

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

WELCOME!

If you are 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.



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, 15 August 2021

*'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of
your womb.'*

*And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked
upon his lowly handmaid.'*

*Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.*

We are very sad to have to announce the death of Rob Moyes, husband of Madge, who died on Thursday evening after a cardiac arrest the night before. Rob has been a bulwark and stalwart of St Mary Magdalene's for many years, ever-generous and reliable whether opening up, setting up for Mass or in so many other different ways....May his gentle soul rest in peace....and may Madge, their sons and all their family be given the strength and faith and hope they need at this time.

Fr Jim Walls will be celebrating this Saturday's Vigil Mass in St John's in anticipation of the first anniversary of his Mum, Cathy Walls. Cathy's anniversary is on 28 August but Fr Jim has to return to the Scots College in Rome on 16 August (helping to look after it until the students return).

Fr Jim has very kindly offered to give a short illustrated talk on his Lindisfarne – Iona pilgrimage, made to bring attention to the plight of refugees – especially those in Calais – and to raise funds for the Marie Skobotsva House there. He will speak at 5.15pm, probably in the Hall – all welcome.

A HEALING MASS - THE FIRST FOR 18 MONTHS - WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK WILL TAKE PLACE THIS MONDAY 16 AUGUST AT 2.30pm at ST JOHN'S

The next Baptismal Course will take place at 7.30pm in St John's Hall this Thursday 19 and Thursday 26 August....if you would like your child baptised, please make contact with Fr Jock sooner rather than later!

TOWER TOMBOLA - THE FIRST DRAW TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY AFTER THE 9.30AM MASS The prize pot for August will be £262.50 & £787.50 will go towards the Tower Fund. Thank you to everyone that has supported this initiative. If you would like to take part in future draws of the Tower Tombola, please get in touch with Catherine Mc Anenny(07968970159) . Tickets cost £10 per month & can be purchased individually or in a group . Payments can be made in cash/ chq/ bank transfer / standing order . **Parish bank account details: -Account Number: -10765768, Sort Code 80-46-53. Acc name - St John's Church Please use TT (Tower Tombola) followed by your name as the bank ref on your payment.**

Important Developments in Attending Mass In Our Parishes – Now No Need to Book



In our efforts to encourage more people to return to attending Mass, we have suspended the necessity to book in advance,

So ... prior booking will not be required – although a seat can still be booked if preferred. ... (although in keeping with Health and Safety regulations, we are still required to

collect names and telephone numbers for Track and Trace, to use hand sanitisers and sanitise seating).

To help us with Test & Protect, the check-in Scotland app can be scanned at the door with your mobile phone camera. Extra helpers will be available to assist and explain the use of this app, or you can simply have your name recorded on the paper forms

IF YOU STILL WISH TO BOOK A PLACE AT MASS

If you still wish to BOOK, please contact the Parish House by phone (0131 669 5618 – a special number) or by email (stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm

NB Please specify if you would prefer a place with two metre distancing....



Saturday 14 August –
11.30am – St John's – Baptism of Joseph Beresford
12.30pm – St John's – Baptism of Norah Todd

5.15pm – St John’s Church/Hall – **Illustrated Talk by Fr Jim Walls on his Lindisfarne to Iona Pilgrimage**
6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass (celebrated by Fr Jim Walls)** – livestreamed, no booking required

Sunday 15 August – FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass with baptism of Freya Cockburn** – livestreamed, no booking required
11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** – pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – no booking required



Monday 16 August

2.30pm – St John’s - **Healing Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required
4.45pm – Skype – **PEP Meeting**
7-8.15pm – **Zoom Meeting – Gospel Sharing and Reflection – Open to All**

Tuesday 17 August

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required (NB CHANGE OF TIME AND VENUE)
12 midday – Mount Vernon – **Burial of Sheilagh Anderson**
2.00pm – St John’s – **Wedding of David Vanneck and Judy Veillette – and baptism of Lionel Vanneck**

