

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

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year - 27 June 2021



*“My daughter,” Jesus said,
“your faith has restored you
to health; go in peace and be
free from your complaint.”
(Mark 5:34)*

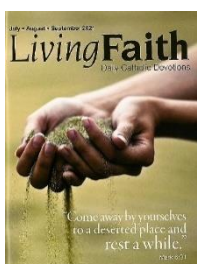
*(This is a modern icon of Sunday's
Gospel of the healing of the woman
with the haemorrhage – painted by
a member of the Chaldean Catholic
Church based in Babylon in Iraq)*

A warm welcome, and many thanks, to Fr Jim Smith, who has been celebrating all our public Masses since last Tuesday (when Fr Jock had to go into self-isolation along with members of the First Communion Sacramental Team - after close contact with someone at last Saturday's First Communion Mass who later tested positive with COVID-19).

Today there is a special collection for Peter's Pence, a collection taken annually to enable Pope Francis to respond to those most in need in our world.

The monthly special collection for the Tower at St John's will take place next week.

Tuesday is the Feast of St Peter and St Paul – there will be Mass at 10am at St Mary Magdalene's and at 7pm at St John's. (There is also an excellent article about them both accompanying this newsletter). On Thursday there is our monthly **Benediction** at 7pm at St John's.



Copies of the new **Living Faith**, the three-monthly booklet of daily reflections (covering July, August and September 2021), as well as hard copies of this newsletter, are now available from the Parish House. This edition of Living Faith comes with the theme: *“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while”* (Mark 6:31) and will also be available at the back of our churches to collect before or after Mass. **It comes free, though if you wish to make a donation of £1 or £2 to help us cover costs, please do so.**

The Work Commenced two weeks ago on St John's Church Tower



Chris Vinestock, St John's Fabric Co-ordinator, writes: 'We are very pleased that repair works on St John's Church Tower and the surrounding areas started on Monday 14 June. The scaffolding continues to be erected and will probably require another 2 to 3 weeks. In the meantime, **your patience is greatly appreciated as at times there may be unavoidable noise – which is why Mass will normally be held at St Mary Magdalene's during these weeks.** Heartfelt thanks for your help and support during this necessary structural work – **and please pray for the safety of all involved.'**

This Week

Saturday 26 June

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

Sunday 27 June

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed, booking required, a few seats still available

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

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – **booking required, a few seats still available**
(followed by the 200 Club Midsummer Draw)

Monday 28 June

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene'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/84630526553?pwd=cStsZjc0OHNVaE5jaCtqYk0xT3FwQT09>
Meeting ID: 846 3052 6553 Passcode: 728230

Tuesday 29 June – FEAST OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

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

7.00pm – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Wednesday 30 June – 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – livestreamed, no booking required

Thursday 1 July

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

7pm – St John's – **Benediction** – livestreamed, no booking required.

Friday 2 July

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene'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'

Saturday 3 July

12.30pm – St John's – **Baptism of Naomi and Chloe Okolo.**

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

Sunday 4 July

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

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

... **NEXT SUNDAY THERE WILL BE NO LIVESTREAMED CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – AND OFFERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES TO BOOK IN FOR MASS IN CHURCH - WE'D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU BACK THERE....

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.

THE POSTPONEMENT OF OUR FINAL FIRST COMMUNIONS

Arlene Lauder writes: 'It has been so very sad that we have been unable to complete this year's celebration of First Holy Communion with our final six families this weekend. Unfortunately, Father Jock and 4 members of the Sacramental Team are currently self isolating due to being identified as close contacts of someone at last Saturday's First Communion Mass who later tested positive. Thankfully all have tested negative and are well. It is only due to the well followed Covid National guidelines in place at both our churches that we have been able to contain the close contacts from the Mass in question and avoid many more people being affected. We were praised by Health Protection Scotland for our approach, fast actions and follow up of the incident. The postponed First Communions will take place on Saturday 24 July – and there will also be three children making their First Communion on Sunday 18 July.'



Teams of Our Lady is a movement for married spirituality within the Roman Catholic Church since 1938.

Its members are married couples of all churches who seek to live their marriages sacramentally, who meet up to ten times a year, sharing a meal together. A group of 11 people began in Edinburgh in 2019, with five couples and a priest taking part.

New couples are welcome to this group or a future new group: during Covid, meetings continue over video calls.

