

# 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:*

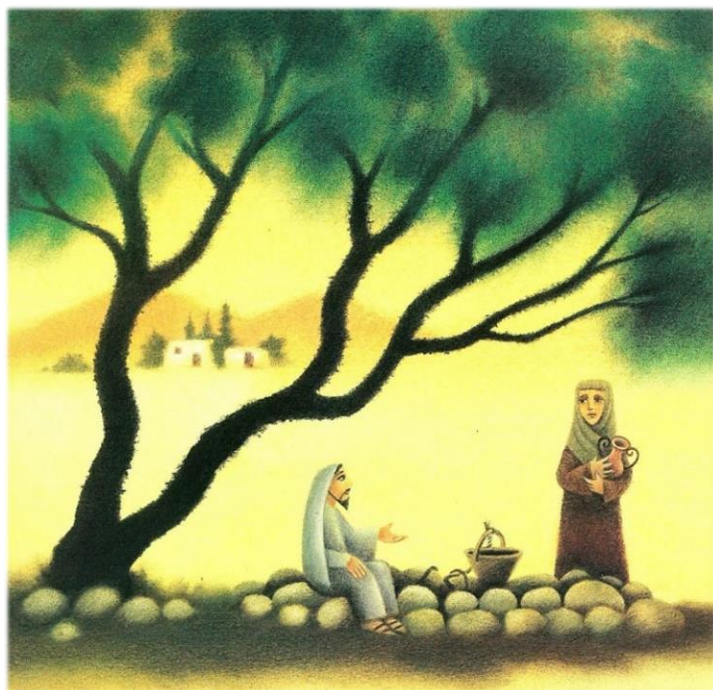
<https://www.stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes.com>

*Joint Facebook page:*

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

*Joint e-mail address for our sister parishes:*

[stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com)



## 12 MARCH 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus, tired by the journey, sat by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'

...Jesus replied, 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life.'

(John 4:6-15)

**This Monday, 13 March, it will be ten years to the day since Jorge Bergoglio, the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, was elected Pope and chose the name Francis. We give thanks for his decade of service as Pope, and pray for his continued health, energy, wisdom and joie-de-vivre.**

Today is our Lenten **Reconciliation Sunday** – when several priests will be available at the start of each Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation – many thanks to **Fr David Stewart SJ, Fr Jim Smith and Fr Joel Linabag SJ** for their presence at different Masses.

**This Monday, 13 March, at 7pm at St John's, our (mainly) P3 children will celebrate their First Reconciliation. Please pray for them: Aila Perth, Alex Read, Archie Ramage, Cillian Graham, Cristian Andreucci, David Orlik, Elif Zozubozska, Elise Aitken, Emma Boyle, Finley Burgess, Grace Gamado, Gregory Gamado, Grace Calvey, Harry McLaughlin, Hope Twaddle, Joachim Mielnik-Kosmiderski, Julie Dada, Kornelia Szczurak, Lilien Benson, Marta Myshkovich, Max Orlik, Nina Kalinowska, Oliver Kollias Gren, Oliwia Rogoz, Orla Graham, Reese Giambianco, Rosa Brady, Sara Orlik, Sarah Maidan and Tartor Ternenge.**

**Special collection - "Next weekend there will be a special collection for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF). The money you donate is used to support much needed projects for people in need across the world...Thank you for your generosity in almsgiving during Lent." – Archbishop Leo**

## **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant'Ore - Sunday 19 March until Tuesday 21 March**

*Deacon Eddie writes:* One of the particularly powerful ways we can prepare for Easter is by finding some time in Lent to be with the Lord in Adoration. Can you find time to dedicate to being in front of the Lord for 30mins, an hour or longer? We have our 40 Hours of Adoration running from after Mass on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> until 9.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>.

We will have time in adoration in both Parishes and also in the Parish House, after the 7pm Mass on Tuesday.

We really encourage everyone who possibly can to join us. Please sign up, either by yourself or with another person to help us ensure we have enough people to cover all the 40 hours. Please be as generous with your time as you can, the more people who sign up, the easier it will be to offer 40 hours of adoration. (NB even if circumstances mean you don't feel able to commit to signing up for a specific time, everyone is welcome to come in at any time for as short or as long as you wish.