Wednesday 18 August – 10.00am - St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 19 August

7pm - Prayer Room - **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required (NB CHANGE OF TIME AND VENUE)
7.30pm – St John’s Hall – **Baptism Preparation I**

Friday 20 August

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required
11.00am – **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?
2pm – Seafield Crematorium – **Funeral Service for Christina Burke**

Saturday 21 August

12.30pm – St John’s – **Baptism of Kayla Todd** (Deacon Eddie)
6.30pm – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Sunday 22 August

9.30am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required
11.00am – Prayer Room – **Mass** – pre-recorded, streamed on YouTube
11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – **booking required**

NOTICE BOARD

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

Courses at Gillis Centre: Applications are now open for a variety of courses run by St Mary’s University at the Gillis Centre Campus in Edinburgh, starting this autumn. Why not improve your knowledge of the Catholic Faith with an MA in Theology? Teachers are invited to register now for a range of MA Education courses as part of their continuing professional development. These are: Catholic School Leadership; Leading Innovation and Change; Pedagogy; Religious Education.

Watch testimonies from students on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (bit.ly/ArchYouTube). All details at www.stmarys.ac.uk/edinburgh

Webinar for clergy & parish finance committees - Funding for clergy retirement is the biggest financial challenge facing our Archdiocese. Clergy and members of parish finance committees are invited to a Zoom webinar at 6:30pm on Tuesday 31 August, hosted by the Archdiocese. The session will share the progress made, the challenges faced and options for parish based solutions. Here is the link to join on the night: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884035553>

Synod - A synod of the bishops will take place in Rome in 2023. The Holy Father has asked for the synod’s preparations to begin in local churches. It will begin with a period of consultation and discernment on Sunday 17 October this year. Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM has been asked to be the Archdiocese’s lead delegate in the national synodal process and will be assisted by Fr John Deighan (Lennoxton, Milton & Torrance). An announcement will be made soon on how that process will take shape in our Archdiocese.

St Mary's Cathedral choral album available online - After the successful launch of the 'With Angels and Archangels' CD last September, this debut album of the Schola Cantorum of St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh is now available on iTunes, Apple Music, Amazon Music and Spotify. Search the name of the album in the respective online service or follow the link at www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk

Vocations

The monthly Mass for Vocations will be at 6:30pm on Monday 6 September at St Columba's, 9 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh (EH9 1SN).

View From the Pew - Thoughts on Prayer

(The second in an occasional series by Pat Dishon)

Over the years, like many people I suspect, I have thought that other people were much better at praying than me. But I have come to accept the wisdom of the saying - 'Pray as you can, not as you can't.' The act of prayer is all that the Lord asks of us because it signifies belief in Him.

