

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jock Dalrymple:

0131 669 5447

Deacon:

Revd Eddie White:

07986 015772

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after the Vigil Mass (7.30pm on Saturday) or any time by appointment

Pastoral Team: Jennifer Morris and Chris Vinestock

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, Edinburgh, EH15 1LP

Parish Administrator: Enrico Fertini

(Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10.00am to 3.00pm & Friday 11.00am to 4.00pm)

Web address:

<https://sites.google.com/view/stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes/>

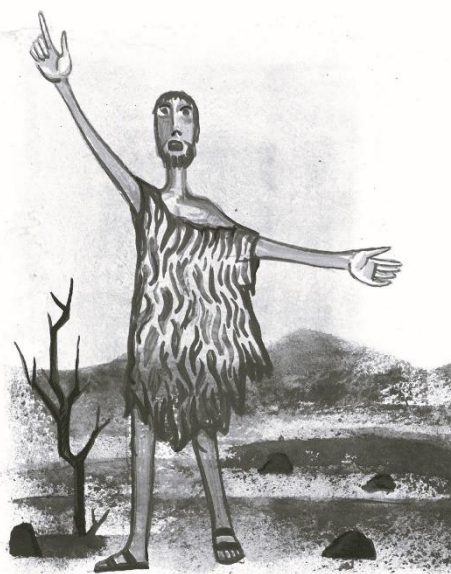
Joint Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsandStMaryMagdalenes>

Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

10 DECEMBER 2023 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



'A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

(Mark, 1:3-5)

An Invitation to Stand with Palestinian Christians this Advent and Christmas – by not lighting the second candle on the Advent Wreath

Our fellow Christians in Bethlehem tell us that this Advent and Christmas in Bethlehem the lights that normally adorn the birthplace of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict. The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem have noted that the traditional festive services in the Holy Land will be sombre in nature due to the ongoing war.

The second candle on the Advent Wreath represents **peace**, and in some traditions is known as the '**Bethlehem candle**'. This Advent, churches across the United Kingdom have been invited to do something 'out of the ordinary' **and not to light the Advent Candle on this second Sunday in Advent** (10 December) and on subsequent Sundays. ...The Old Testament lectionary reading on Sunday starts with the words "**Comfort, comfort my people says your God**" (Isaiah 40:1). As such, it seems appropriate that we take this opportunity to think about Bethlehem and those who have been killed and those who are seeking comfort as they mourn. **This unlit candle will serve as a constant reminder that we stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in the Holy Land.** In our parishes we will be embracing this suggestion...

...and we continue to hold in our hearts those who are suffering – and all those who have lost their lives – not only in Gaza and Israel but also in the war in Ukraine, and indeed in all the wars and conflicts in our world...

ADVENT CLUSTER RETREAT WITH LYNDIA WRIGHT

There is a list at the back of both churches for you to sign up for annual Advent Cluster Retreat – on **Saturday 16 December** at St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith - from 10am to 1pm – **led by Deaconess Lyndia Wright**, an experienced and very creative retreat giver, much appreciated at the two previous retreats she's given our five cluster parishes of St Mary's, St Mary Magdalene's, St Theresa's, St John's and St Ninian's. (Free – but donations welcome at the end to cover our costs).

CAROLS ON THE BEACH (at the end of Bath St) – **LED BY THE BAPTIST CHURCH** – **ALL WELCOME** will take place next **Saturday 16 December at 4.00pm** – around 5.15pm.

RECONCILIATION SUNDAY will take place next Saturday/Sunday 16/17 December at the beginning of our three Sunday Masses...between three and five priests will be available to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. An ‘examination of conscience’ to help us prepare comes with this week’s newsletter.

Mass Times for 23-25 December:

Saturday 23 December – 6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent**
Sunday 24 December – 10.30am – St Mary Magdalene’s - **Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent**
6.00pm – St John’s – **Christmas Children’s Vigil Mass**
8.30pm – St John’s – **Christmas Vigil Mass**
Monday 25 December – 10.30am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Christmas Day Children’s Mass.**

OUR ADVENT INITIATIVES

Prayer at Night

We started online Prayer at Night to coincide with the beginning of Advent **last Sunday** 3 December. This will be on Zoom each night until Christmas Eve.

The prayer starts at 9.15pm each evening and lasts for around 10 minutes. The Zoom meeting ID is the same each evening:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

The Zoom room opens at 9.00 pm. Please come before 9:13 pm. Only those leading the prayer are visible or can be heard.



