

THE PARISHES OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE

Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh - Charity No. SC008540

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh, EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest: *Fr Jock Dalrymple:* 0131 669 5447

Assistant Priest: *Fr Shaiju Joseph SSP* 0131 6695447

Deacon: *Revd Eddie White:* 07986 015772

Pastoral Assistants: *Jennifer Morris and Christina Vinestock*

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.40am-11.10am Saturday morning,
7.30pm after the Vigil Mass Saturday evening or any time by appointment*

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)

Joint Website:

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

Joint Facebook page:

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

Joint e-mail address:

stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

10 MAY 2026 - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, loves me.'

from John 14:15-21

Quarant'ore/40 Hours Adoration – 10-12 May - 'In recent years, we have come to enjoy a tradition of celebrating 40 Hours Adoration, or Quarant'ore, in this period of Eastertide. (Last year we offered a chance for all to get involved in celebrating this at the time, just before the Conclave, when the meeting of the Cardinals to choose a new pope took place.) It is a chance to sit in silence before the true presence of Christ, and quietly to pray for ourselves, our loved ones and the world around us, and especially for Peace.

We look to start after the 9.30am Mass this Sunday in St John's and continue there until 10.00pm.

Then 5.30am on Monday in St John's (a special sort of silence usually only broken by the sound of bird song from the park next door) until 2.15pm (the Healing Mass is at 2.30pm) and from 3.45pm until 10.00pm.

Finally, from 5.30am on Tuesday till 10.00am in St John's, 10.00am till 2.00pm in St Mary Magdalene's, 2.00pm till 6.45pm pm in the Prayer Room in the Parish House, and 7.30pm till 10.00pm in St John's Church

Can you offer an hour to sit before the Lord?

Can you offer a few hours to help welcome and 'manage' the various buildings during this time?

Please let us know. Sign-up sheets will be available after each Mass.'

This Thursday, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension – a Holiday of Obligation (and Celebration) ...there will be Mass at 9.15am in St John's Primary School, 10.00am in St John's and 7.00pm in St Mary Magdalene's

Many congratulations – and the promise of our prayer - to the 26 children from St Mary Magdalene’s and St John’s being confirmed by Archbishop Leo Cushley on Friday 15 December at St Theresa’s, Craigmillar at 7pm: *Addison Creanor, Aidan Dunleavey, Albie O’Halloran, Alex Buczynski, Carter Gibson, David Ilie, Drew Calder, Fearne Crooks, Felix Butas-Markusz, Flora Gibson, Georgie Currie, Hubert Piwowarczyk, Jay-Jay Adamczyk, Joshua Bold, Katie Shepherd, Luca Maiello, Lucas Robertson, Nina Mosiewicz, Rhia Turnbull, Sorley McLulich, Stanislaw Jung, Sunny Stewart, Umberto Crolla, Victor Adamu and Yousef Lochhead.*

A Warm Invitation to our second Cluster Walking Pilgrimage – This Saturday, 16 May, from St Mary, Star of the Sea, Leith to St Theresa’s, Craigmillar – via St Ninian’s, St John’s and St Mary Magdalene’s.

Angie Brack writes: ‘We are delighted to share that we will be having another Cluster Parish Pilgrimage after the success of last year’s event. This year’s pilgrimage - celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi - will take place this **Saturday 16 May** starting at St Mary, Star of the Sea at **10.00am** to The pilgrimage will visit each of the other Parish Churches in our cluster – St Ninian’s, St John’s, St Mary Magdalene’s and St Teresa’s – as well as Figgate Park. At each stop there will be time spent in prayer and reflection. As St Francis is the patron saint of ecology this will be the focus of our pilgrimage.

We hope that you will be able to join us for all or some of the walk.

This year we are asking for people to bring along a packed lunch with them and time is planned for a lunch break at St Mary Magdalene’s.

For more information see the poster at the back of the churches or scan the QR code here.’



If anyone needs a lift to St Mary, Star of the Sea, please contact Fr Jock or Enrico Fertini

Mel Giarchi - The Place of Women in the Catholic Church II St John’s Hall – 7.00pm – Monday 11 May

After the Talk by Mgr Philip Kerr ten days ago on the recent debate in the Catholic Church on whether the Diaconate should be opened to women candidates, **a follow-up meeting** - organised by the St John’s and St Mary Magdalene’s Inclusivity Group in line with its remit to promote the role of women within the decision-making forums of the Church - **on Monday 11 May will carry the discussion forward, with Mel Giarchi**, a Catholic woman who has represented the National Council of Women of Great Britain (including the experience of lobbying the Vatican and the UN) **present to help lead the discussion.**

Communications Sunday: Next Sunday, 17 May, is World Communications Day. Archbishop Leo writes: ‘There will be a special collection for the apostolate of communications on Sunday 17 May. Your donation supports the work of the Office of Communications and Evangelisation (led by Bishop Frank Dougan of Galloway Diocese) to help fund initiatives that amplify the Gospel and strengthen the Church’s voice in Scotland and in the digital sphere.’

