

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 Christina 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

16 MARCH 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him." (Luke 9:35)

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 and Lebanon and Syria and in Ukraine, and indeed in Sudan and in all the wars and conflicts in our world...

We pray especially that the ceasefire in Gaza might hold and for positive diplomatic developments in Washington/Kiev/Moscow....

We pray for dear Pope Francis, recovering slowly but still seriously ill in hospital.

Our Cluster Parishes' Lenten Retreat will take place this Saturday 22 March at St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith between 10.00am and 1.00pm. It will be the third one given in recent years to our Cluster by Deaconess **Lynda Wright**, an accomplished and creative retreat giver ... Mass at 10.00am will be followed by tea and coffee in the Hall, and then Lynda will help us on our Lenten journey....Do sign up on the lists at the back of the church (but feel free just to turn up even if you haven't signed any list!) There is no charge but donations at the end will help us cover our costs.'

Next weekend is Reconciliation Sunday...several priests will be available at the start of each Mass to celebrate reconciliation...please prepare **with the Examination of Conscience that accompanies this newsletter.**

An invitation to a Taizé Evening on Wednesday 19 March at 7.00 pm in the Parish House Prayer Room – Agnieszka Kiersztejn writes: 'S5 and above students are warmly invited to this Prayer Night

followed by a social. In the meeting we'll pray with Taizé chants, short Bible readings and in silence. Come, bring a friend and your favourite snacks. *Taste and see that the Lord is good.* See you there!

St Patrick's Day Concert & Raffle

7.00pm – Friday 21 March – St John's Church

The Justice and Peace Group write: '**Join us for a feast of good music and entertainment in St John's Church** this Friday evening at 7pm. As you will have spotted, the show is not actually on St Patrick's Day so will be only partly Irish – but all excellent!

Our all-star line-up includes

The St John's Primary School Choir, back by popular demand

Louise Holden (vocals) and **Nick Gent** (guitar) with songs from the Great American songbook

The Laidback Community Choir with a selection of upbeat numbers

Mike Kinane and an assortment of talented musician playing music with a traditional feel, with a couple of **(mature) Irish dancers** showing their skills. In addition, there will be our charity raffle with prizes involving golf, booze, Italian meals and many other things.

And, if you are wondering how much this is going to cost you, admission is **FREE!**

The charities we are supporting are

SCIAF's appeal for the people of Gaza, desperately in need of help to rebuild their lives

Mary's Meals who are appealing for help for the people of Southern Africa suffering the worst drought in over 100 years, causing famine and suffering.'

Don't miss out – see you there

OUR OTHER LENTEN PARISH INITIATIVES

Lent is primarily a time of preparation for our celebration of Holy Week and Easter – it's always good at the start of Lent to mark **the date of Holy Week (13 to 20 April)** in one's diary/phone/calendar and to try to keep it as free as possible....

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday evening after the Vigil Mass – and at any time by appointment.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The Legion of Mary will lead **Stations** at St John's every Wednesday after Morning Mass. There will also be **Stations of the Cross at St Mary Magdalene's (this) Friday 21 March after 10am Mass, on Thursday 3 April** immediately after 10.00am Mass followed by tea/coffee and sandwiches, and on **Friday 11 April** at 2.00pm followed by tea/coffee/scones/pancakes.

(Fr Jock has **an extensive collection** of ancient and modern Stations of the Cross – over 70 different versions. Many of them will be available for borrowing or use in the Church at the back of both St John's and St Mary Magdalene's. There are also other Lenten books available to read there).

He will also be offering, in response to a request, three evenings of presentations he gives in January each year to our RCIA Group – offering overviews on **The Old Testament, The New Testament** and **The History of the Church** on Monday 24 March, Thursday 3 April and Thursday 10 April, all at 7.30pm.

With apologies for those who were expecting and hoping for them, Lenten House Groups will not after all be taking place this Lent.....perhaps it's good sometimes not to fill our parishes diary too full in this season and seek to encourage in ourselves an element of the retreat into the desert and solitude that Sunday's Gospel shows was life-changing for Jesus....and do come along to our Synodality evening this Sunday at 7pm.