Hear more @ www.teamsgb.org.uk & from northernngb@teams-transatlantic.org

A typical 2 hour meeting includes:

a light meal and sharing of the couple's news; a prayer time with a Scripture reading, a song, any prayer intentions, & a Psalm. Plus sharing on the 'Endeavours': the endeavours are the 'heart of the team' - which we hope to practise between meetings. An example is to spend time as a couple, having a 'sit down', to share on our life together.

'Authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others. As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others.'

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, ('Brothers and Sisters all')

'Married couples are invited to come together to grow in their faith by joining the local Teams of Our Lady initiative. Up to 6 couples meet to share together for mutual support, fun and sharing. Groups often include a priest too. Teams began in the Notre Dame (Our Lady) parish in Paris in 1939 and have spread widely. They are ecumenically open, and all ages are welcome. One couple who take part in Edinburgh said: 'Teams gives us the chance to connect with other couples at various stages of the marriage and faith journey, from other parishes, from other cultures. It's a great place to learn and reflect on our marriage. The simple format of the meetings helps each couple and our accompanying priest give their news: what goes well for them, what goes less well and what helps each of us in our lives and spiritual journey.'

To hear more, contact northernngb@teams-transatlantic.org who will put you in touch with someone from the local group to talk more about it.

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.*



*It is better to remain with God
Apparently doing nothing in particular
Than to make the grandest
And most elaborate meditations*

Abbot John Chapman

(and)

Link for Night Prayer/Compline

This Saturday – June 26 – 9.15pm <https://youtu.be/Jbs5oZEGk8g>
This Wednesday – June 30 – 9.15pm <https://youtu.be/Ymf9k6LNakY>

Advance Warning of our next Baptism Preparation Course

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.

Nonviolence - Responding to the Cry of the Earth

Pax Christi is hosting a Zoom event titled Nonviolence, Responding to the Cry of the Earth. It takes place at 7pm on **Monday 5 July and features a variety of speakers. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/NonviolenceJuly>**

A MAJOR NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – TOWER TOMBOLA!

.... more details of which will reach you in the coming fortnight via an envelope through your door...

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, but volunteers have offered to deliver to some of our households)

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

Saturday 14 August (NB Change of Date)

Please contact Catherine Mc Anenny (07968970159) if you would like to take part in this

Fr Jock's Five Lenten Talks on the Psalms

Recently, one of our on-line 'parishioners' - based in St Albans in Hertfordshire – made contact and asked if it were possible to get a cd or dvd of these talks. Very kindly, Enrico, our administrator, managed to locate them on our Youtube channel and collect them together. As a result, cds and dvds of the talks are now available (free - though nobody will complain if a small donation is made to the Tower Fund!) – just make contact with Enrico at the parish house sometime between Tuesday and Friday.

Parish Register

*Many congratulations to Polly and Dave Connarty who celebrated their
35th wedding anniversary last Sunday, 19 June.*

<p><i>Please pray for those who have died recently: Charity Charity</i></p> <p><i>Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Christopher Laurie Jane McGuire Pierina Crolla Sam Kerskow Lorraine Muldoon Letty Sellar</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anniversaries:</i></p> <p><u>St John's</u> June 26: Joseph Quinlan (2019); Margaret Crumlish (2006); Freda Lynch (1994), Christopher Laurie. June 27: Edward Cassidy (2000); Norma Grant (1997); June 28: Jane McGuire (2018); Rosella Scott (2012); James O'Brien (1993); Francis Early (1990); John O'Brien (1915); June 29: Anne Webster (2018); Harry Cockburn (1988); Nello Andreucetti (1973); June 30: Pietrina Crolla (2018); Bridget Tracey (2014); Marie Veronica McAuley (2007); Anne Lawler (1977); John Stone (1930); July 1: John Fusco (2008); Patrick Barrins (1942); July 2: Bridget Tracy (2014); Daniel Kelly (1982); Anthony Docherty (1968); Christina Cunningham;</p> <p><u>St Mary Magdalene's</u> June 27: Jean Skey (2018); June 2: Donna Skey (1970); July 1: Mary Robertson (2000);</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> Frank Logan, Sheelagh Dobson, Pat Hunter, Ernie Moran, Peter Kelly, Bob 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, Charlotte McGregor, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Eileen Brown, Mike Noonan, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Pat Hunter, 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>Baby Alfie McDevitt, Janie Low, Murdo Tait, John Blyth, Niamh McDougall, Joy Allan, Colin Raasch, Derek Beatty, Annie Ross, Christopher MacKinnon, Dago Dinis, Audrey Burgess, Jaroslav Icina, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ray Perrett, William Young, 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, 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 – 20 June 2021

St Mary Magdalene	St John the Evangelist
£128.00 total including Offertory of £98.00 and Gift Aid of 128.00	£1692.08 total including Offertory of £140.68, Gift Aid of £577.40 and £974.00 Online Donations

THANK
YOU!

