

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:

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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

Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

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

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com



Eleventh Sunday of the Year - 13 June 2021

*“This is what the kingdom of God is like.
A man throws seed on the land.
Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the
seed is sprouting and growing;
how, he does not know.*

*Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot,
then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.
And when the crop is ready, he loses no time:
he starts to reap because the harvest has come.”
(Mark, 4:26-29)*

AN INVITATION TO CONSIDER COMING BACK TO MASS IN CHURCH

Fr Jock writes: ‘This week we return to ‘Ordinary Time’ in the Church’s Year: and perhaps it’s an opportunity to encourage those who haven’t been to Mass since lockdown began to consider coming back to one (or both!) of our churches. We’re aware COVID 19 is still active in Edinburgh and many people are understandably still a bit nervous. We certainly don’t want anyone to feel uncomfortable, but we’re continuing to do our very best to keep everybody safe (through regular sanitising and social distancing etc).

However, if I’m honest, I’ll admit to a growing concern that without such encouragement and invitation, more than a few parishioners (and families) will end up drifting away from our community and the nourishment that keeps faith alive – and, I believe, if that were to happen, both we and they lose out...one of the real bonuses of being an active Catholic Christian is belonging to a warm and diverse community where we can support each other in the joys and sorrows of everyday life, and help one another in our rather secular world to continue to try to embrace and live the beautiful gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you're thinking of coming back to Mass, please be assured the warmest of welcomes awaits you... Likewise if you want to have a chat about anything that might be worrying you or holding you back from doing so, please do make contact.

PS If you're worried about joining us on a Sunday, do consider coming on a weekday when there are fewer people and there's no need to book in advance).

PPS Do show this to anyone who might appreciate this....

Many Congratulations to the P4 pupils who will make/made their First Communion on Saturday 12 June – Serin Kazimoglu, Archie Crawley, Oscar Currie, Emma Garcia Sancho Heeney, Aine Jones, Sophia Baczyk and Emi Mielnik-Kosmideska ... and asking for prayers for those who will make their First Communion next Saturday, 19 June – Ignacio Finlayson, Daniel McHardy, Grace Pettigrew, Marianne Read, Maggie Skene, Reyes Taylor, Josie Stewart and Thomas Baranski

The Work Commences This Week on 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 this Monday, 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 – which is why for this week Mass will be at St Mary Magdalene's on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

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

Heartfelt thanks for your help and support during this necessary structural work – **and please pray for the safety of all involved.'**



Saturday 12 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 13 June

9.30am – St John's – **Mass - livestreamed, fully booked**

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass – fully booked**

Monday 14 June

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

7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All - to join in over Zoom, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85925364042?pwd=N3pid1J4WENvaWpLcTRtbEh5VldWQT09>**

Tuesday 15 June

4.30pm – Parish House – **St John's Fabric Committee Meeting.**

7.00pm – **Mass from the Prayer Room – livestreamed**

Wednesday 16 June – 10.0am – St Mary Magdalene's's – Mass - livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 17 June

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Funeral Service for Graham Neilson - livestreamed, no booking required**

Friday 18 June

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

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’

Saturday 19 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 20 June

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass with baptism of Oliver and Theo Hunt** - 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) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (10am to 1pm) only.



(with gratitude, as often, to the PJPC e-letter)

NOTICE BOARD

Link for Night Prayer/Compline

This Saturday - June 13 - 9.15pm <https://youtu.be/Jbs5oZEGk8g>
This Wednesday - June 16 - 9.15pm <https://youtu.be/Ymf9k6LNakY>

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.

Warm birthday greetings to Charles Malcolm, 60 last Sunday 6 June

Many Congratulations to Maryam Jabir, who last week was awarded an upper Second Class degree in Animation from Dundee School of Art and Design