**Adoration will run from 11am on Sunday until 9pm on Sunday and then 5.30am until 9pm on Monday and 5.30am until 9.30pm on Tuesday.** Hopefully these times will allow plenty of opportunities for those of us who have a daytime job to join in as well. Everyone is particularly welcome to join me at the 5.30am slots!

### **A SYNODAL FOLLOW-UP – THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, INCLUSIVITY AND THE PLACE OF WOMEN - Sunday 19 March, 7-9 pm in St John's Hall**

**Donald Scott, the chair of the St John's Pastoral Council and a member of our Synodal Co-Ordinating Group, writes:** The synodality conversations and the questionnaires last spring raised concerns about the place of women in the church and also how the church can become more inclusive.


A small group has been discussing what action we might take on this. We have recognised that there are two questions.

- What can we practically do in our own parishes to become more inclusive and use the gifts God has given to all people?
- How can we be more informed about and have an opportunity to discuss the position of the wider Catholic church – with input about different perspectives on tradition and theology?

To address the practical local question, we are holding an evening meeting on **Sunday 19 March, 7-9 pm in St John's Hall**. Our intention is to develop proposals that we can put into practice in our parishes. All are invited, and there will be opportunity to share ideas.

For the second question about the global church, the small group (which is very open to new members) is organising a series of four evenings with stimulating and eminent speakers. The title for the series is *East Edinburgh Conversations: Looking at inclusion in the Catholic Church*. These gatherings will take place 4-weekly **starting on Wednesday 3 May** at 7 pm in in the Bellfield small hall (16B Bellfield Street, Edinburgh, EH15 2BP). We will provide more detail in the coming weeks.

**A MESSAGE FROM JUSTICE AND PEACE SCOTLAND: Stand Up To Racism Scotland - Join the global day of protest marking UN Anti Racism Day - Saturday 18th March in Glasgow.** Gather at George Square for 11am. [Transport to the #ResistRacism demonstrations 18th March | Stand Up To Racism](#)  
'In light of the UK government's new Anti-Refugee bill we hope you will join us in Glasgow to demonstrate that this bill does not represent us and to show that refugees are welcome here! Instead of this cruel and unworkable bill, the government should focus on creating a compassionate, fair and workable system which prioritises safe routes to get here, orderly and effective asylum processing, and a comprehensive UK strategy of welcome at national and local level.'

#togetherwithrefugees 

**A MESSAGE FROM FR DAVID STEWART SJ – 'Our Retreats-in-Daily-Life** here at Edinburgh Jesuit Church always include some optional workshops on **Aspects of Ignatian Prayer** and these sessions are open to people who are not making the retreat, too. The sessions are at **17.45 on Sundays, for 45 minutes**, which could leave you time for quiet prayer in the church before the 19.00 Mass.'

# THIS WEEK

## Saturday 11 March

- 10am–1pm – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith – **CLUSTER LENTEN RETREAT with Fr David Stewart SJ**  
(including Mass at 10am)
- 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass preceded by 'Reconciliation Sunday'** - livestreamed

## Sunday 12 March – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (RECONCILIATION SUNDAY)

- 9.30am – St John's – **Mass preceded by 'Reconciliation Sunday'** - livestreamed
- 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass preceded by 'Reconciliation Sunday'** - livestreamed

## Monday 13 March

- 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** - livestreamed
- 10.30am – St John's Hall – **March Coffee Morning** (donations to "Water Aid UK")
- 4.00pm – Parish House – **Meeting of Imam Hassan Rabbani and Fr Jock**
- 7.00pm – St John's – **Celebration of First Reconciliation with P3 Children**
- 7.30pm – 2 Goff Avenue - **Lenten House Group** (Host – Ros McKay, leader – Bronagh Power)
- 8.15pm – Zoom - **Gospel Sharing** (click [HERE](#) or type [shorturl.at/ctCFL](http://shorturl.at/ctCFL) into your browser)