Fr Jock will be undertaking a(nother) sponsored slim for the Steka Skills Women's Hostel – if you feel able to sign up to support him (ideally per lb lost), there will be sheets at the back of both churches. We are still a little way off the £20,000 mark, the cost of the Hostel, but hope we might somehow reach our target by Easter.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 15 March - 6.30pm – St John's – **Vigil Mass** – *livestreamed*

Sunday 16 March – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

11.00am – St John's – **St Mark's Episcopalian Eucharist**

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

Monday 17 March – Feast of St Patrick

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

6.00pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing**

7.00pm – Parish House – Meeting of Cluster Pastoral Council Chairs and Parish Clergy

7.00pm – 2 Eskside East, Musselburgh – **Final Episode of Chosen Series 3.**

Tuesday 18 March

10.00am – Lauder Lodge - **Mass**

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

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

Wednesday 19 March – FEAST OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY

9.10-9.50am – St John's – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

10.00am – St John's – **Mass** – *livestreamed* – with Primary 3, 4 and 5 from St John's Primary School.

10.35am – St John's – **Stations of the Cross**

7.00pm – Parish House Prayer Room - **Young People's Taizé Prayer Night**

Thursday 20 March (St Cuthbert)

10.00am – St John's – **Requiem Mass for Charlotte McGregor** – *livestreamed*

7.30pm – St John's Hall - **Baptismal Preparation Course 1**

Friday 21 March - 10.00am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

10.40am – St Mary Magdalene's – **Stations of the Cross**

7.00pm – St John's – **JUSTICE & PEACE CONCERT** (*IN AID OF SCIAF AND MARY'S MEALS*)

Saturday 22 March - 10.00am – St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith – **Mass for the Cluster Retreat**

10.45am – St Mary's Hall – **CLUSTER RETREAT**

11.00am-4.00pm – St John's Hall – **Marriage Preparation Day**

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

Sunday 23 March – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (RECONCILIATION SUNDAY)

9.30am – St John's – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

11.00am – St John's – **St Mark's Episcopalian Eucharist**

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

2.30pm – St Joseph's, Broomhouse – **Legion of Mary Consecration to Our Lady** (the Acies)

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

IN THE COMING WEEKS

Thursday 27 March - 5.30pm – St Mary Magdalene's Hall – **St MM Pizza Parish Pastoral Council**

Parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's are invited to try something a little different.

We would like to re-invigorate our Parish Council at St Mary Magdalene's and are aware many people have been unable to join us because of child care and the lateness of the hour.

So, all parishioners from St Mary Magdalene's are invited to join our first PPPC (Pizza Parish Pastoral Council) meeting.... *We have timed it for 5.30pm to give people a chance to get back from work, or to join us a little later if they can't make it for 5.30pm exactly. We are also aware people with children will be worried about bringing them. Children are very much invited and there is plenty of space for them to play and be safely supervised.*

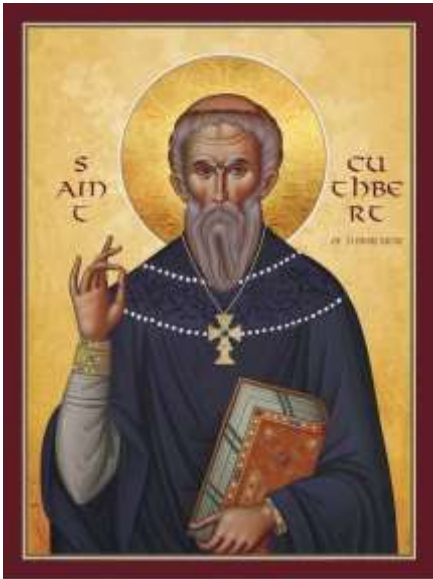
No PPPC would be complete without the Pizza so we will order pizza to share (for adults and children) and hope to have a very positive meeting to discuss the Parish, what's been happening and what we would like to see happen in the coming months.

Whilst unannounced attendance is very welcomed, we don't want to run out of Pizza so it would be helpful if you could let us know if you are able to (or hoping to) attend so that we can cater accordingly.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Cuthbert

Scottish monk and bishop (c 634-687) – Feast Day: 20 March

“Even if I could possibly hide myself in a tiny dwelling on a rock, where the waves of the swelling ocean surrounded me on all sides, and shut me in equally from the sight and knowledge of men, not even thus should I consider myself to be free from the snares of a deceptive world: but even there I should fear lest the love of wealth should tempt me and somehow or other snatch me away”. (St. Cuthbert, Bede’s Life of St. Cuthbert)



The most revered saint of northern England, born into a fairly wealthy Anglo-Saxon family in Dunbar, then in Northumbria, and now in East Lothian, Scotland, began his monastic life in 651 by riding up to the abbey of Melrose in Northumbria armed with a spear.