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wayne Stratford</i> <i>Hugh Morris</i> <i>Juana Dolores Martinez</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cathie McGravie</i> <i>Anne-Marie Aitken</i> <i>Robbie Cammack</i> <i>George Hanlon</i> <i>David Gaughan - Tom Brown</i> <i>Thomas McNama</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anniversaries:</i></p> <p><u>St John's</u> June 12: Peter McLauchlin (1993); Mrs Young (1939); Catherine Regan June 13: Beatrice Nimmo (2005); John Govan (2003); Bernard Holligan (1993); Lyndsey Jacob (1991); Christina Mullen (1978); John Brown (1945 killed in action); Sally Eadie; Bridget McCole (1997) June 14: Cathie McGravie (2018); Lily Sandham (1985); Annie Rae (1979); Susan (Magee) Purcell (1970); John Fusco (1942); Winnie Torrance June 15: Ona McArthur (2011); Anthony Fusco (1978); Jessie McGuire (1954) June 16: Tom Brown (2016); Anne Marie Aitken (2015); Annette Donivar (2013); Violet Macnamara (1997); Fr. John Fusco (1994); Amelia W Murphy (1981) June 17: Roland Ogilvie (2013) June 18: Thomas Quinn (2004); Mary Eardley (1999); Betty McLean (1997); Thomas McNama (1966)</p> <p><u>St Mary Magdalene's</u> June 12: David Gaughan (2000); June 13: Hugh McCarron (2000); June 14: Josephine Heaney (1996); June 16: Isobel Kesson (1995);</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</i></p> <p><u>St. John's:</u> Pat Hunter, Dolores Jones, Ernie Moran, Peter Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Joyce Martin, Mike Iannarelli, , Chloe Sutherland, May Thomson, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler,, Celia Stone, Catherine Walker, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Susan Cammach, Pauli Walker, 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><u>St Mary Magdalene's:</u> 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 style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:</i></p> <p>Niamh McDougall, Janie Low, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Derek Beatty, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, William Barker, 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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Offertory Collections – 30 May 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£182.00 total including Offertory of £97.00 and Gift Aid of 85.00	£1709.40 total including Offertory of £322.00, Gift Aid of £413.40 and £974.00 Online Donations

THANK YOU!

Carers Week Bulletin



Let's Make Caring Visible and Valued!

There are over 70,000 carers in Lothian, and one in seven of the UK workforce is juggling an unpaid caring role alongside their employment. These often startling numbers mean that working for NHS Lothian, in whatever role we are in, we will all be interacting with carers all the time. There will be carers among our patients, visitors and family members, the public coming to our sites and among our colleagues.

The significant impact of caring on all aspects of life from finances, relationships and health are well-documented. Many people feel that caring is one of the most rewarding and important things they do. However, it is also widely recognised that caring can be challenging and that those challenges can be intensified without the appropriate information and support.

Yet often despite all that carers do, they are not always noticed or recognised appropriately. The theme of this year's national Carers Week is Make Caring Visible and Valued. NHS Lothian is committed to making every week Carers Week by recognising and supporting carers engaging with our services and within our teams.

Gillian McAuley, Nurse Director for Acute Services and member of the Lothian Carers Best Practice Forum, shares her vision for how NHS Lothian will support carers moving forward.

"It is my aspiration for us to work towards a culture within acute hospitals that sees relatives, carers and friends as part of the ward team. The importance of family, carers or friends to patients in hospital cannot be overstated. There are many situations where the support from family, carers and friends have a positive effect on the quality of nutrition, healing, recovery and reducing stress and distress. Given this, support from family, carers and friends should be a fundamental part



of care and not optional. Studies have shown that as well as benefits to quality patient, family, carer and staff experience are all improved."

Who are carers?

The Scottish Government defines carers as follows.

Unpaid carers provide care and support to family members, friends and neighbours. The people they care for may be affected by disability, physical or mental ill-health, frailty or substance misuse. A carer does not need to be living with the person they care for.

Care and support could mean helping with practical tasks like shopping or paying bills, personal care like bathing or feeding, or emotional or communication support.

A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mark 4: 26-34

As a teenager I loved ‘The Magic Roundabout’ and I loved ‘The Prisoner’: both were cult television programmes of the 1960’s. Last week, out of the blue, someone asked me ‘What was the Magic Roundabout all about?’ I couldn’t answer. I never really had a clue as to what either were about and that was their appeal. They meant whatever I wanted them to mean. In the land of the Magic Roundabout, Dougal was my favourite character because of his world-weary disposition and Hancock-like humour - Tony Hancock, that is, rather than the present UK Health Minister! My real love, however, was ‘The Prisoner’. One episode had a huge impact. Number 6 (Patrick McGoohan) was pitted against a computer that had been installed in The Village. The computer was all powerful, and all-controlling. It would ensure greater compliance from the inhabitants. Number 6 managed to reduce the computer to a whirring smoking wreck as spools swirled out of control, sparks flew and the whole thing went into terminal decline. He had achieved this feat by typing in the question ‘Why?’ That’s all: ‘Why?’ - Why life? Why are we here? Why do we love – and why do we kill? That ‘Why’ asked by Number 6 meant whatever I wanted it to be – and whatever I needed it to be.