## Tuesday 14 March

- 2.30pm – 56/1 Moira Terrace – **Lenten House Group** (Host – Pauline McInnes, leaders – Jim and Evelyn Roarty)
- 7.00pm – Parish House – **Mass** - livestreamed
- 7.00pm – Zoom – **On-line Lenten House Group** – (Leader - Tanya White)  
(click [HERE](#) or type <https://shorturl.net/3J9k7N> into your browser)
- 7.45pm – Parish House – **RCIA Meeting**

## Wednesday 15 March

- 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed
- 10.35am – St John's – **Stations of the Cross**
- 11.00am – 5 Rosefield Street – **Lenten House Group** (Host – Pat Robertson, leader – Jennifer Morris)
- 7.00pm-8.00pm – Parish House - **An Invitation to knit a Prayer Shawl during Lent.** (Any questions please feel free to message Tracy Burgess - 07939662962).

## Thursday 16 March

- 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** - livestreamed
- 7.00pm – Parish House – **St John's Pastoral Council Meeting**
- 7.00pm – 16 Greenfield Park, Musselburgh – **Lenten House Group** (Hosts Penelope and Freddie MacLellan Hawkes, leader – Dave Connarty)
- 7.30pm – 38 Milton Rd W – **Lenten House Group** (Host – Joyce Martin, leader – Sheila Tansey)

## Friday 17 March – FEAST OF ST PATRICK

- 10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – livestreamed

## Saturday 18 March - 6.30pm – St John's – Vigil Mass - livestreamed

## Sunday 19 March – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

- 9.30am – St John's – **Mass** - livestreamed
- 11.00am – St John's – **Beginning of 40 Hours Adoration/Adoration**
- 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** - livestreamed
- 7.00pm – St John's Hall - **The Catholic Church, Inclusivity and the Place of Women: An Open Meeting**

**The Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony of consecration to Our Lady** will be held on **Sunday 26 March at 3.00pm** in **St Catharine's Convent**, 4 Lauriston Gardens. There will be Rosary and Legion prayers, a talk by our Spiritual Director, Fr John Peter, and Benediction in the beautiful chapel. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All members, active and auxiliary, and friends of the Legion are invited to attend this Ceremony. Please come along. You will be very welcome.

There are **Easter cards** for sale at St John's and St Mary Magdalene's. For £2 you can buy 4 lovely cards spreading the message of Easter.

# SAINTS/MARTYRS OF THE WEEK

## 1. Sts. Perpetua and Felicity - Martyrs (d. 203) – 7 March

*"Stand fast in the faith, and love ye one another; and be not offended because of our passion."*



There are few more poignant documents of the early church than "**The Passion of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity.**" Indeed, the story of these two early martyrs was so popular in the North African church that St. Augustine complained that it was more widely read than the Gospels. Perpetua was a prosperous young woman, married and the mother of a new-born son, who lived in Carthage in the late second century. At the age of twenty-two she was arrested with her servant (or rather, slave) Felicity and several male companions, apparently for violating a prohibition against conversion to Christianity.

Part of the striking power of this narrative derives from the fact that it purports to represent the voice of Perpetua herself, as she languished in prison under sentence of death. It is thus a uniquely personal document, filled with painfully intimate details, and strikingly free of the stereotypical conventions of later hagiography. Perpetua emerges not simply as a "type," but as a fully realized person, subject to hunger, fears, and even - as a nursing mother, separated from her child - the pain of swollen breasts.

The last detail points to the other obvious distinction of the narrative. This is not the disembodied voice of a generic Christian - but a Christian woman. The modern reader can hardly ignore the pervasive significance of gender throughout the narrative. While the overall "plot" focuses on Perpetua's approaching passion, she is called throughout to negotiate a series of complications arising from her status as a woman - daughter, mother, and spouse (though interestingly her husband is never mentioned). Throughout we sense the struggle of a woman to claim her own identity and vocation amid the various competing claims imposed by society. Even at her trial the proconsul appeals to her sense of duty toward her aged father and her infant son. Perpetua answers the court with the simple declaration, "*I am a Christian.*" One senses that in Christ she has found the power and freedom to name herself and the courage to accept the consequences.