Last week we celebrated the Feast of St Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan (c 339-397). In one of his homilies, he said of almsgiving:

“You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving him back what is his.... The earth belongs to everyone, not the rich.”

SCIAF REAL GIFTS – Your Christmas shopping made easy!

The Justice and Peace group write: The SCIAF Real Gift Catalogue is out – go to shop.sciaf.org.uk to see the full range. Why strain your brain thinking of a clever present when you can get some Cheeky Chicks or Goat-Worthy Goats from SCIAF! As always, the choice includes so many wonderful ideas to make life better for those for whom it is a daily struggle. Who knew the benefits a pig can bring? What about the “Feed a Family” bundle – super seeds, a vegetable garden and a little green stove? The choices are many and varied, with prices to suit all pockets.

To make things easier, **the J&P Group will be selling Real Gifts at the back of both churches the first two weeks of Advent. All major debit/credit cards accepted!**

A summary of the gifts is included can be downloaded [HERE](#) or at the back of both churches.

Water for a Village

Water is the most basic and vital need of all, but it’s scarce and unpredictable in many of the world’s poorest communities. Families without clean water are trapped in a deadly cycle of poverty, poor health and premature death.

For the last two years, our two parishes, with top-up funding from our Justice & Peace Group, have contributed to the SCIAF Real Gift of Water for a Village – clean water for drinking and water to provide irrigation for crops and animals to avoid the threat of famine – and we would like to offer you the chance again to make a Christmas present of clean water to members of our human family deprived of it.

The cost of the Real Gift is £1200, *and you can make your donations to Jim Roarty, Jennifer Morris or any member of the Justice & Peace Group or hand them into the Parish House.* For more info, contact Jim Roarty (jimroarty4@gmail.com) Tel 07719952472)

STEKA Skills will also be running a stall at our Masses the next two weekends – helping to raise funds for the Women’s Hostel near Blantyre in Malawi, our parishes’ charity for 2024.

A message from Bethany Christian Trust *Buy a Bed - Helping people sleeping rough this Winter.*

‘Every night there are people sleeping rough on the streets of Edinburgh.

A **£21.00 Buy a Bed gift card** helps provide someone with access to 24-hour emergency accommodation, food, warmth and tailored support that will help them move on to a new start through the Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre. We hope to raise a total of £140,000 through this campaign, to meet the increasing need we are already seeing on the ground. Please consider joining us to help provide this vital service this winter.

By purchasing or receiving a Buy a Bed gift card, you help provide access to Bethany’s Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre in Edinburgh, for those who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets this winter. Your gift will help someone this winter by providing access to:

· A warm, safe, private room with en-suite facilities · 24-hour care & support from professional, supportive and loving staff · Three meals a day including a freshly prepared, hot two course dinner · A wide range of on-site support services · Assistance to move rapidly out of the crisis of homelessness

Get your Buy a Bed gift card at bethanychristiantrust.com/buy-a-bed or alternatively, ask Jim Roarty, Jennifer Morris or any other member of the Justice & Peace Group.

Bethany's charity shops in Edinburgh and East Lothian also stock Buy a Bed gift cards. Thank you’.

The Mansfield School of Music Christmas Concert *St John’s – 7.00pm - Sunday 10 December*

Mansfield School of Music are delighted to announce that this year's Christmas concert will be held at St John’s the Evangelist Church in Portobello! This will be a wonderful evening of festive music and carols, featuring solo and group performances from students, teachers and friends of Mansfield.

Tickets are available via this link which can also be found on Mansfield's Facebook and Instagram pages, but you can also pay on the door: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/msm>

Tickets - £16 - Concessions - £13 - MSM students - FREE

NB The Mansfield School of Music will be ‘topping up’ the Justice and Peace Group Donation (from Thursday’s Concert) to the SCIAF Gaza-Israel appeal as a thank you for their using the Church for the Concert.’

