October.

During this work, the church will be open for Mass and other Services as per normal. However, your patience will be greatly appreciated as at times there may be unavoidable noise.

Please note that the bells will be silenced for the duration of the work.

Heartful thanks for your help and support during this necessary structural work.’

### A MAJOR NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE - TOWER TOMBOLA!

Tickets for this draw cost £10 each and can be purchased on an individual basis or in groups of two or more people.

The prize will be 25% of the prize pot with the other 75% of the prize pot going towards the Tower Fund - so for example, if we sell 100 tickets, the prize will be £250 while £750 will go to the fund.

Tickets can be purchased monthly or, if preferred, 6 months or 12 months in advance, and payment can be in cash, standing order or a bank transfer.

We have an information leaflet with all the relevant details which will be sent out to each household in St John’s – and to any St Mary Magdalene’s parishioner who would like to receive it. (After discussion, we decided on balance that it would be worthwhile and cost effective to send out by second class post rather than as yet another email....!)

The plan is to have the monthly draw on the second Saturday of each month, with the first one being on Saturday 10 July.

Please contact Catherine McAnenny (07968970159) if you would like to take part in this draw.

**Oh Lord, let me feel at one with myself.  
Let me perform a thousand daily tasks with love,  
but let everyone  
spring from a greater central core  
of devotion and love.**

*(Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman from Holland who died in Auschwitz)*

## **Please sponsor Fr Jim Walls on his Walking Pilgrimage to Draw Attention to the Plight of Refugees Stranded at Calais**

Fr Jim Walls, Spiritual Director of the Scots College in Rome, and son of our late parishioner Cathy, plans to walk the 290 miles during his summer holidays from Iona to Lindisfarne to draw attention to the plight of these refugees. Monies raised will go to funds for St Maria Skobstova House of Hospitality in Calais. Visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/in-solidarity>

### **News of and from Fr Syriac, the Indian Capuchin Priest who was parish priest of St Ninian's for several years until last September – and is now back in Kerala in SW India.**

*'Greetings of Peace and Joy...Glad to know that the people in the UK are coming gradually back to normal life. Today I watched in the news that the movie houses will be reopened shortly in the UK.*

*As you may know, here things are not very promising regarding the spread of Coronavirus. We have already lost a few of our friars from different provinces. We are trying to help people whatever way we can. We have expressed our willingness to the health department that our Friary and its premises could be used as a care centre for the affected. We are planning to move into a small house in our compound to make our main building avail to the needy. Since last week we have been in 'triple lockdown' and almost confined to our friary. I am sure that you will be all the more busy in the parish to keep everything going especially during this difficult time. Sometimes I attend the online mass at St Ninians, mainly to see the people whom I love.... Kindly keep us in your prayers.'*

### **Looking After the Fabric at St Mary Magdalene's**

**Deacon Eddie writes:** 'A few weeks ago we put a note in the newsletter with regards to trying to get more people involved in the fabric and maintenance at St Mary Magdalene's – and the only Mass Fr Jock forgot to mention this at was...St Mary Magdalene's!

This week we have managed to finally get a crisp, clean sound on the livestream in St Mary Magdalene's, but this involves more cables which can then cause more work too.

With the annual maintenance and the improvements in the wiring as well as, hopefully, the freshly de-weeded areas outside the church, **St Mary Magdalene's could do with another couple of pairs of hands.**

If you are over zero and under 200 years old and would be willing to join us in keep the Parish looking the part, please let me know either after Mass or by email [ewhite@outlook.com](mailto:ewhite@outlook.com) or text/WhatsApp/call 07986015772.'

### **Etty Hi A REQUEST FROM RIGHT TO LIFE - Ask your MP to sign a Parliamentary motion to stop 'DIY' abortion**

'Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible sign Carla Lockhart's motion to send a clear message to the Government that they must end dangerous 'DIY' home abortion services as soon as possible.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to sign the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds!