His life is summarized in the last six chapters of the Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, written in 731, and Bede there refers to earlier accounts he had written, in prose and heroic verse. Cuthbert chose Melrose rather than the more prominent Lindisfarne because he knew and admired the prior, Boisil, whom Bede calls *"a priest of great virtues and prophetic spirit"* (4:27). Boisil persuaded the abbot, Eata, to accept him into the community, and Cuthbert was soon noted for his exemplary and enthusiastic observance of monastic life.

Eata chose him as part of a team to establish a new house at Ripon, to the south in what is now North Yorkshire, on land donated by King Alcfrið.

Cuthbert was guest master, a task he seems to have carried out with ease and charm. The foundation was made in 660, three years before the Synod of Whitby was to decide the issue of the date to observe Easter and other matters of debate between Roman and Celtic traditions. Eata and his monks followed the tradition brought over from Ireland by Columba to Iona, from where northern England had been evangelized. The king had been won over to Roman ways, perhaps directly by Wilfrid, but Eata would have none of them and withdrew his monks back north to Melrose rather than comply.

Boisil died of the plague, which Cuthbert caught but recovered from, though it affected his health for the rest of his life. He was appointed prior in Boisil's place and combined a life of strict monastic observance with preaching missions to hamlets in the mountainous surrounding area. Bede tells of his preaching being so effective that people rushed forward to confess their sins and amend their way of life. Eata had become Abbot of Lindisfarne, and he persuaded Cuthbert to accept appointment as prior there. The persuasion was needed because Cuthbert's mind was turning more and more to a solitary life. He obediently spent twelve years as prior at Lindisfarne, during which he did much to clarify and impose the Rule under which the monks were to live: this was either the Rule of St Benedict or a revised version of the older Rule of St Columba.

Eata then gave him permission to adopt the solitary life, which he did first on the nearby "Cuthbert's Isle" and then on Inner Farne, one of the more remote and barren Farne Islands to the south-east of Lindisfarne. There, with initial help from high walls so that he would not be distracted from his prayers by the sight of the sea, and a shelter for visitors. He found that wheat would not grow but barley would, and with this and a freshwater well he declared himself self-sufficient. There he lived for nine years in a solitude broken only by monks coming to seek his advice and spiritual counsel. By 684, however, the fame of his holiness was such that he was elected bishop of the new diocese of Hexham. King Egfrith of the Northumbrians himself led a delegation to Inner Farne to persuade Cuthbert to accept, which he eventually did. Eata, by then bishop of Lindisfarne, knowing that this would be more familiar to Cuthbert, exchanged bishoprics with him, going himself to Hexham and leaving Cuthbert at Lindisfarne. As bishop he carried out an active and charismatic ministry for two years, especially to the poor, sick, and bereaved, then took leave of his diocese and community at Christmas 686 and retired to his cell to prepare himself for death.

He died on 20 March 687, or, as Bede says, entered into *"that life which alone may be called life."* In Cuthbert's case, though, his earthly remains then embarked on a long and extraordinary new pilgrimage. He was buried in the church at Lindisfarne, but eleven years later, by which time crowds were flocking to his tomb as many miracles of healing had been reported, the monks exhumed his body to place it in a more accessible shrine above ground. It was found to be incorrupt, was placed in fresh clothes, and reinterred in a wooden casket,