A Mass for the 30th Anniversary of the death of Fr Norman Cooper – Wednesday 20 May - 7.00pm

Fr Norman, who was assistant priest in St John’s from 1981 to 1986, and is very fondly remembered, died tragically in the Cuillins in Skye in 1996 while away with Fr Jock and other members of their support group (the Middle Aged Priests’ Group – as they then were...). We plan to mark his 30th anniversary with a Mass open to anybody who wishes to celebrate the life of a fine human being and priest.

A Report on this year’s Lenten House Groups

Diane Devlin writes: ‘In Lent this year we had five house groups who travelled together with a Lenten course by Denis Mc Bride and Sr Janet Fearn. We came together recently in the hall at St John’s to reflect and review on our experience and to discuss how we might move forward. Three themes emerged;

- Firstly, everyone enjoyed the support and companionship in the house groups.
- Secondly, there was consensus that the prayer materials in the booklet were overall interesting, albeit containing quite a lot of material. The sharing on the gospel was both helpful and prayerful, and the fellowship in groups appreciated.
- Thirdly, there seemed to be some energy in continuing on with the house groups on the same day of the week, on a monthly basis for the three months from April with a review after that.’

THIS WEEK

Saturday 9 May - 10.00am – St John’s – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

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

Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

11.00-10.00pm – St John’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

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

Monday 11 May

5.30am-2.15pm – St John’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

2.30pm – St John’s – **Healing Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing** – *livestreamed*

3.45pm-10.00pm – St John’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

6.00pm – Zoom – **Gospel Sharing** (click **HERE** or type <https://bit.ly/3QUNPrx>)

7.00pm – St John’s Hall – A follow-up meeting discussing **the Place of Women in the Catholic Church**
Catholic Church (with Mel Giarchi)

Tuesday 12 May

5.30am-10.00am – St John’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

10.00am – Lauder Lodge – **Mass**

11.15am – St John’s – **A Tour of the Church for P7 of St John’s Primary School**

10.00am-2.00pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

2.00pm-6.45pm – Parish House Prayer Room – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

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

7.40pm-10.00pm – St John’s – **40 Hours Adoration/Quarant’Ore**

7.45pm – Prayer Room – **RCIA** (Mystagogia 5)

Wednesday 13 May - 9.10am-9.50am – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

7.40pm – Mayfield Salisbury Church, EH9 1TQ – **Understanding Christian Nationalism** (by Dr Naomi Haynes)

Thursday 14 May – FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9.15am – St John’s Primary School – **Mass**

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

12.00 midday – Mount Vernon – **Burial of Maureen Scott’s ashes**

1.30pm – St John’s Hall – **Thursday Club**

7.00pm – St Mary Magdalene’s – **Mass** – *livestreamed*

Friday 15 May - 9.10am-9.50am – St John’s – **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

7.00pm – St Teresa of Lisieux, Craigmillar – **CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION** (Archbishop Leo Cushley)

Saturday 16 May

NO Morning Mass because of Cluster Pilgrimage

10.00am – St Mary, Star of the Sea – **BEGINNING OF THE CLUSTER PILGRIMAGE**

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

Sunday 17 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Communication Sunday)

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

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

6.10pm – Junction of Portobello High Street and Brighton Place – **Vigil to remember**

the Dead of Gaza organised by the Porty Pals of Palestine – (see handout with newsletter)

View the links for the Masses by visiting our dedicated page:



IN THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday 31 May – 11.15am – St Mary Magdalene’s – **First Holy Communion Mass** – *livestreamed*

Sunday 7 June – 9.30am – St John’s – **First Holy Communion Mass** – *livestreamed*

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Comgall of Bangor (516-602)

Irish Soldier and Monk; Feast Day: 10 May

Good the rule of Bangor, correct and divine, strict, holy and constant, excellent, just and admirable. Happy the family of Bangor, founded on a sure faith; graced with the hope of salvation and made perfect in love.
(from the Antiphonary of Bangor)



The "*outstanding father of the monks of Ireland*" was the founder and first abbot of Bangor Abbey, on the south side of Belfast Lough. He was a pupil and close friend of St Columba, who took Irish monasticism to Scotland, and the teacher of St Columbanus, who took it into western Europe. There are references to him by Columba's biographer, Adomnán, and that of Columbanus, Jonas (source of the quotation above), which tend to deal with visions and preternatural powers (as when Columba, on Iona, sees some of Comgall's monks drowned on Belfast Lough, with angels successfully battling demons for their souls). He is also mentioned in early Annals, but the earliest surviving Life dates from the thirteenth century.