This appealed to my confused, angry adolescence. A few years later I tried to imitate the feat when I was a precocious Maths ‘A’ Level student and on a visit to Sunderland Polytechnic (now the University of Sunderland). The University had installed a computer and was opening its doors to those of Mathematic disposition. The computer was the size of a large drawing room. The air in the room was refrigerated to prevent the machine from overheating and the machine itself probably packed the same computing power as a modern iPhone or Smartphone. I asked the computer to work out for me $\tan 90$ to the power of $\tan 90$. Some of you will remember logarithms from your school days. The logarithm of $\tan 90$ is infinity so asking the computer to find an answer to the equation $\tan 90$ to the power of $\tan 90$ was never going to produce a satisfactory or achievable result. To my disappointment the computer didn’t catch fire or belch noxious fumes or melt. It merely shut down, the cursor on the screen blinking at me full of accusatory indignation.

Here in the UK, this weekend marks ‘Father’s Day’. It has evolved into something of a money-spinner these days, but my thinking has been drawn to memories of my long-deceased father. Difficult though he was, I was never in any doubt that he loved me, but even at the tender age of 8 I realized that other school mates were not so lucky. George S had a father who regularly beat and abused him physically. Money was spent on his father’s drinking and smoking habits rather than his children. George always cut a sad figure. His eyes displayed nothing except that awful emptiness that accompanies intense unhappiness. As an 8-year-old I encountered ‘Why?’ Why do some fathers love their children and others not? So many questions, so many conundrums, so much to learn.

‘Why?’ When Burt Bacharach penned the song ‘Alfie’ he asked: ‘Is it just for the moment, we live?’, adding ‘without true love we just exist’. We all have so many questions and they increase in line with our years. In today’s Gospel Mark tells us that Jesus, using *many parables like these, (he) spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.* Think back to the beginning of your own journey in the ways of faith. Contrast it to where you are now. Please God, your understanding is at a deeper level. I certainly hope so because it means your faith is alive – and that you are now able to understand more fully. The child who believes in the tooth fairy can grow up to become a dentist, the one who knelt as a 7-year-old receiving Holy Communion for the first time grew up to be the religious celebrating fifty years of dedicated service. We live, we change, we grow, we develop – and we become more like the God who created us – for that is our calling. We are like mere mustard seeds – the tiniest of seeds but able to grow into the biggest of shrubs.

(NB The author of these reflections is a friend of Fr Jock living in Northumberland)

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 22 – Giving Ourselves Permission To Rest



(Vreta Monastery Clastrum, Sweden)

Once, a woman arriving for an eight-day retreat seemed to me to be utterly exhausted. So, for her first day she took my advice to sit in the garden and admire the budding blossoms. It was early spring.

The second day came. I asked her to continue to sit in the garden and admire the beauty around her.

On the morning of the third day, she looked a bit perplexed when I asked her to do the same.

When we reached the fourth morning, she said to me: ‘For the first few days I thought I was on a botanical journey. But now I see that I am only just ready to start my retreat properly.’

Her expectation was probably to be plunged into a program of Scripture reading, spiritual exercises, and spiritual direction. But sometimes when we set aside time for the Lord, we are in no fit state to settle down to pray.

It is not because we lack goodwill, or because our faith is weak. It is not that there is something in our lives, some moral problem perhaps, coming between us and God. It is simply that we are too anxious, too agitated, too confused. We ignore the signs of heaviness and tiredness and try to get started. Our training has probably conditioned us to plod on no matter how weary the mind and heart may be. No wonder our attempts to pray can so often seem to fail!

When we are exhausted, we need to rest. This applies as much to prayer as to our daily living. So, we should give ourselves permission to rest.

This is what our silent prayer is all about. We rest in the Lord. We try to be quiet and let the silence speak to us, to be quiet and let the Lord work in us, to be quiet and just enjoy being with him, even if we feel nothing.

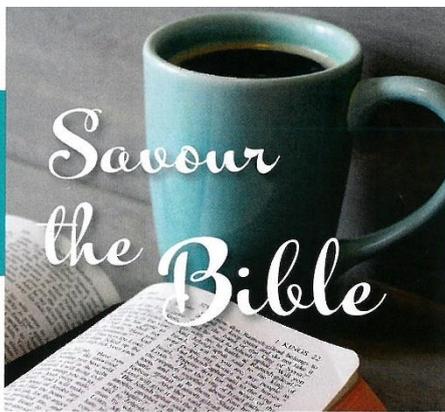
Sitting in the priory garden quietly absorbing the sights and sounds of early spring was a perfect way to start a journey into deeper silence.