placed above ground in the sanctuary. What is known as the *Anonymous Life of Cuthbert* was written shortly after this. The body stayed there for nearly two hundred years. In 875 the monks fled Lindisfarne to escape a Viking invasion, taking Cuthbert's body with them. They wandered over northern England with it for seven years, then settled it at Chester-le-Street for over a hundred, after which it was moved to Ripon in 995, and then to Durham, again to escape the Vikings, in 999. It was taken to Lindisfarne for a time, out of fear of William the Conqueror, but returned to Durham in 1070. Benedictine monks built a new church (later the cathedral), in which the body was interred, in a triple casket and in a new shrine, in 1104. There it stayed until the dissolution of the monasteries. The caskets were opened in 1539 and the body found to be still incorrupt. The shrine was destroyed, but the body was reburied in the same place. The grave was opened again in 1827, when a single skeleton was found at the lowest level. It was assumed to be that of St Cuthbert and was reburied after some precious objects found with it had been removed. The grave was opened again in 1899, the bones were examined medically and stated to date from before the eleventh century and to be those of a man aged about fifty. Pieces of fabric still adhering to them were dated to the seventh century. Is this Cuthbert's body? Old Catholic families in northern England claim to pass down "secrets" showing that the true relics are elsewhere, removed by Catholics at the dissolution, but no alternative claims of this nature have been substantiated, and the balance of evidence still suggests that it is. Cuthbert is the subject of the first fully illustrated Life of a saint produced in England; he is featured in a fifteenth-century stained-glass window in York Minster, and over a hundred churches are dedicated to him in England alone. He is the patron saint of Durham, and a dense fog that saved the city from the threat of bombing in the World War II was attributed to his intercession.

from Paul Burns' Butler's Lives of the Saints

FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO'S AD CLERUM

Lent Stations of the Cross - Join Catholics from across Scotland online each Monday evening in Lent for the national Stations of the Cross. Continues at 7:45pm on **Monday 17 March** and includes a reflection from Fr Paul Henderson, a priest of our Archdiocese. The event is to pray for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/Stations25

Monthly 'Catholic Conversations' for Women - Women 18-45 are invited to 'Catholic Conversations' on **Saturday 22 March**, 3:45pm-4:45pm, at St Andrew's, Ravelston, Edinburgh, EH4 3DS hosted by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma. There will refreshments, a video-input, conversation, and a look at the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The conversation topic will be 'The Mass'. Afterwards, all are also welcome to Holy Hour with Vespers 5:10pm-6:10pm. To register, email edinburgh@almamercy.org.

'Courage to be Catholic' national conference - This conference, hosted by Aid to the Church in Need, takes place on **Saturday 29 March** at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 9:30am - 4:00pm. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR>

Annual Mass - The annual Caritas, Justice & Peace Mass takes place at 7:00pm on **Wednesday 2 April** at St Margaret's, East Port, Dunfermline, KY12 7JB. Fr Tom Magill of Motherwell Diocese will preach. All welcome.

Palm Sunday Youth Day - Let your children know about this day of games and inspiring talks hosted by the Archdiocese at The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB on **Saturday 12 April** from 11am-3pm. Includes sessions for primary school pupils (8+) and sessions for high school pupils. Register at bit.ly/youthpalm

Lourdes 2025 - The Archdiocesan pilgrimage flight for the summer Lourdes pilgrimage is fully booked but there is still the possibility to take part. Tangney Tours is reviewing options for pilgrims to join the pilgrimage. Please call 01732 886666 and let them know if you'd like to go.

Columba Trust - The Columba Trust provides funding to organisations and individuals for projects which support the practice of the Roman Catholic faith, its ministry and values. The deadline for applications this year is **30 June 2025**. Further details about the Trust and how to apply for a grant can be found at <http://columbatrust.org.uk/>

Events in the Archdiocese - For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese visit <https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>

NOTICEBOARD

- REQUESTS FOR HELP....** a) **Does anybody have green fingers?** We are looking for a few people willing to lend a hand with the Parish House garden....
- b) **The St John's Fabric Committee are looking for people willing to offer help** – and any skills they might possess – to enable us to keep the fabric of the Church in good condition... For both or either, please contact Christina Vinestock or Fr Jock...
- c) **Children's Liturgy** – in order to comply with safeguarding protocols, we are looking for additional **Adult Helpers** willing to sit in on and support the CL Leader during the Sunday Children's Liturgy session.. If interested in learning more, please contact Arlene Lauder (07950 880833) or Fr Jock.