And yet there is no suggestion that Perpetua scorns motherhood or the bonds of family. The narrative describes in touching detail the sufferings caused by the separation from her infant. But when he is restored to her and she is able to nurse him, "*straightway I became well, and was lightened of my labour and care for the child; and suddenly the prison was made a palace for me, so that I would sooner be there than anywhere else.*" The main torture for Perpetua comes from the pleading of her aged father, who resorts to bullying threats as well as abject tears in an effort to dissuade her from her path. Perpetua looks upon him with genuine pity for his "*unhappy old age,*" but also with sadness at the thought that he, as a non-Christian, cannot rejoice in the prospect of her passion.

Perpetua herself does not relish the prospect of death. But in a series of prophetic visions, she finds the conviction that her fate is ordained and that her brief suffering will lead to eternal reward. She is consoled finally to be able to entrust her son to safe hands, and so receives the grace to bear whatever may come. She is undeterred when, at their trial, she and her companions receive the most terrifying sentence - to fight with wild beasts in the amphitheatre. For in another dream, she perceives that she will be fighting "*not with beasts, but against the devil; and I knew that mine was the victory.*"

Her portion of the narrative ends on a haunting note - the actual words of a prisoner on the eve of her death: "*Thus far have I written this, till the day before the games; but the deed of the games themselves let him write who will.*"

Eyewitnesses did complete her narrative. And so we also learn something about her companion and servant Felicity. Eight months pregnant at the time of her imprisonment, Felicity was fearful that because of her condition she would be separated from the fate of her companions. But after a night of ardent prayer, she went into labour and gave birth to a daughter, whom she was able to entrust to Christian friends.

On their last day of life, the prisoners celebrated a "Love Feast," attended by many local Christians. The next morning, "*the day of their victory,*" the prisoners went forth from the darkness of their prison into the glaring amphitheatre, "*as it were to heaven, cheerful and bright of countenance.*" Perpetua wore the expression of a "*true spouse of Christ,*" while Felicity, rejoicing that her child was born in safety, "*came now from blood to blood, from the midwife to the gladiator, to wash after her travail in a second baptism.*"



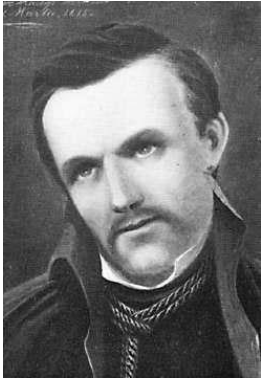
Once more Perpetua was urged to abjure her faith. But she refused. We hear her voice a final time - now with a conviction that resounds through the ages: *"For this cause came we willingly unto this, that our liberty might not be obscured. For this cause have we devoted our lives."*

Perpetua and Felicity were set in the arena together. At first they were stripped, causing the crowd to shudder *"seeing one a tender girl, the other her breasts yet dropping from her late childbearing."* And so in a final ironic concession to their womanhood they were permitted to cover themselves. They were then exposed to a savage cow which tossed them about on its horns. When they had survived this ordeal the executioner was ordered to put them to the sword. But the swordsman was apparently a novice and had trouble striking a true blow. The narrator relates that Perpetua, in the final mark of mastery over her fate, directed the sword to her own neck: *"Perhaps so great a woman could not else have been slain had she not herself so willed it."*

A final poignant image remains. The narrator notes that before meeting the sword the two young women, formerly mistress and servant, now sisters in Christ, turned to one another before the jeering crowd and exchanged a kiss.

See: *"The Passion of SS. Perpetua and Felicity,"* Walter Shewring, trans., in F. J. Sheed, ed., *Saints Are Not Sad* (New York: Sheed & Ward, 1949).

## 2... and our 17<sup>th</sup> Scottish Martyr, St John Ogilvie (1580-1615) – 10 March



Urbane, cultured, witty, and fearless, John Ogilvie was in many ways typical of both the higher echelons of Scottish society, from which he came, and of the Society of Jesus, which he joined. His father, a baron, embraced Presbyterianism, his mother, who died when he was only two, had been at least sympathetic to Catholicism. John was brought up as a Calvinist but sent to both Catholic and Reformed Europe for his continued education. The open intellectual climate he found there led him to ponder Catholic claims and eventually to ask to be received into the Roman Catholic Church.