Reflection on the Gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday - Mark 5: 21-43

What do you consider to be your greatest asset – and I don't mean material assets. I'm asking you to consider what is the greatest thing you bring or put into society. You may be a good listener, you may give your time working behind the scenes in a soup kitchen, or as a volunteer driver for a particular charity. You may be housebound and be a prayer companion. We all have something to give, something to offer. Not everyone can rise to the challenge and some, like the man given one talent, instead go off to hide away from responsibility - and the world is the poorer for their absence. Our greatest asset is our 'love' and the more we can generate and spread that love the more we can create the world as God intended. Sometimes the pressures of the world, our own lack of confidence, our anxieties - and even pressure of time - prevent us from displaying that love.

The American anthropologist, Margaret Mead was once asked what was the earliest sign of civilisation that she had ever come across. Thinking that she might reply: a rudimentary spoon found in.... or a fish-hook found in..... the questioner was taken aback with her answer: 'A femur that had been broken and subsequently healed'. In the animal kingdom, a broken leg means almost certain death. You cannot run with a broken leg; you cannot avoid danger., you cannot search for food. A broken femur that had healed demonstrated that someone had carried the one with the broken leg to a place of safety, had bound up the leg and had cared for that person, bringing food and water until they were well enough to walk once more. Mead said: "Helping someone through difficulty is the first sign of civilisation."

Today's Gospel sees Mark at his simplest and best. There are never any complicated ideas or lengthy discourses in his gospel account. Instead, he opts to tell the story as it happened, and today, we read the account of the raising of Jairus' daughter. Its worth poring over the words and imagining the scene. Jairus is an important man in the local synagogue, he commanded respect, the sort of man who would turn heads when he walked into a room. Despite his status he falls at the feet of Jesus. Dwell on that thought for just a moment. *He falls at the feet of Jesus.* It's difficult to imagine a Government Official ever falling at the feet of a nurse or doctor working in the NHS but that is an equivalent to the enormity of the picture Mark paints. In falling at the feet of Jesus, Jairus empties himself of all status, all importance. Without knowing it, he is the embodiment of words that Paul will later use in his epistle to the Philippians: *Jesus emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as (wo)men are.*

All Jairus knows is that he loves his daughter, and so he shows himself to be vulnerable; self-effacement is a small price to pay. Having emptied himself, nothing now can get in the way of his interaction with Jesus. Jairus gets to his feet and he and Jesus walk together to his home. Mark tells us simply that the large crowd *were pressing all around him.* You may have been caught up in a crowd leaving a sports venue or a cinema or theatre or joining the scrum to catch the last train. It's not always a pleasant experience. The heart beats a little faster and anxiety levels rise. Jesus remains an oasis of calm amid the pandemonium, and this is important too. In the longer version of the Gospel passage, a woman with a haemorrhage touches Jesus' cloak in her search for healing. She has been suffering for twelve years. She is exhausted after years of painful treatment. She is empty. Despite the crowds, Jesus is aware that he has been touched by one in need. He turns to her: *your faith has healed you, go in peace.* While still on their way people arrive to tell Jairus that his daughter has died and in an attempt at pragmatism advise Jairus not to waste any more of Jesus' time. Jesus hears them and replies simply: *Do not be afraid, only have faith.* And that, if you like, is the summation of the whole episode – do not be afraid, only have faith. This is our lesson today. We each have something to offer: let not timidity or a lack of faith and self-belief hold us back.