Contact details for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP):

By phone or text: 07752682213 - email: syvedineast@gmail.com



THIS WEEK

Saturday 9 December

11.00am - St John’s Hall – **A Morning to Welcome New Parishioners**

3.00pm – St John’s – **Wedding of Fiona Grant and Richard Laverick**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Sunday 10 December – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am - St John’s – **Children’s Mass with P4 ‘Do This in Memory of Me’** - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **P3 and Children’s Mass**

with Rite of Illumination – livestreamed

7.00pm – St John’s – **Mansfield School of Music in Concert**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Monday 11 December

10.00am – St John’s – **Requiem Mass for Anna Butler**

7.00pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://bit.ly/485T2jk>

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Tuesday 12 December - 7.00pm – Parish House Prayer Room – **Mass** – livestreamed

7.45pm – Parish House – **RCIA – Catechumenate 2**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Wednesday 13 December

9.15am-9.50am – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Thursday 14 December

10.00am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Friday 15 December

9.15am-9.50am – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Saturday 16 December

10.00am-1.00pm – St Mary’s, Leith – **Cluster Parishes’ Retreat with Deaconess Lynda Wright**

4.00pm – Beach End of Bath St – **Carols on the Beach**

6.30pm – St John’s – **Vigil Mass** – livestreamed – **with Reconciliation**

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

Sunday 17 December – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Reconciliation Sunday)

9.30am - St John’s – **Mass** - livestreamed

11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – livestreamed

9.15pm – Zoom – **Prayer at Night** – click [HERE](#) or type <https://tinyurl.com/mr2skv2a>

View the **links for the Masses** by visiting our webpage: <https://bit.ly/StJStMM>



‘SAINT’ OF THE WEEK – Thomas Merton

Trappist (1915-1968) – Feast Day: 10 December

"The Christian life - and especially the contemplative life - is a continual discovery of Christ in new and unexpected places."

In 1949 a surprising title made its way onto the best-seller lists. **The Seven Storey Mountain** was not a mystery or a tale of alpine adventure. It was the autobiography of a clever young man named Thomas Merton who had turned his back on the modern world to adopt the austere, medieval regime of a Trappist monk. What made the book so fascinating was that Merton appeared to be, as he described himself, *"the complete twentieth-century man."* He had enjoyed a life of freedom, excitement, and pleasure only, in the end, to reject it all as an illusion.

Merton told a story by turns funny and sad of the search for his true identity and home: of his orphaned childhood, his education in France, England, and Columbia University, of the pride and selfishness that brought nothing but unhappiness to himself and others. And he told of how his search had led him ultimately to the Catholic church and finally, on the eve of World War II, to the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky in the USA. On viewing the silent monks, dressed in their white habits and kneeling in prayer in the chapel, Merton had exclaimed, "This is the true centre of America."

It was in some respects a classic tale of conversion. And yet for many readers, encountering Merton's book in the postwar years, his story struck a very contemporary note. It fed a widespread hunger for spiritual values in a world poised between war and the empty promise of *"happy days."* Suddenly Merton was the most famous monk in America. The irony was not lost on him. He had become a Trappist in part to escape the claims of ego, the anxious desire to *"be somebody."* And yet his superiors felt his writing had something to offer the world and they ordered him to keep at it. And so he did. Yet for all the books he would go on to produce, he remained firmly identified with his autobiography. It became a painful burden. *"The Seven Storey Mountain is the work of a man I never even heard of,"* he would later protest.

One aspect of the book that he particularly came to regret was the attitude of pious scorn directed at *"the world"* and its citizens. He had seemed to regard the monastery as a haven set apart from the *massa*

damnata. Only with time had he realized that *"the monastery is not an 'escape' from the world. On the contrary, by being in the monastery I take my true part in all the struggles and sufferings of the world."*

In one of his journals, he recorded a moment of mystical insight that marked a critical turning point in his life as a monk. It occurred during an errand in Louisville, *"at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the centre of the shopping district."*

I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness.

Merton suddenly experienced a sense of solidarity with the human race - not simply in sin, but in grace. *"There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.... There are no strangers!... The gate of heaven is everywhere."*

For years Merton had devoted creative thought to the meaning of monastic and contemplative life. But from this point on he became increasingly concerned with making connections between the monastery and the wider world. Scorn and sarcasm gave way to compassion and friendship. This was reflected in his writing. Along with the more traditional spiritual books there appeared articles on war, racism, and other issues of the day. Long before such positions were commonplace in the church, he was a prophetic voice for peace and nonviolence. In fact, his writings were so controversial that for some years he was ordered to remain silent on "political" topics. Only after the Second Vatican Council was, he freed from such censorship.