A THANK YOU FROM STEKA SKILLS – Emma Wood writes: 'Thank you so very much to all the amazing women (and men!) who made last Saturday's **International Women's Day Bingo and Afternoon Tea** such a huge success. The parishioner helpers surpassed themselves in making sure everything looked beautiful and ran smoothly (an inspiration to our young volunteers as well as those of us with more experience!). They gave of their time and expertise with good humour and real kindness. The baking was sublime thanks to the many people who happily donated such tasty treats, the audience was encouraging and great fun - and everyone was also incredibly generous with their cash too! A truly wonderful occasion as we come towards the end of a year's fundraising events - we can confirm the total raised next week – around £800 - but in the meantime want to pass on our gratitude for a really memorable day.'

Gift Aiders - The new gift aid envelopes for financial year 2025/2026 are still available for collection in a basket at the back of both churches. A numbered boxed set will have your name on it. If you are a taxpayer but not currently signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme and you would like more information, please feel free to speak to Enrico Fertini (Parish Administrator), Jennifer Morris and Aileen Hall (St Mary Magdalene's Financial Council members), Gary Zoltie (St John's Treasurer) or Fr Jock. Many thanks to all who already support this scheme, it makes a significant financial difference towards the upkeep and needs of our two parishes.

THE FINAL LIST OF THE P4 FIRST COMMUNICANT PRAYER PARTNERS

St MMs - **Annabella Candelaresi** - Veronica Creanor, **Emylton Djalo** - Wenek Ostrowski, **Obim Onyolu** - Jennifer Morris, **Gregory Gamado** - Liz Herschan, **Szymon Zeman** – Jeremy Thorp, **Helena Flis** - Zuzanna Orlowska

St John's - **Lenny Joe Halloran** - Gena Gallagher, **Yasmine Doohan Bee** - Elise Kazimoglu, **Saoirse Golden** - Theresa Durkin Spence, **Orla Mc Pherson** - Karen Keast, **Jasmine Adamcyk** - Agnieszka Magnucka, **Naomi Okolo** - Kuba Magnucki, **Hanna Pytko** - Eliza Veitch, **Rowan Sinclair** - Olga Drewnowska, **Sienna Pacitti** - Rebecca Fonseca, **Leo di Marco** - Frances Paterson, **Violet Bateman** - Maureen Newall, **Claudia Wilson** - Roz Britton, **Malin Telfer** - Anne Telfer, **Sandie Iannarelli** - Mary Iannarelli, **Brodie Waugh** - Linda McCardle, **Alba Quin** - Pauline Glancy, **Seth Roarty** - Bernadette Gallagher, **Amelia Robertson** - Frances Gallagher, **Kleo Felisiak** - Lynda Kazimoglu, **Samara Okioro** - Ashkin Kazimoglu, **Maisie Berry** - Stuart Ogilvie

Prayer partners commit to try and pray regularly - even each day - for 'their' child and to be present when they celebrate their first communion. We will try and arrange a chance for child and prayer partner to meet before the day itself.

FROM THE LEGION OF MARY: **Maria Igoe writes:** 'The Annual Legion of Mary **Consecration to Our Lady** (the Acies) will take place on **Sunday 23 March** at 2.30pm at St Joseph's, Broomhouse. The service will be held in the Church, and then we will move to the Hall for refreshments and socialising. Active members and Auxiliary members are particularly invited, but anyone, who would like to dedicate themselves to Our Lady in this special way will be most welcome. More information can be had by contacting me at 07981333219.

Also, on **Monday 24 March** the **Mysteries of the Holy Rosary** will be said throughout the day at St John's for peace in our troubled world. The first Mystery will be led after Mass and will continue at half-hour intervals until 12.30pm. At 3pm we will recommence and recite all the Mysteries at 3pm, 3.30pm, 4pm and conclude with the final Mystery at 4.30pm. When we hear the terrible things that are in the news, we can feel powerless. Prayer is something we can do and so come along and show God that we trust that he will hear our prayers and answer them. Thank you.'

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - LUKE 9: 28-36

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

Some years back I was diagnosed with Sleep Apnoea. I use a Philips CPAP machine which looks as ugly as it sounds and involves donning a mask at night, just before turning out the light. It helps in ensuring that my airwaves remain open whilst asleep. The machine provides a daily readout informing me of the number of airwave incidents referred to as AHI. Sleep Apnoea is not particularly rare, and I derive great comfort from the CPAP machine as it gently hums away. It only becomes an issue when it detects that my airwaves are about to close and then it kicks into overdrive and forces air through the mask and down past my windpipe. In the dead of night, the noise is akin to that made by a jet airliner when the captain puts the engines into reverse thrust as he slows the plane in readiness for descent. At this point, nervous flyers grip the sides of the seat, devotees of the Big Dipper and Wall of Death thrill at the prospect of an imminent adrenaline rush.