He studied at the Scots College in Louvain for two years, then at Regensburg, then at the Jesuit College in Olmütz, entering the Jesuit novitiate in Bohemia in 1599. He was ordained in Paris in 1610, the year before the last two Jesuits working in Scotland were obliged to leave as persecution intensified. Ogilvie was determined to return to Scotland, but it was three years before the Jesuit general, Aquaviva, could be persuaded to let him face such risk. He arrived there in November 1613, ministering first in his home county of Banffshire and then in Edinburgh, with an interruption for a visit first to London and then to his superiors in France, the purpose of which remains a mystery. He returned to Scotland in April 1614 together with a fellow-Jesuit and a secular priest, and they made converts in Glasgow and Edinburgh. In October he was betrayed to the Episcopal archbishop of Glasgow by a potential convert, seized by his waiting servants, and taken to the provost's house.

The archbishop, John Spottiswoode, punched him in the face, saying, *"Sir, you are overbold to say your Masses in a reformed city,"* to which Ogilvie replied, *"You act like a hangman, not a bishop, in striking me."* Saying Mass was a treasonable offence, and when a former benefactor handed Ogilvie's Mass kit to the authorities, his fate was effectively sealed. The archbishop, who was also a privy councillor, presided at his trial, which became a personal contest between the two. Ogilvie refused to incriminate himself, saying it was up to witnesses to prove that he had said Mass. After a day's interrogation, he became feverish and was left in peace for two days. He then spent two months with a heavy iron bar tied to his feet, so that he could not move around, and was brought back to trial. This time he was asked to reveal the names of other Catholics, but he steadfastly refused, saying, *"In betraying my neighbour I should offend God and kill my own soul."*

He was then deprived of sleep for nine days in an attempt to weaken his mind, being prodded with pins and daggers and then dragged to his feet and dropped again. This brought him so near death that he was allowed two days' rest before being brought back to court. He continued to refuse to name names, and responded to all threats with such good humour that his persecutors eventually found themselves joking and drinking with him. Even Spottiswoode relaxed to the point of showing him round his house and garden - and sent his wife away to Edinburgh, suspecting her of being too fond of the charming Jesuit. After two months of a relatively easier prison regime, during which the fame of his courage and wit spread all over and beyond Scotland, he was brought back to court and, inevitably, found guilty of treason. The sentence was hanging and quartering, but the crowd at his execution the following day was so sympathetic that he was allowed to hang until he was dead. He was beatified in 1929 and canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1976.

# NOTICEBOARD

## A REQUEST FOR LIVESTREAMERS FOR THE 11.15AM ST MM MASS

**Deacon Eddie writes:** "We are pleased to now have the 11.15am Mass at St Mary Magdalene's livestreamed every week. Can you help us? No previous experience is needed, and age is no barrier. (Our youngest live-streamer was 11 and we're not stupid enough to ask the age of the oldest live-streamers in the team...)  
I will be around to help with any problems that come up, and full training is available - but an extra pair of hands will be invaluable, even if you can't offer every Sunday.  
Can you help? Give me a call on 07986 015772 or email [deaconeddie.white@stanned.org.uk](mailto:deaconeddie.white@stanned.org.uk) "

## This year's Portobello Holiday Club – WONDER ZONE - is 17-21 July from 9am to 12:45pm at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church.