Ironically, this increasing engagement with the secular world and its problems was accompanied by an increasing attraction to an even more total life of contemplation. In 1961 he was given permission to move into a hermitage on the monastery grounds. There he continued to perfect the delicate balance between contemplative prayer and openness to the world that had become the distinctive feature of his spirituality.

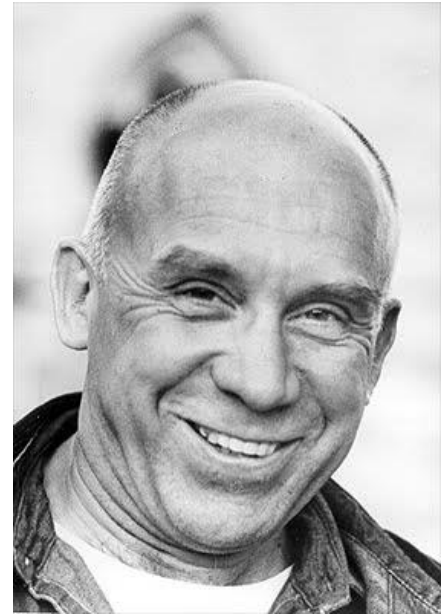
Merton maintained a wide circle of friends. Many of them knew something of the tensions which at times characterized relations with his religious superiors. In the spirit of the 1960s some of them frankly questioned whether his vocation wasn't an anachronism and challenged him to *"get with it."* In fact, Merton's personal temptations were all in the direction of even greater solitude among the Carthusians or in some other remote setting. But in the end, he always returned to the conviction that his best service to the world lay in faithfulness to his monastic vocation, and that his spiritual home was at Gethsemani.

In his last years a more liberal abbot did encourage Merton to venture forth. In 1968 he accepted an invitation to address an international conference of Christian monks in Bangkok. Merton was particularly excited about the prospect of exploring his deep interest in Eastern spirituality. In this respect, as his journals show, the trip marked a new breakthrough, another encounter with the *"gate of heaven"* that is everywhere.

On December 10 he delivered his talk and afterward retired to his room for a shower and nap. There he was later found dead, apparently electrocuted by the faulty wiring of a fan. For all his restless searching he had ended exactly as he had foreseen in *The Seven Storey Mountain*. The book had concluded with a mysterious speech in the voice of God:

I will give you what you desire. I will lead you into solitude... Everything that touches you shall burn you, and you will draw your hand away in pain, until you have withdrawn yourself from all things. Then you will be all alone.... That you may become the brother of God and learn to know the Christ of the burnt men.

See: Lawrence S. Cunningham, ed., Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master (New York: Paulist, 1992); Jim Forest, Living with Wisdom: The Life of Thomas Merton (Maryknoll, N.Y., Orbis, 1991).



NOTICEBOARD

Do any of our parishioners feel drawn to work with young people or even as a youth leader...if you do, or even if you think you might just wish to investigate the possibility, please contact Fr Jock...

If anyone has experience of the Alpha course, could they please make contact with Fr Jock...

Pamoja fashion made £282.00 from the monthly charity sale last Saturday. Many thanks to all who came out to support when the weather was so cold.

The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh Catholic Directory for 2024 is on sale at the back of both churches – price £3.

LOST EARRING – found on the right side of the St John’s Hall floor after Teas and Coffees last Sunday morning (thanks, Mette and May)

| Date | | *** St John’s Eucharistic Ministers rota *** | | |
|----------|----|----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| December | 9 | Matt Gorrie | Bozena Tansey | Jim Roarty |
| | 10 | | Gena Gallagher | Catherine Lacy |

From Archbishop Leo’s Weekly ‘Ad Clerum’

‘Buffer Zone’ Bill - A new bill proposes criminalising prayer and offers of help to women in designated ‘buffer zones’ around abortion centres in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please respond to the government consultation which ends on **20 December** at bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey. Please also write to your MSP to express your concerns. Visit <https://rcpolitics.org/buffer-zones> for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced, including help with responding to the consultation and writing to your MSP.

Christmas Mass times - Christmas Day and Vigil Mass times for our parish and all churches in the Archdiocese can be viewed at www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/

Advent Rosary - The Advent Pro-Life Rosary continues on Monday (**11 December**) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Fr Gerard Hatton (St Patrick’s, Cowgate). Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Edinburgh Jesuit Centre: Marking the Advent Time - Fr Adrian Porter SJ will explore the prayers, customs and traditions of the Advent liturgy at 7pm on Monday **11 December** at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh EH3 9DJ. This is a free, one-hour session. All welcome.