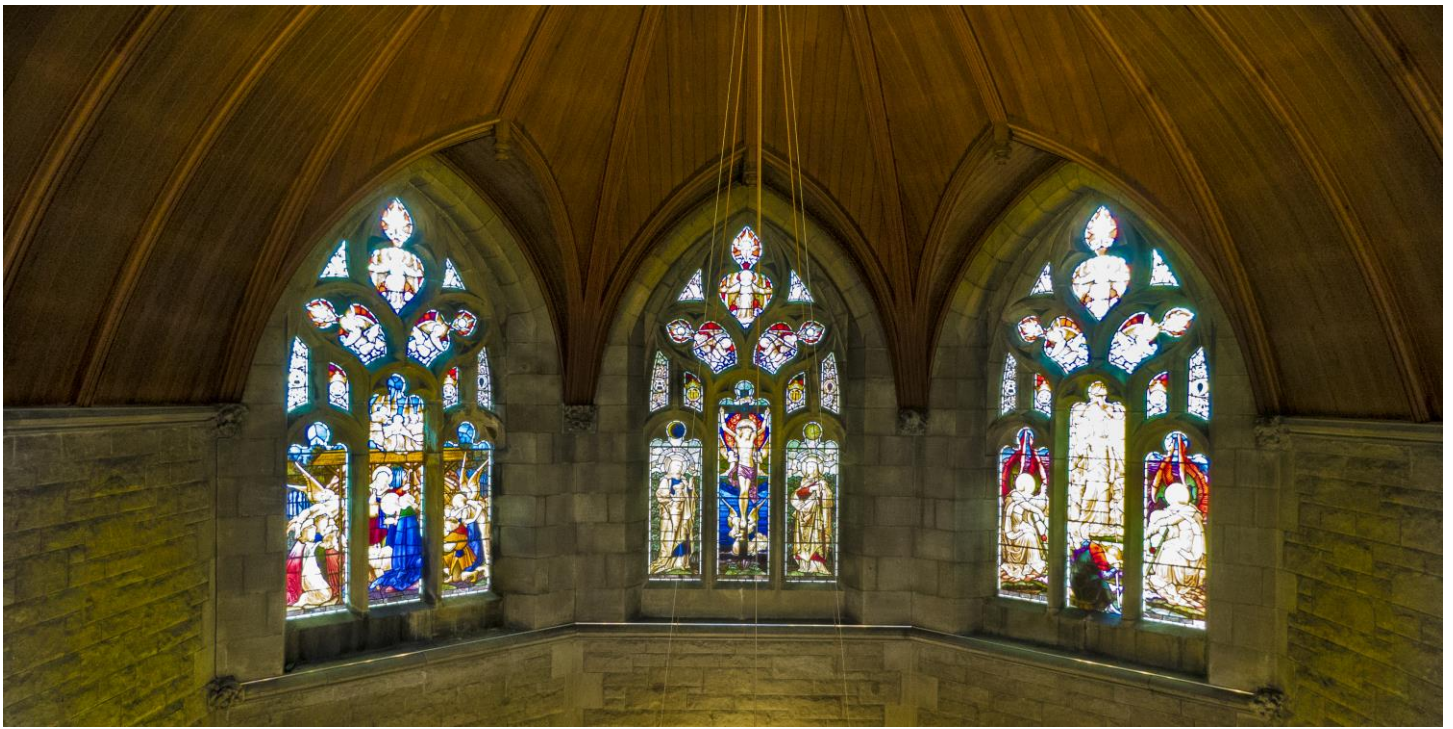
I have also learned that we can pray anywhere. Before I retired I often had to leave for work early in the morning and didn't have time for my morning prayers. So I used to say them on the bus. I once told my aunt that I had become so engrossed in my prayers that I went past my stop! She laughed and said - "There can't be many prayers said on the 26 bus." A few days later, when I arrived at the bus shelter, John, a lovely old Irish parishioner from our parish, was sitting there. He looked up as I greeted him - "Oh, hello, Pat," he said, "I was just saying the Rosary". He held up his hand and on his finger was a Rosary Ring.

I was concerned sometimes that most of my prayers seemed to be intercessory. One of my favourite Scottish writers, Jane Duncan, grew up, an only child, on her grand-parent's farm in a remote part of the Scottish Highlands. She was a very inquisitive child – always asking questions. Her busy, exasperated Granny would say to her - "Janet, will you be quiet with your ask, ask, asking!" That's what my prayers often felt like. But then, the Lord tells us - "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." The Lord encourages us to ask and, unlike Janet's Granny, He will never tell us to be quiet!

I have always prayed for people in need of help or healing but I never told these friends that I was praying for them if they were not believers. I suppose I didn't want them to see me as some kind of religious maniac! However, I came to see this as a denial of my discipleship so I started to tell them. In all the years since I have only had one friend tell me they didn't need my prayers. In fact the opposite happened. Knowing my prayer habit many (allegedly) non-believers would ask me to add their sick or troubled family members or friends to my prayer 'list'. However, I drew the line with friends who asked me to pray that Hibs would win the Cup!