Adrian is currently in the midst of studying for another qualification – this time it's in 'Breathwork' and the course is led by a softly spoken instructor with a delightful Irish brogue. By a process of osmosis, I am re-discovering the importance of breathing through the nose – at all times. Breathwork is of particular benefit to those with a diagnosis of sleep apnoea and I suppose it was inevitable that I became one of Adrian's case studies. In a great act of faith on my part, I place tape over my mouth last thing at night to ensure I breathe only through my nose. The first few nights were filled with more than a little anxiety. All apprehension has gone – mouth taping works, evidenced by the daily readout from the CPAP machine. I said re-discovering the technique, for I had learned its importance and usefulness many years ago – long before my CPAP machine and long before alcoholism had tightened its grip. I was a devoted follower of the American Franciscan Father Richard Rohr. He was instrumental in teaching me how to pray, but more importantly how to breathe and use regulated nasal breath as a way of centring. Breathwork is a powerful tool. This weekend we see Jesus calling three of his disciples by name, and then, having called them, he leads them away to a private place. Having arrived – and quite possibly after a steep climb: it was a mountain after all, rather than an undulating hill - they are out of breath. It's time to sit, time to regulate their oxygen-flow, rest throbbing legs. It's time for them to centre and just 'be' in the presence of Jesus. Regularly, all four evangelists use collective nouns – 'disciples', 'followers', 'apostles'. Only on specific occasions do they identify individuals by name. In our name lies identity and dignity. To repeat, the important aspect of this whole episode is the 'calling' and the 'taking away', the absence of distraction, the focussing on Jesus.

Jesus has called them by name – and soon, they will meet two other named characters. *Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah.* Names are important. At primary school I was always referred to by my Christian name – at secondary school it came as a shock to be continually referred to by surname alone. Even as a teenager I found it insulting and de-humanising. This is probably why Patrick McGoochan's weird late 1960's drama, *'The Prisoner'*, set in Portmeirion, so appealed to me. In the drama he was always referred to as Number 7. In his exasperation and frustration, he cried out: *I am not a number, I am a free man.* Jesus knows us by name: we are so special that he knows the number of hairs on our head, reassures us that the demise of every single sparrow is noted and noticed - yet they are as nothing in comparison to us. The events of the Transfiguration only made sense to Peter, James and John in the light of everything he had taught them – and in particular the events of Jerusalem, Calvary and Gethsemane. It all made sense to them because they had been able to focus on his presence and centre on him. They had already gone through seismic upheaval. In the space of a few weeks and months they had abandoned their security of routine and relationships and dropped all to become followers. They were a rag-tag group of a dozen or so, just getting to know each other and each other's foibles. Now, three are called by name and taken further away from the little security they now possessed. On the mountain, they see Jesus in all his divine majesty – *As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightening.* He opened their eyes. When we commit to the first discipline of Lent – prayer - we expose ourselves to that same experience. I don't mean the prayer of endless Hail Mary's or Stations of the Cross and the like. The prayer I mean is the prayer of centring. Focus on your breath. Feel the power of Jesus. He is all around you. Breathe him in, let him fill your being. Be at one with him. In,.....out. In,..... out! Once we can centre on Him, make Him the centre of our lives, rest assured that He will do the rest.

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Esther Gibson (mother of Mirabelle Oladunwo) – Elizabeth Walker
Charlotte Werner – Paul Cobbing*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*Dennis Critchley Salmonsens
Bernard Vinestock - Sara Alkhatari
Sheila Devlin – Anne Kinane
Canon Joseph Donlevy
Marion McGlade – David Cahill
Margaret Reid – Lilian Tracey
Carol Laidlaw – Patricia Durkin
Stef Gronkowski*

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

May Matthews, Rose Thornton, Margaret Thom, Pamela Hanlon, Mike and John Lawler, Sheila Tansey, Betty Dougal, Carol Simpson, Moira McCafferty, Helen Kilgour, Barbara Durcacz, Mairi O'Connor, Lesley O'Donnell, Donald Oswald, John Flanagan, Prisca Kemp, Mary Slight, Mike Noonan, Mike Fox, John McLaughlin, Celia Stone, Jimmy Curnyn, David Reid, Ann O'Brien, Diane McCarthy, Margaret Duffy, Mike Burns, May Thomson, Kenny O'Connor, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Ann Dobie, Chloe Sutherland, Ruth Vizor, Mary Grady, Pauli Walker, Vincent Knowles, young Saoirse Golden, Frances Cunningham, Sarah McManus, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Maureen Low, Norman Telfer, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers and Marie Angela Crolla.