Lourdes Hospitalité Carol Service - The Lourdes Hospitalité Committee is hosting a Carol Service at 3.00pm on **Sunday 10 December** at St Margaret's Church, Main Street, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AD. All are welcome to come along and join the festivities. Refreshments in church hall afterwards.

Advent talk series - Canon Hugh White continues his Advent talk series ‘Time with God’ each Monday on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel. Visit bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Donations for the Holy Land - Archbishop Cushley is encouraging us to consider making a donation to Friends of the Holy Land in Advent. He said: “It is a non-political Christian charity and the donations will be used to provide aid and support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time.” A donation page has been set up for the Archdiocese at bit.ly/archholyland. Find out more about its work at www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/about-us

A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock who lives in Northumberland...but sadly, whose internet is down today, Friday....so this is a reflection on these readings, but one written a few years ago)

On Tuesday of this week, I found myself going to a meeting in Newcastle. As is the case in most major cities, parking is a nightmare as well as being incredibly expensive – but it was a nettle that had to be grasped. Once out of the car I relied on my trusty iPhone to guide me through the streets of Newcastle from car park to meeting venue. At least that was the plan! Having used the ‘phone to establish my exact location, I asked for directions to Newgate Street. I didn’t spot the selection at the top of the screen asking me to choose between “car” “pedestrian” or “public transport”. I stared in horror at the map that materialised before my eyes. Having inadvertently chosen a route for going by car I was presented with a journey baffling in its complexity and strangely circuitous. What later turned out to be a journey on foot of one and a quarter miles taking twenty minutes was offered as a four and a half mile car journey with an estimated journey time of 35 minutes. Vaguely I remembered something from my school days – the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Cars in cities are not allowed to follow straight lines – rather they follow the diktats of traffic managers who devise schemes designed to keep traffic moving – often with no other intention than to keep it moving!

Straight roads are much easier to follow than those that wind and twist. A straight road shortens journey time; many a bulldozer has been used to straighten country lanes, bypassing towns and villages. Explosives are used to make tunnels and cut through mountain passes, valleys are filled in to reduce gradients and make for smooth, level roads. It comes as no surprise then to hear in today’s Gospel the prophet John the Baptist, echo the words of Isaiah in the first reading “Make his paths straight!” In this instance, however, the straight highway that is called for is our pathway through life. Rarely will this be the shortest distance between two points for often our lives follow routes and roads we would rather not follow. What is important, however, is that we equip ourselves with a “straight” attitude. When Isaiah and John the Baptist urge us to “*make his paths straight*”, they are urging us to adopt a moral approach, they want us to live life as God intended. People can live next door to each other yet, because of hostility or an inability to forgive they are unable to travel the few yards that separate them.

Having a straight attitude means behaving with honesty and right living. How often have we heard, or maybe even used, the expression “You will have to straighten yourself out.”? Reformed prisoners speak of “going straight”. We are called upon to act fairly, refrain from all forms of bullying or repression, to share with those in need, to treat everyone with respect. The prophet Micah put it most succinctly when he said: “*This is what God asks of you: That you act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.*” (Micah 6:8)

So there we have it. We can choose to walk the straight path or the crooked one. The crooked path will always be populated by those who are devious, those who cheat at every opportunity, and those who are strangers to the truth. The straight path will be populated by those who possess strength, wisdom and single-mindedness. The path followed by those who are eager to prove themselves of a straight attitude is an ascending one. The ever-expanding view, their greater depth of self-awareness and understanding more than compensates for the difficulty of the climb. The crooked path will always lead us downhill. Our appreciation of life and our view diminishes with every step. Starved of any vision or deeper understanding of life, we wither and die, a slow miserable death.

Today we can take stock and re-assess our position. We can choose our path. Let us pray that we make the right choice.

PARISH REGISTER

Many congratulations to Lorcan McNally who has been selected for the Great Britain Under 19 Water Polo Squad.