**Michelle Brown writes:** - 'After a pandemic break, our sixth Portobello Holiday Club will finally take place on 17-21 July 2023 from 9am to 12:45pm at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church and at St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church. Our theme is Wonder Zone, and we will be exploring God's great, big, beautiful creation with science and nature activities, bible stories and more. Six local churches are working together to bring a fun filled week of games, crafts, gardening, science, bible study, music, storytelling, baking and much more for children currently in P1-P7. We have a big team of youth volunteers as well. It will be a wonderful week and we would love for your family to be there. If you are interested in volunteering, we are looking for helpers for arts and crafts, gardening, science, working with a group, and breathing space (our prayer activity). We are also looking for a group leader, snack team leader and a photographer. We welcome help to set up, decorate, and tidy up. We would also love donations of home baking for the volunteers and donations of science themed decorations.  
You can volunteer for a day, a couple days or for the full week. If you would like to find out more, **or to volunteer - contact our parish representative, Lynda Kazimoglu ([lkazimoglu@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lkazimoglu@yahoo.co.uk))** - or email me at [portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com). Registration is now open for children currently in P1-P7. Pick up a form from Lynda to register your child or email [portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com) to be sent a form to register for holiday club. The cost to attend is £10 per child for the full week. If cost is prohibitive, please speak with me as some funded places are available.'

*Every creature is a glittering,  
glistening mirror of Divinity*

(St Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179)

## From Archbishop Leo's Weekly 'Ad Clerum'

**Lent reflections** - Prepare for each Sunday in Lent with a reflection from Canon Hugh White, a retired priest of the Archdiocese. The 'Listening in Lent' talk is posted each Tuesday on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel: [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](https://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

**Lent talks** - Discover Jesus Christ in the Servant Songs of Isaiah with four online talks from the Archdiocese. They are hosted by Fr Jamie McMorrin of St Margaret's, Davidson's Mains, and Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM and continue at 7:30pm on Wednesday 15 and Wednesday 22 March. Register at [bit.ly/lenttalks2023](https://bit.ly/lenttalks2023) Catch up on YouTube: [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](https://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

**Lent Retreat** - A retreat titled *Encountering Jesus* will take place at St Kentigern's Church, Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, Edinburgh. It is led by Fr Bart Parys, a Divine Word Missionary based in Ireland, and it will help you draw closer to Jesus in Lent. **Fri 24 Mar 7:30pm - 8:30pm; Sat 25 Mar 10:00am - 3:00pm; Sun 26 Mar 9:30am - 11:00am.** No registration required.

**Mass - Relics of Padre Pio** - Relics of Padre Pio are touring Scotland (including his gloves and bloodstained bandages). They will be in the Archdiocese on **Friday 24 March at 7:00pm** at Ss John Cantius & Nicholas, West Main Street, Broxburn. There will be Holy Mass and a chance to receive an individual blessing with the relics. A special invitation is extended to the sick and the suffering. Teas/coffee served in church hall afterwards.

# A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – JOHN 5: 5-42

*(The author of this reflection is a friend of Fr Jock who lives in Northumberland)*

Robert settled back into his First-Class Seat. Clare would not have approved of such extravagance. His railcard had meant a comparatively cheap ticket – but it was the principle. Clare had never been one for separating ourselves on the basis of class. All men and women were equal. He gazed out of the carriage window. It was a long time since he had travelled by rail and if he had been expecting to see the countryside speeding past, he was to be severely disappointed. This was the Trans-Pennine Express: a service that was neither ‘express’ nor reliable. His eventual destination would be Whitby, having left Southport earlier that morning. So, instead of hurtling past the countryside seemed to stroll by with all of the haste of a funeral procession. Their slow plodding speed matched his mood. This trip was long overdue. He was feeling sombre and guilty in equal measure. When Clare died, he retreated into his own inner world with only memories and memorabilia for company. Lansdowne Road became a shrine to his memory of their life together. The children had been a blessing but their real treasure, their sacred treasure, their sacrament had been each other. Words were as nothing when compared to their own company. And now, he relied on those memories. They were his oxygen. Deep down he realised that he had neglected both his children – and Sarah, his closest daughter-in-law never tired of gently prodding him. ‘When are you going to come and see us? The girls would love to see their granddad’. Robert’s answer was always weak – even to his own ears. ‘It’s difficult – you both live so far away – you’re in Whitby and David and Julie are down on the south coast’. ‘Yes, but it’s not like you don’t have time on your hands.’ Ouch! That one stung.