[www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion)



<p><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p>Graham Neilsen - Cathy Browne Betty Colthart - Rose Paxton Monica Davidson - Kerry Horn - Fr John Scally</p> <p><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p>Frances Green - Canon Michael McCullagh - Jessie Fisher - Tommy Fagan</p>	<p><i>Anniversaries:</i></p> <p><b>St John's</b>  <b>June 5:</b> Stuart Aitken (1993); Mrs Quinn (1976); Rose Brown (1976)  <b>June 6:</b> Patrick Taylor jr (1971)  <b>June 7:</b> Kenneth Jones (2010); Margaret Hunt (2002); Thomas Lear (1997); Mary Cosgrove (1988)  <b>June 8:</b> Jane McDonald (2017); Peggy Neilson (1993); Kate Browne (1978); Douglas Napier  <b>June 9:</b> Dorothy Montgomery (2008); Elizabeth Dyer (1957); Margaret Connor (1954)  <b>June 10:</b> Brian Coll  <b>June 11:</b> Andrew Carey (2003); Isabella Young (2003); Michael J Kempton (2002); John Reidy (2000); Patricia Pyper (1999)</p> <p><b>St Mary Magdalene's</b>  <b>June 5:</b> Katie Banks (1988)  <b>June 8:</b> Margaret Neilson (1993); Mary Harris (1968)  <b>June 10:</b> William T Ramsay (1967)  <b>June 11:</b> Isabella Gallagher (2001); Jan Ulas (1996);</p>
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<p><i>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</i></p> <p><b>St. John's:</b> Ernie Moran, Peter Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Joyce Martin, Mike Iannarelli, , Chloe Sutherland, May Thomson, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, James Curnyn, Celia Stone, Catherine Walker, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Susan Cammach, Pauli Walker, Dolores Jones, Evelyn Oldershaw, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Frank Logan, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, Alan Blyth, Mary Slight, Mary Phair, Rose Thornton, Kitty Dykes, Norman Telfer, Philip Jamieson, Alf MacNamara, Maureen Lawrie, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.</p> <p><b>St Mary Magdalene's:</b> Denis Davidson, Sheila and George Service, Chris English, Jacqueline Marinello, Andrew Farmer, Ray Donnelly, Sam Burns, Clive Davis, Ella Ayers, Isobel Phillips, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Ann Dockrell, John Newall, 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 and James Muir.</p>	<p><i>Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:</i></p> <p>Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, William Barker, Canon Andrew Monaghan, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ray Perrett, William Young, Nick Koning, /Ann Thorp, John Mackenzie, Alistair Grieves, Tonino Howard, baby Josh Simpson, Maureen McEvoy, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, Marina Calanna, Alec Hamill, Peter Millar, Nan Doig, Rachel Kennedy, Leo Stone, baby Baxter Sweeney, Sr May Lewis, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Billy McPhillips, Jean Nelson, Margaret Anne Marton, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Fr Christy Fox, Joe Greenan, Michael Igoe, Katie Mc Anenny, Robert Shaw, baby Kinsley McMillan, John Walsh, Moira McConville, Margaret and Victoria Roddam, John Williams, Clare Richardson, Karen MacKay, Laura Anderson, Gloria Crolla, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, Janice Todd, Lauli Ridge, Seval Kazimoglu, Anne Young, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Jennifer Kay, Ranier Carpo, Marie Baird, Andrew Franklin, Frank Palmer, Paul Henderson, Ellen Green, Andrew Preston, Jamie Mitchell, Eunice Macdonald, Peter Bromley, Kathleen Cawley, Margo Law, Misia Jack, Hannah Muldoon, Emma Bromet, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Diana Hibbert, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull, Stuart Falconer, and young Ray Donovan Syme</p>
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**Warm wishes and prayers go with Ann Dockrell as she moves from her home in Duddingston High Rd to Cramond Nursing Home (<https://cramondresidence.co.uk/> - 49 Cramond Rd N, Edinburgh EH4 6NQ – 336 1064).....if anyone wishes to visit her please make contact with her daughter Julie ([j.dockrell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.dockrell@ucl.ac.uk)).**

### Offertory Collections – 30 May 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£85.10 total including Offertory of £54.10 and Gift Aid of 31.00	£1343.08 total including Offertory of £221.68, Gift Aid of £147.40 and £974.00 Online Donations
<b>Tower Fund Collection - £821.00</b>	