St Mary Magdalene's:

Maureen Scott, Julie Keegan, Jean McNally, Bill McGeachie, Norrie Gibson, Monica Gorman, Aisha Montgomery, Tom Kay, Eleanor Campanile, Mary McGovern (jnr), Carolynne McCann, Tom Bauld, Jacqueline Marinello, Sandra Watt, Chris English, Andrew Farmer, Maria Scott Jnr, Louise Gorman, Bridget Malone, Margaret Ryan, Annie Watson, David O'Donnell, Jude Ferguson and James Muir.

Offertory 8/9 March 2025

St Mary Magdalene's, £282.85 total, including £142.85 Offertory and £140.00 Gift Aid.

St John's, £1957.00 total, including £435.00 Offertory, £489.00 Gift Aid, and £1033.00 weekly average online donations.

Anniversaries:

St John's:

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:** Sara Alkhatari (2023); 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); **Mar.20:** Mary Kelly (2007); Sabatino Andreucci (2006); Joseph Ufnowski (2006); Daniel Ferguson (2000); Neil Reid (1992); Josephine Lawler (1966); Canon Joseph Donlevy (1924); **Mar.21:** Kathleen Main (1991); Jean Ward (1986); Patrick Coll (1985);

St Mary Magdalene's:

Mar.15: Robert Harris (1981); **Mar.18:** Joseph Patrick Foster (1969);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Pope Francis, Fr John Chadwick, Simon Cook, Diana Williams, Dr Grier Gordon, Sr Monica Delaney FMDM, Vicky Driscoll, Dr Gerry McPartlin, Mian Astill, Stuart and Patricia Falconer, Neil Turner, Roz Paton, Carl Barber, Danielle D'Souza, Shirley Robertson, Anne Morris, Damian Mulvenna, Richard Reid, Edward and Francisca Chan, Coralie Isherwood, Fr John Hennebry OSA, Peter Hughes, Jean Fraser, Alasdair Mackay, Alison Padley, Phyllis Oliver, Sandy Reid, Eileen Ryan, David Miller, Fr Alex Davie, Tom Cullimore, David Paterson, Kay Leslie, Mary Ferguson, Vincent McCann, Peter Higgins, Anne Claveirole, Sr Helen McLaughlin, Revd Peter Millar, Ewa Kiersztejn, Veronica Monbieni, Revd Bill Wishart, Amparo Serrano, James Shepherd, Alison St Clair Ford, Caitriona Stark, Pat O'Kelly, Mike Foy, Jean Cooper, Kirsty McCrimmon, Noel Power, Mary McCormack, Helen Bird, Sheila Laughlin, Helen Campbell, Mr Mega, young Zachary Cowie, Edith Edgar, King Charles, Monique Kopp, Mary Lyons, Elizabeth McKenzie, Steven Thornton, Ann Fleming, Marna Clarke, Eugene Feehan, Mag Farnon, Ann Currie, Jacob Green (aged 14), Pat Campanile, Jill Harvey, Mireille McNab (aged 14), Michelle Lee, Roger Bromley, Saramma Samuel, Peter Hanley, Helen Robertson, young Josh Simpson, Tom Heeney, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, John Havard, Ellen Green, Sophie Robinson, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 12), Alan Proudlock, Evelyn Walsh, Eunice McDonald, Grace Stuart, David Fenwick, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Michael Doherty, Jean Wylie, Angela Khan, Charlotte O'Brien, young Martha Moyes (aged 7), Jennifer Kay, Kazim Kazimoglu, Jan Meise, Tony Rigg, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, John Kellagher, Dani Miniette, Sr Margaret Mary, Betty Blyth, James O'Rourke, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

← **THANK YOU**