Both he and Clare had met when working as volunteers with the homeless. They both felt passionately about injustice, but it was Clare who had been the forced behind them. She was always outspoken about such matters. One day was seared into his soul. Clare was holding a new-born baby, tears streaming down her face. The child was hours old. No-one had even realised the mother had been pregnant otherwise they would have done more. The mother was a heroin addict. This child was too. Less than 12 hours old and addicted. It couldn’t avoid addiction – even from its first breath. Clare didn’t need to say anything. Their exchanged looks spoke volumes.

Clare had taken charge of their wedding – way back in 1973. She was adamant that they would have a reading from *The Little Prince* as well as John’s account of the Samaritan woman at the well. Father O’Sullivan had warned against it. ‘It’s a bit long Clare’, he advised, and during the Nuptial Mass, Robert was conscious of the fidgeting behind him as everyone stood for the Gospel reading. Clare was adamant and the priest made a fantastic job of typing in the reading with the episode from the *Little Prince* where the reader is introduced to the merchant who had invented a pill to eradicate thirst. ‘What is the point of it?’ asks the Prince. ‘Look at all the time you’ll save, no kettle boiling, no searching for bottled water, no wells to dig.’ ‘And what will I do with this time?’ ‘Anything you want’. ‘Well with time on my hands, I’d take a slow stroll to a babbling brook and sit on the grassy bank letting the water run through my toes, drinking in the view and guzzling on the fresh flowing water from my cupped hands.’ Father O’Sullivan spoke of the life-giving water on offer from Jesus Christ, the humility displayed by Jesus asking an immigrant and outsider for water, touching the outsider’s water cup, talking to her as an equal. Above all Jesus lets her know that there was nothing in her past that would be an obstruction to the love of God. The Samaritan woman goes to share her encounter with all the villagers. She told of a man she had met who wanted a drink. She had been struck with awe and wonder. He knew EVERYTHING about her past and held none of it against her. None of it. This was treasure indeed. This passage was Clare’s favourite precisely because it dealt with outsiders, those whom society rejects. Robert was sure Clare would have something to say about refugees.

Cancer had ripped their lives apart. Alone, he retreated into those memories and memorabilia that had become his shrine to their life and love together. Julie’s words had stung him into activity. He would use his time for others. It was what Clare would want. They had a favourite song – their tune. It was Dionne Warwick singing ‘I know I’ll never love this way again.’ There was one very powerful line: *A fool will lose tomorrow looking back for yesterday.* Well, no more would this fool make that mistake. Widowerhood meant time on his hands. He would reach out to others, beginning with his grandchildren and children. He would be a living memorial to the witness of Clare. He would not neglect the present at the expense of the past. Jesus tells his disciples: *Look around you, look at the fields, already they are ready for harvest!* Who will gather in this harvest if not us? Or should that be ‘we’? Clare would have known the correct English. She was so good at everything. She would have known what to use – ‘we’ or ‘us’ – but she would definitely know what to do.

# PARISH REGISTER

*Welcome to the world...Nancy Evelyn Dalrymple Lawson, born on Thursday 9 March in the ERI, a daughter for Phania and Piers (and a great niece for Fr Jock...)*

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

*Christian Wishart - Irene McLeod  
Cammie Lang - Gavin Power  
James Lugton - Dick White  
Mrs Burke*

*Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:*

*Dennis Critchley Salmonsén  
Pat Hay-Will - Margaret Reid  
Bernard Vinestock - Noel Whyte  
Anne Kinane - Patricia Sibbald*

*Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:*

#### St. John's:

Una Laing, John Freeman, Kim O'Neill, Mike and Patricia Lawler, Harry Allan, baby Damon McDonald, May Thomson, Bob Kelly, Carol Simpson, Pat Dickin, Charlotte and Fred McGregor, Kitty Dykes, Kenny O'Connor, Gerry Gallagher, John Cregan, Rose Thornton, Kathleen Brown, Mike Noonan, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Fiona Connel, Ann Dobie, Sheelagh Dobson, Chloe Sutherland, Norah Bruce, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Anna Butler, May Flynn, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, David Reid, Betty Dougal, Anne Thomson, Sarah McManus, Mike Burns, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Mary Slight, Norman Telfer, Kathie Gallagher, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers, Marie Angela Crolla and Lorraine Syme.