Many years ago I told a church friend that my prayer 'list' was so long that I often fell asleep saying my night prayers. He said - "Why don't you just say - God Bless everybody." Somehow that didn't feel right but it took me a while to realise why. I once read an interview given by Mother Teresa. The interviewer asked her - "When you pray what do you say to God?" She replied - "I don't say anything, I just gaze." "And what," he continued, "Does God say to you?" "He doesn't say anything either he just gazes back." Surely, I thought, only a saint could pray like that. In time I came to realise that this kind of prayer was what a St. John's parishioner described as - "Listening with the ear of the heart." What seemed a very passive form of prayer actually demands action. Mother Teresa went out from that prayer to tend to the sick and the dying on the streets of Calcutta.

That's why my praying - "God Bless everybody" wouldn't do. I had to listen to what the Lord needed **me** to do for those I was **asking Him** to help. And He never asks us anything beyond our capabilities.



Bethany Christian Trust – Overnight Welcome Centre

Bethany Christian Trust provides accommodation for homeless people sleeping rough during the winter (from October to April). Previously, the organisation had its own premises with 75 beds crammed close together in a converted church but obviously, with the onset of Covid, this was not acceptable so, with the support of Edinburgh City Council, Bethany has been using hotels. This winter, as last year, they will be using the Haymarket Hub hotel, directly opposite Haymarket Station. It will be open between 4 October and 1 May.

The Homeless people using the overnight Welcome Centre are offered a hot meal and this is provided by church volunteers from around the city who prepare and serve it. Our parishes have been involved with this project for several years and last winter we were able to provide the meal on 15 occasions despite the fact that a number of our usual volunteers couldn't participate because of the need to shield etc.

To simplify the process, we order the meals from Apetito, a catering company, and these just need heating. Unfortunately, there is not a suitable kitchen at the Welcome Centre so we will be using a local church's kitchen to prepare the food then transport it to the Welcome Centre. The meal service starts at 8.30pm (with the volunteers doing the serving arriving about 7.30pm) and we are generally finished and away by 11pm.

If anyone would like to offer their services for one or two evenings (or more!), please contact Jim Roarty (jimroarty4@gmail.com: tel 07719952472). An early reply would be appreciated as we will have to let Bethany know how many nights we can take on.

A message from the Trussell Trust – UK's biggest provider of foodbanks

We need your help to spread the word. At the start of the Covid pandemic, the UK government increased Universal Credit by £20 a week. It is now planning to stop this increase this October – for some families, this will mean suddenly losing up to a fifth of their income.

Last year the food banks in our network gave out 2.5 million parcels & we're concerned this cut will mean even more people in the UK will need a food bank later this year. **More than a million people** say they are very likely to need a food bank if this cut goes ahead.

But it doesn't have to be like this. If we act together now and show the government we want them to choose to #KeepTheLifeline, we can change it. Please take five minutes to write to your local MP to ask them to help #KeepTheLifeline. For more information and help in taking action, go to www.trusselltrust.org/keepthelifeline