Fr Jim Walls follows in the footsteps of St Aidan to support vulnerable refugees by walking the 290 miles from Iona to Lindisfarne



Fr Jim Walls, Spiritual Director of the Scots College in Rome, and son of the late Cathy, (a St John's parishioner for the last couple of years of her life till her death last autumn), plans to walk the 290 miles during his summer holidays to draw attention to the plight of refugees stranded at the UK border in Calais. Fr Jim is walking from Iona to Lindisfarne (Holy Island, England) to highlight the work of Maria Skobstova House in Calais.

Founded in 2016 Maria Skobstova House offers accommodation and support to refugees many of whom have travelled thousands of miles in the hope of finding sanctuary. Since it was founded the house has welcomed as guests the most vulnerable in Calais, currently caring for women and children, along with outreach to the Eritrean refugee community who live in temporary camps that are often vandalised and destroyed by the authorities.

Describing his plans Fr Jim said: "I'm looking upon it as a pilgrimage in solidarity with those who have to abandon their homes in order to find peace, and yet are often subjected to inhumane treatment in Europe. A friend who regularly volunteers at the House describes with amazement the hospitality that he receives from the refugees (in the form of tea/coffee and whatever food they have) in their makeshift camps as opposed to the reception they receive from the authorities. His statement that Europe is 'experiencing a crisis of hospitality' struck me profoundly, and the fact that these vulnerable people have something to teach us, or remind us, about hospitality rings true. Some of these people arrive having suffered severe trauma and due to the policies implemented by the authorities are deprived of the necessities of life: shelter, food, clothing, and health care."

The house is named after Saint Maria Skobtsova, a Russian Orthodox Saint and Martyr who took care of Russian refugees, migrants, and the homeless in Paris during the last century. During the Nazi occupation she sheltered Jewish people, smuggling many to safety and also rescued several children from detention. This resistance saw her imprisoned and executed in Ravensbrück concentration camp. The house in Calais which now carries her name continues the tradition of radical hospitality which St Maria lived, and was inspired by the Catholic Worker Movement; founded in New York in the 1930's by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin.

Fr Jim's pilgrimage will start this Saturday (26 June) and all going well will end three weeks later on 16 July.

For more information about Maria Skobtsova House visit: www.refugeehousecalais.org/.

If you would like to find out more and/or donate, please visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/in-solidarity

Follow Fr Jim's progress on the 'Jim's Iona to Lindisfarne Pilgrimage' Facebook page.

(Fr Jock hopes to join Fr Jim on one of the final couple of days of his pilgrimage, when Fr Jim says he 'might need a Simon of Cyrene')

FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE by Benignus O'Rourke

Chapter 24 – He Closes Our Eyes

Augustine relates in his Confessions that long before he accepted Christ and his gospel he was being led into a place of quietness. Looking back years after his conversion he saw that God had been enveloping him in his love, drawing him, unawares, into his embrace. He wrote:

*Unknown to me you caressed my head.
You closed my eyes lest they see the things that keep me from you.
I lost for a while the heavy burden of self and my madness was lulled to sleep.
And when I awoke in you, I saw you as utterly different.*
(Confessions 7.14)

In these simple sentences Augustine lays before us the way in which God draws us into our own place of rest.



(Figgate Park, swan with her cygnets)

God's first action is to enfold our weary heads. The word Augustine uses for caress, or enfold, suggests the image of a bird gathering her young ones under her protecting wings. It is the image Jesus uses when he laments the refusal of the people of Jerusalem to accept his loving protection: '*How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused!*' (Matthew 23:37).

God next closes Augustine's eyes lest he be seduced by empty joys. In time of silent prayer God closes our eyes, too, lest we be drawn aside into all that keeps us from the way of peace.

Augustine then discovers that, for a moment, he forgets about himself. His greatest burden, he sees, is the heavy burden of self. He writes:

'I beg you, O Lord my God, to look upon me and listen to me. Have pity on me and heal me, for you see that I have become a problem to myself, and this is the sickness from which I suffer.'

This is the burden that is lifted for us, too, when we come before God in silence. We forget ourselves. We forget for a while all that crushes us. Self-forgetfulness is one of the great blessings of silent prayer. To lose the burden of self and rest in God's love is a pearl of great price. Even more so is the promise that our madness is lulled to sleep.

Augustine discovered that his troubled surface self was calmed and healed, and he found the peace which surpasses all expectations. Out of this state he awakens. Not an awakening into the hard reality of everyday life but awakening with a new vision.

**Augustine saw God in a completely new light.
And in seeing God he saw everything differently.**