# THANK YOU!

# A REFLECTION ON THE FEAST AND READINGS OF CORPUS CHRISTI/THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Prime Minister of the UK was able to marry last weekend in Westminster Cathedral, despite having been married twice before. Many people seem to have been puzzled by what appears to be a loophole in Roman Canon Law; a few were angry; and others had old wounds re-opened as they recalled being denied access to the sacraments because – as they saw it - they had fallen in love with the wrong person. The authorities in the Church referred to ‘irregular’ marriages, which some find as offensive as others find referring to homosexual men and women as ‘intrinsically disordered’. When I heard the news last Saturday evening of the Carrie Symonds wedding, I found myself carried back to the 1960’s when my own family was torn apart over the issue of divorce and remarriage. One of my sisters had fallen in love with a divorced man and intended to marry him. The local priest got wind and told my parents that they and we, as members of her family, should not attend the civil ceremony. My parents obeyed this instruction - they were of the generation that, when told by the priest to jump, answered ‘how high’ rather than ‘why!’ My 10-year-old sister was denied her first chance to be a bridesmaid and couldn’t understand why. I, as a 14-year-old unable to express feelings and emotions, discovered that I could cope with the underlying tension at the reception through drinking alcohol whenever no-one was looking. Through the stance adopted by the local priest, the Church had preserved her teaching on the sanctity of marriage, a family had been left devastated and I had taken the first steps towards 30 years of alcoholic abuse! When a butterfly flaps its wings in the Amazon Rainforest, a typhoon is experienced far, far away in ....

Last week I underwent yet another cardioversion – my sixth - and attended the pre-op session two days earlier. I was tested for COVID, had bloods taken, height and weight measured (embarrassing!) – all of the usual and was then, after all of the risks and procedure had been explained, given the consent form to sign. I was asked for the name of a next of kin “just in case anything goes wrong” – and then asked if I had a religion. This floored me – probably for the first time ever. I will always describe myself as Christian and have always been inspired by the word ‘catholic’ - meaning universal. I believe that the whole of creation is redeemed which is why the abuse of our planet is so abhorrent. For a long time, I have emphasised Catholic at the expense of Roman Catholic. Is this all semantics or am I trying to be authentic to my belief in the person of Jesus Christ, the mystery of the Trinity explored last Sunday, and the events of Easter and Pentecost re-enacted just a few weeks ago? I opened my first bank account as an 18-year-old with Barclays and have resisted every seduction offered by other banks to switch. I don’t change easily.... and never quickly!

I desperately need this weekend’s feast. It forces me back to basics, to focus on the essential, to keep in mind that in the communal sharing of bread and wine we each individually remember and re-present the sacrifice and victory of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we recollect all that he stood for and all that he criticised and rejected. On Maundy Thursday we were preoccupied by the dark shadow of Good Friday looming over us. Today we can focus on the sheer magnitude and madness that is the gift of the Eucharist. Everything else is worthless dross when held up against the majesty and beauty of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. It is almost impossible to find anything in the Gospel that would indicate that Jesus would be exercised by the minutiae of Canonical interpretation or Sacramental Rubrics. Blood that was shed **for** us is shared **by** us; the body that was battered, bruised, and executed **for** us is **given** to us that we might be sustained, nourished, and renewed. Everything else becomes irrelevant when compared to the enormity of the gift we celebrate.

*He brings a new covenant.... so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance, may actually receive what was promised.* (Second reading: Hebrews 9:15) Today, we celebrate that covenant, that pure gift, gift from God. It is a gift that brings hope and encouragement, a gift that brings life and a gift that helps us focus on the things that are important and essential.

# FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

## Chapter 21 – Steeped in Quietness



(City of God Manuscript, c.1470)

A short description in Augustine's book The City of God offers us, I believe, a perfect model for silent prayer.

In the final paragraph he describes the process, as he sees it, by which we enter into our life with God in eternity. He writes:

*'In eternity we shall rest and we shall see. We shall see and we shall love. We shall love and we shall praise.'*

For me, these words suggest the stages by which we also become aware of our union with God in this life.

Our first experience of eternity, he tells us, is as a haven of rest. And resting is the starting point for our journey to our hearts, but it is only the start. In resting we begin the journey that will transform our lives. We shall find a new way of seeing and then a new way of loving. Of loving ourselves, and others, and God.

To spend time resting from all effort prepares us for a living encounter with the Lord. When we come to believe that God is, before all else, the one who invites us to a place of rest, then we will cease our struggling and let him enfold us in his peace.

We no longer wear ourselves out trying to find God, or trying to gain his approval. Instead, we wait for him in silence and peace. We listen, and in the silence we hear his gentle invitation to that quiet place within where he waits for us.

So we bring our body and mind into a state of stillness, that stillness described in Psalm 130 in which all words disappear, in which our whole being is steeped in quietness and trust:

*O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me.  
Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace.  
As a child in its mother's arms even so my soul.  
O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever*

This is our cue: to rest in the Lord's presence as a child in its mother's arms. It is so simple, and so sensible.

As we are drawn deeper into the silence all sorts of things happen. But to begin with let us first trust the silence, trust that God is at the heart of the silence. In time the silence will deepen.

We do not look for anything except to find our way to the still centre where Christ is.