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*June Cooper – Win Veitch
John McGillivray – Jim Freeman
James Dillon*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*Roy McGillivray – Jenny Wormald
Ann O'Brien – Mary Salvona
John Dalrymple – Pat McHugh
Jane Wright – Una Johnston
Fr John Robinson – Tina Stevenson
Winnie Casey – Maureen Callaghan
Stan Tweedie – Agnes Stone
Maria Juska – Baby Colin Newall*

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

Baby Grayson McNally, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Anne Thomson, Janet Cunningham, David Reid, Eddie Clark, Sheila Tansey, Pat Gilmartin, John Cregan, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, Frank Phillips, Ann O'Brien, Kathie Gallagher, Diane McCarthy, Raymond Walker, Margaret Duffy, Mike Burns, Harry Allan, May Thomson, Carol Simpson, Kenny O'Connor, Gerry Gallagher, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Chloe Sutherland, Nora Bruce, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, Betty Dougal, Sarah McManus, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Norman Telfer, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers and Marie Angela Crolla.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Monica Gorman, Aisha Montgomery, John McLaughlin, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Julie Keegan, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and James Muir.

Offertory 3 December 2023

St Mary Magdalene's, £245.90 total, including £119.90 Offertory and £126.00 Gift Aid.

St John's, £1155.90 total, including £268.50 Offertory, £142.40 Gift Aid and £745.00 online donations.

Anniversaries:

St John's:

Dec.9: Yolanda Volante (2022); Ann O'Brien (2021); Mary Salvona (2017); Jenny Wormald (2015); May Maclean (2007); S. M. Nelson (1985); Frank McGuire (1979); Bridget Lawrie (1990); **Dec.10:** Winifred Casey (2022); Jimmy Duke (2014); Vincent Kelegher (2003); Margaret T Ward (2001); Mary McLauchlan (2000); Joseph Dykes (1985); Maggie Bonner (1982); Michael Keogh (1948); James Anderson; **Dec.11:** Stan Tweedie (2014); Mary Meehan (2006); Bridget & Michael Meldrum; Annie Shrivener; **Dec.12:** Jean McCraw(2019); John Ritchie (2016); Valerie Messent (2003); Myles Durkin (1975); Margaret Riach (1960); Ann Cassidy; James Daly; **Dec.13:** Jane Wright (2016); John Dalrymple (2016); James Quinn (1991); Joseph P Gannon (1968); Agnes Stone (1964); **Dec.14:** John Cahill (2017); Isabel Garvie (2015); Peter Brown (2004); Annie C Dobson (2002); Margaret Donaldson; Margaret Ward; **Dec.15:** Maureen Callaghan (2019); Sarah Carty (2001); Janet Peters (1993); William Cotterell (1984); Jeannie O'Brien (1959); Edward D Maher (1958); Catherine Carvell; Catherine Connell;

St Mary Magdalene's:

Dec.9: Richard Sheppard (1973); Mary MacDougall (1969); **Dec.10:** Maria Juska (2015); **Dec.11:** Winifred Graham (1981); **Dec.15:** Baby Colin Newall (1968);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Sr Joan McGuinness, Jill Harvey, Barbara Duff, Bernard Traynor, Stephen Hirt, Mireille McNab (aged 13), Michelle Lee, Fiona and George McDermott, Ilona Brockbank, Michael Daly, Roger Bromley, Richard Reid, Douglas Edington, Anne Morris, Dr Grier Gordon, Nessa Campbell, Mike Fox, Rose May Mattison, Brian Gurney, Alec Robb, Mike Nelson, Dave Cook, Alison St. Clair Ford, Shirley Robertson, Miranda McDonnell, Mary Madden, John Wiggins, Lucy Pagett, Jim Gray, John Curran, Saramma Samuel, Margaret Troupe Robert Clark, Peter Robinson, Peter Hanley, Kate Titterington, Ann Currie, Helen Robertson, baby Josh Simpson, Shona Killin, Tom Heaney, Mary Whyte, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, Andrew Muldoon, John Havard, Mary Wallace, Ellen Green, Sophie Robinson, Louise Young, Tricia Scott, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 9), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Grace Stuart, Stephen Norwood, Agnes Clarke, David Fenwick, Maurice McAllister, Rita Noonan,, members of the McGrath Family, Hans Zaunbrecher, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Keiran Smart (aged 16), Michael Doherty, Carol Turnbull, Jean Wylie, Angela Khan, Tara Kuppinger, Charlotte O'Brien, young Martha Moyes (aged 6), Jennifer Kay, Seval and Kazim Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Tony Rigg, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Ann Thorp, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Michael Igoe, Clare Richardson, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.