#### St Mary Magdalene's:

Allan Guthrie, Sara Alkahtari, John McLaughlin, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Sam Burns, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Mary Cole, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Margaret Duffy, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Charles Malcolm, Margaret Ryan, Jacqueline Hannan, Julie Keegan, Rose McKay, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and Mary and James Muir.

## *Offertory 5 March 2023*

St Mary Magdalene's, £262.51 total, including £206.51 Offertory and £56.00 Gift Aid.

St John's, £1264.80 total, including £458.40 Offertory, £111.40 Gift Aid and £695.00 online donations.

### *Anniversaries:*

#### St John's:

**Mar.11:** Noel Whyte (2022); Dorothy Fusco (2008); George Ogilvie (1950); John O'Brien (1945); Joseph McElroy; Norah Mullan; **Mar.12:** Margaret Adams (2000); Winifred Wynne (2000); James Kelly (1987); James Wynne (1986); James A MacGrory (1967); Wood family (1955); **Mar.13:** Jessica Quinn (2000); Thomas Henderson (1984); Cecily Docherty (1972); Patrick G Hunt (1968); John T Clarke (1943) - killed in action; Roseanne D'Arcy; **Mar.14:** Mary Kelly (2000); Elizabeth Binnie (1987); **Mar.15:** Greta Clarke (2013); Very Rev.Charles Canon Brodie (1999); John Barber (1998); Alexander Connelly (1985); Rebecca M O'Kane (1981); James Waugh (1979); **Mar.16:** May Mackay (1997); Edward Molloy (1961); **Mar.17:** Sheila Devlin (2005); Patrick Duff (1981); Chris Lynch (1975); Mary Hunt (1966); Margaret Burns (1937); Esther Keating; **Mar.18:** Eva Nolans (2002); Annie Cockburn (1993); Anne Kinane (1985); Mary Loftus (1946); **Mar.19:** Margaret Reid (2015); Bernard Vinestock (2011); Gertrude Forsyth (1986); David Philp (1984); Peter Kelly (1952);

#### St Mary Magdalene's:

**Mar.12:** Jeannie Docherty (2010); **Mar.13:** Patricia Sibbald (2014); Gertie Urquhart (1980); **Mar.15:** Robert Harris (1981); **Mar.18:** Joseph Patrick Foster (1969);

*Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:*

Allan Crombie, Kieran Smart, Jim Gray, John Cudlipp, Ellen Green, Sandy Ferguson, Sophie Robinson, Louise Young, Emma Blackman, Anthony Kramers, Tricia Scott, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 9), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Kate Mackay, Grace Stuart, Stephen Norwood, Bill and Audrey Jones, Richard Johnson, John Miller, Lydia Reid, Douglas Edington, Agnes Clarke, David Fenwick, Maurice McAllister, Rita Noonan, baby Lucas McCourt, Ava Simpkin (aged 12), Ellen Dow, Chris White, members of the McGrath Family, Maureen Hutchinson, Hans Zaunbrecher, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Anne Morris, Baby Josh Simpson, Keiran Smart (aged 15), Michael Doherty, Carol Turnbull, Jean Wylie, Mary Conefrey, Angela Khan, George and Ann McDermott, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Lucille McFadden, Tara Kuppinger, Jessica Haggerty, Charlotte O'Brien, Gwen Cullimore, young Martha Moyes (aged 5), Jennifer Kay, Margaret Troupe, Seval and Kazim Kazimoglu, Ann Watt (Mgr Rae's sister), Jan Meise, Melanie Ford, Mary Taygarth Roger Bromley, Tony Rigg, Henrietta Fraser, Stuart Falconer, Elizabeth, Colin Sandham, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, Dawn Clarke, Katie McAnenny, John Kellagher, Colin Raasch, Annabelle Cervantes, Emily Buchanan, Ann Thorp, Dani Miniette, Peter Millar, Joan Murray Hamilton, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Michael Igoe, Clare Richardson, Laura Anderson, Richard Reid, James O'Rourke, Tommy Muir, James Shepherd, Peter Hanley, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Joan Brooks, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

**Thank you!**