Now, the invitation to use our prayer time as primarily a time of rest is one our ego will resist. The ego wants to be active, doing, making an effort to show God we are seriously intent on making good use of our time with him. To be invited to sit and rest does not please the ego. It will do anything rather than take a back seat. It will fight every effort on our part to let God ‘do the driving’.

So, we must be prepared for resistance from within to our plans for our prayer time. The more determined we are to do nothing, the more frustrated our ego becomes and the more it will resist. When, after maybe a long period spent in resting with the Lord, we feel we have achieved nothing, feel it is a waste of time, we can be sure that the ego is urging us to admit failure and give up.

Augustine found ‘ego’ a problem. ‘*All the time I wanted to stand and listen. To listen to your voice,*’ he told God. ‘*But I could not, because another voice, the voice of my own ego, dragged me away.*’

Once we become aware of the wiles of our own ego, we shall find it easier to do nothing but rest in the Lord without feeling guilty.



Tim Redmond explores the drama of God speaking in human words...

Later you will understand

Those who walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, or the Via Francigena to Rome, may occasionally come across an ancient tradition of hospitality and service if they stay in one of the religious *albergues* or *ostelli* which provide basic accommodation along the way. In a simple ceremony before supper, the pilgrims sit in a circle and the hosts wash and dry their weary feet.

Pope Francis was elected in the season of Lent in 2013 and just two weeks later celebrated the Holy Week liturgies in Rome for his first time. We were just getting to know him. One of the many striking images of those few days was of Francis at a youth detention centre on Maundy Thursday, washing the feet of twelve young people, prisoners, male and female, Christian and Muslim. Some people were shocked.

We know that the washing of the feet occurred at the Last Supper and we probably are fairly sure that the Last Supper is to be found in each of the gospels. But if we look closely we find that the washing of the feet is only to be found in St John's gospel. Maundy Thursday is the day we recall Jesus for the first time taking bread and breaking it, blessing the bread and wine and giving it to his apostles with the words, 'This is my body...this is my blood'. These are called the 'words of institution of the Eucharist'. And again if we look closely we will find that these words are not to be found in John's gospel at this point although John has previously given us many sayings of Jesus on the 'Bread of Life' back in chapter six.

A friend of mine asked me why John does not include the 'words of institution' at this point. But I think it is the wrong question. I think such speculation can safely be left to the scholars and theologians or those who will be having examinations! Why does John tell us about the washing of the feet at this point is a more important question? What are we to make of it?

Stay with the passage in John. It is the first part of Chapter 13. Pope Francis has said that merely

remembering what the gospel has said, as if learning the catechism, is not enough. We let the words we read touch us afresh. As the philosopher Martin Buber said of reading the Bible: *You do not know which of its sayings and images will overwhelm and mould you.*

The words themselves are simple. John seems to tell us the meaning in his first line: *Jesus knew his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.* But those within the story do not know this. People who know they are dying often have important things they want to say and do while they still have time. When Jesus prepares himself to perform the task of a servant Peter is shocked and objects strongly. It seems wrong to him. And he is quick to complain. And perhaps the key words are what follow. Jesus says, *You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.* (John 13:7) When we read the Bible, often if we are honest, we might say 'we do not understand'. But later we will understand.



Jésus lave les pieds de ses disciples. (Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.) Image: Vie De Jesus MAFA

In 2016 on Maundy Thursday Francis washed the feet of migrants at a refugee centre, male and female, Catholic and Orthodox, Hindu and Muslim. In that year he had 'changed the rules' to make it clear that at Maundy Thursday celebrations the feet of women could be washed. And again, eyebrows were raised, and pens taken up. Peter is not the only one to be confused.

Jesus says *If I have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.* In one of his first interviews as Pope, Francis said: *I dream of a church that is a mother and shepherdess. The church's ministers must be merciful, take responsibility for the people and accompany them like the good Samaritan, who washes, cleans and raises up his neighbour.*

The prisoners, the refugees and the footsore pilgrims understand what they mean. ■

Fr Tim Redmond is a former editor of *Africa Magazine*. He taught Scripture for many years in Kenya where he also served on the editorial team of *The African Bible*.