Warm birthday greetings to Bojena Tansey, 60 last Wednesday, 11 August

<p><i>Please pray for those who have died recently:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rob Moyes James Dignan Dorothy Ford Thomas Lapsley John Blyth</p> <p><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Margaret Waugh Tom Travers Jenny Fraser Pat Tansey</p>	<p>Anniversaries:</p> <p>St John's Aug.14: Leslie Berry (1995); Philip Brady; Aug.15: James Braby (2000); Robert Nelson (1983); John Calder (1954); Elizabeth Cunningham; Aug.16: Tom Travers (2020); William Burns (2016); Mary Rae (2013); Carlo Mancini (2002); Sydney Reid (1987); Aug.17: Edna May Travers (2019); Peggy Hanlon; Catherine Phair; Aug.18: Mary Hughes (2018); Mary Eaton (2015); Joyce Barber (1996); Alexander Binnie Sr. (1983); Aug.19: Kate Hanlon; Aug.20: John Pelosi (2009); Nellie McIntee (2005); Allan Dobson (2000); May Knight(1976); Cathie Fairgrieve;</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene's Aug.15: Ann Hutton (1996);</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:</i></p> <p>St. John's: Catherine Walker, Keira Jamieson, Fiona Connell, Anne-Marie Lofthouse, John Freeman, John Waugh, May Thomson, Josie Tilley, Evelyn Oldershaw, Sheila and George Service, Margaret Campbell, Ann Dobie, Kim O'Neill, Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Ernie Moran, Bob Kelly, Jean Bonnar, Mike Iannarelli, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Patricia Lawler, Celia Stone, Ruth Viso, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, John Cregan, young Saoirse Golden, John Whyte, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, 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>St Mary Magdalene's: Denis Davidson, 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>Baby Alfie McDevitt, Gordon Marron, Una Johnston, Dawn Clarke, William Kinsley, Katie Mc Anenny, John Kellagher, , Murdo Tait, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, William Young, Ann Thorp, John Mackenzie, Alistair Grieves, Tonino Howard, baby Josh Simpson, Helen McCann, Rhoda Tumboli, Dani Miniette, 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, 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, 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, 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 – 8 August 2021

THANK YOU!

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£308.00 total including Offertory of £137.00 and Gift Aid of £171.00	£ 1471.10 total including Offertory of £208.70, Gift Aid of £272.40 and £990.00 Online Donations

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE ASSUMPTION: LUKE 1.39-56

It's her 'ordinariness' that is the most inspiring aspect of Mary's life. Spare a moment or two to put flesh and bones on the episode recounted in this weekend's Gospel passage. Of all the evangelists, Luke spends the most time in giving such detail around the conception of Jesus. Throughout the whole of his Gospel, he gives prominence to the role of the women in Jesus' life, so it's inevitable that he will make Mary centre-stage in early proceedings. Picture the scene: Mary has had some sort of mystical experience which she describes as having been visited by an angel. The angel tells her that she is to bear a child. She cannot understand because she knows she has not been with Joseph. 'How can this be' she asks the Angel, 'since I am a virgin?' When word gets out of her pregnancy, she knows that tongues will wag, she realises that her reputation will be shattered. She knows that explaining all of this to Joseph will be nigh on impossible. She stands to lose everything. We would understand if she wanted time to be alone and process things.

Presented with such shattering news, our reaction could well be that we needed some privacy: it's not the reaction of Mary. She *went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah*. The angel has told her that her cousin Elizabeth is also pregnant. She knows that she must go and visit to see what she can do to help, especially because Elizabeth was in *her old age*. It was not an easy journey, and she was on foot. When they greet each other, Mary says to Elizabeth: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.... for the Almighty has done great things for me*. A huge burden has been asked of her, but she is cheerful and resolute in her execution of God's plan for her. Shortly after she has given birth, she and Joseph are compelled to take on refugee status as they take the newborn Jesus and flee to Egypt to escape Herod's infanticide. Resolute, resourceful but, above all, humble. *The almighty has done great things for me...*

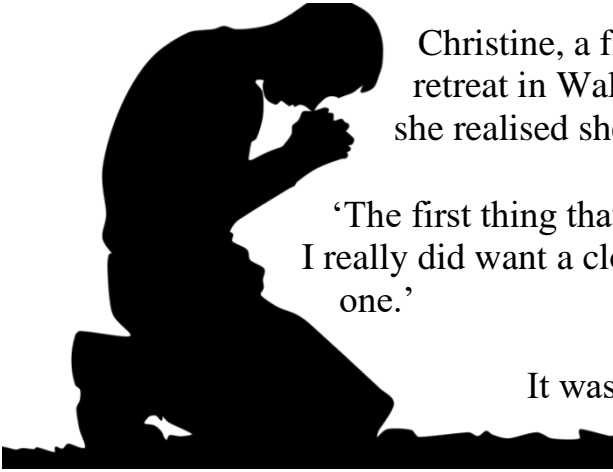
In embracing her ordinariness, Mary takes on greatness. This is her legacy, and she encourages us to follow suit. When she and Jesus are invited to a wedding in Cana, she offers the servants who were waiting on the guests, simple advice: *Do whatever he tells you....* She knows that humble acceptance and trust will always put her and us in good stead. Some thirty-plus years after her trip to see her cousin Elizabeth, the son she bore and who has now grown into a man, takes off his garment, and wearing only a towel around his waist washes and dries the feet of his closest disciples. A simple act of humility is transformed into an act of greatness. Jesus learned much in the presence of Mary and Joseph: Oh, to have been a fly on the wall of that family home!

It is this humility that we are called to imitate. When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he has already come to the realisation that in Christ's humility lay the path to his glory: *Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death...but God raised him high (Philippians 2:8)*. In a world of competition, assessment and comparisons, it will be our humility, our willing embrace of ordinariness that will be our accolade, our mark of wisdom and virtue. In England there has been much talk this week of 'A' Level results and GCSE's and much debate as to their worth. I suspect that the debate will rage on. Our inherent insecurity leads us along the path of comparison. The man driving the car that struggles to get through its MOT, looks enviously as another drives his £100,000 sports car. The teenager with 5 GCSE's feels woefully inadequate as all attention is turned towards the classmates who have achieved a string of A*s. The example of Mary, which we celebrate in today's feast of The Assumption, reminds us that enduring greatness is deeply rooted in humility and ordinariness. All that we have is gift, and the giver of the gift is God. *He has looked upon his lowly handmaid...and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.*

*Father, in Heaven,
All creation rightly gives you praise
For all life and all holiness comes from you.*

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 31 – Seeing with new eyes



Christine, a friend of mine, was introduced to silent prayer during a retreat in Wales at the age of 40 plus. Some time after returning home, she realised she was seeing herself and her life with new eyes.

‘The first thing that became clearer to me,’ said Christine, ‘was that, although I really did want a closer relationship with God, I was actually quite afraid of one.’

It was a fear of ‘being taken over’ and becoming a stranger, she said. Would she lose something of herself, or be asked to give up things that now seemed important to her

happiness?

‘By the end of the retreat,’ she went on, ‘I was beginning to see that the Lord is not an entity outside myself, with whom I have to reconcile all the forces within my personality, but is somehow in the deepest part of myself. There is no real conflict between all that makes me what I am, and God. The problem is that I don’t really understand what my real self is, and haven’t therefore allowed it to grow.’

Another major change was in Christine’s way of looking at how the Lord works in our lives. Initially, the texts given her for prayer time during the retreat were about God’s fatherly love. It seemed a long time since she had felt that!

Recent years had not been happy ones. Struggling with the failing health of parents, for example, Christine had to abandon holiday plans three years in succession and seemed unable to find any way of recharging her batteries. ‘It sounds childish,’ she acknowledged, ‘but I suppose I expected God to intervene in some way, just to give me the chance to get on top of things, and yet the more I felt I needed his support and presence the further away he seemed.’ By the middle of the week, unwinding in the peace and silence, she was able to see it was not so much what had or had not happened in her life that got her down, but what she called her response of inertia and self-pity. ‘One of the prayer texts I was given was from Deuteronomy: “*I set before you life or death.*” And I realised that on so many occasions I had chosen death. In the stillness I began to see that God works mainly not by manipulating circumstances and events to our advantage in response to our faith and petitions. Rather, a growing relationship with him in prayer gives us the strength to change the circumstances that can be changed, or to accept those we cannot, and to trust he will give us the necessary support.’

‘I also began to see “sin” not as transgressions against the commandments, but as all the forces within me that deaden me, and make me negative and lacking in hope. And that the salvation Christ brings is not appeasement of his angry Father, but his ability to heal me and free me from all these negative forces.

‘My life had been handed back to me, to be lived in union with the Lord who is within me, and whom I could find and grow closer to if I made sufficient time to rest with him in prayer.’