He was born at Dal Araide in Co. Antrim, the son of a soldier, who hoped his son would follow in his footsteps. He went, instead, to study with a cleric (reputed to keep a mistress) and then at a monastic school, probably that run by St Finian of Moville. He seems to have been prey to at least the usual adolescent doubts and temptations, but after confessing these to his abbot, he settled into monastic life and was ordained priest. He started a

small monastery on Lough Erne, where his extreme austerity (perhaps modelled on that of St Pachomius, above), which included praying standing in freezing rivers, had to be modified for the sake of his monks' health. He is called "*a founder of monasteries*" by Adomnán: other foundations may not have survived for long including one on Rathlin Island, off the north coast of Antrim.

He founded Bangor in about 558, on a site well placed for sea travel to both Scotland and Gaul. It was said to have three or four thousand monks, but this may refer to the number who passed through it during the time Comgall was abbot - precisely defined in the Martyrology of Tallacht as fifty years, three months, and ten days. His pupil Columbanus in turn taught Gallus, who founded the great monastery of Saint-Gall (or Sankt Gallen) in Switzerland. There Blessed Notker composed a Martyrology nearly three hundred years after Comgall's death, which makes the link between Comgall and the monastery, saying of St Columba, "*[He] had many pupils or comrades his equal in sanctity, but one, like Isaac, was the sole heir of his virtues and merits. This was Comgall, distinguished by the Latin name Faustus, teacher of St Columbanus, who was in turn the master of our learned father Gallus.*" Comgall himself never went to the Continent, but he did visit Scotland, travelling with St Columba to obtain authorization for a monastery on the island of Tiree in the Inner Hebrides and permission for his monks to preach in areas ruled by King Brude of Inverness.

There is a monastic Rule attributed to him, which survives in Irish, in metrical form, and an Antiphonary of Bangor, in Latin, is now in Milan. The Rule defines its "*essence*" as, "*Love Christ, hate wealth: piety toward the king of the sun and smoothness toward all.*" The three rules by which the monks are to live are "*patience and humility and the love of the Lord in your heart.*" Any sufferings they may face are as nothing compared to "*those of the King who sent them.*"

The Antiphonary shows that Bangor's liturgy had three-night offices (Vespers, Vigils, Lauds) and three days (Terce, Sext, None), to which Prime and Compline were added a century later. It includes the earliest Eucharistic hymn known in the West, which translates as, "*Come, you who are holy, receive the body of Christ, drinking (also) the blood of Christ by which you are redeemed.*" The spirit of the monastery is perhaps reflected in the saying attributed to Comgall: "*My soul-friend has died and I am headless; you too are headless, for a man without a soul-friend is a body without a head.*"

He died in 601 or 602 after a long illness to which his austerities probably contributed. He was certainly over eighty, perhaps ninety if the duration of his abbacy given in the Annals is correct.

from Paul Burns - Butler's Saint for the Day - Liturgical Press (2007)

NOTICEBOARD

Contact details for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP):
By phone or text: 07752682213 email: svpedineast@gmail.com

Offertory 2/3 May:

St Mary Magdalene's - £295.80 total - £82.80 Offertory, £111 Gift Aid and £102 online (incl. card reader).

St John's – £1966.50 total, including £377.50 Offertory, £163 Gift Aid and £1426 online (incl. card reader).

Pamoja Charity Sale raised **£370.00** last weekend. Thanks to all who always contribute to this charity.

Many thanks to Ian Thompson for his very generous donation – in memory of his wife, Alison – towards the cost of adding soundproofing to St John's Hall.

Festival of Synodality – Saturday 6 June 2026

*On behalf of Bishop Brian McGee and the Planning Team,
we invite you to the National Festival of Synodality*

ISC Glasgow (a work of Jesuits in Britain CIO) **Admin Dept writes:** 'We invite YOU to the National Festival of Synodality at Glasgow Caledonian University, a day inspired by Pope Francis' call to be "witnesses to synodality." The Festival will focus on *Conversation in the Spirit*, a simple and powerful way of communal discernment rooted in listening, conversion and mission.

The day will celebrate the fruits already flourishing in the Church in Scotland and include input from *Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Fr David McCallum SJ and Sandra Chaoul*. Participants will also have the opportunity to experience *Conversation in the Spirit* first hand. Lunch is included. Poster at the back of the churches.

All are welcome, especially those involved in parish and diocesan life, pastoral councils, schools and faith organisations. Tickets: £45 available at: bit.ly/synodality26

IF ANYBODY WOULD LIKE TO GO, REPRESENT OUR PARISHES AND REPORT BACK, A FINANCIAL SUBSIDY IS AVAILABLE - PLEASE CONTACT FR JOCK

*Our next **Baptismal Course** will take place on **Thursday 11 June** and **Thursday 18 June** at 7.30pm in the Parish House. If you wish a child baptised and would like to register for the course, please contact Fr Jock*

A Request from Fr Shaiju and Deacon Eddie to Help Organise Celebrations for Fr Jock's 40th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination in July:

They write: 'On **Sunday 19 July** this year, Fr Jock will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. We would like to have a parish celebration at and after the 11.15am Mass on the day at St Mary Magdalene's, open to everyone in both our Parishes. Later in the week, probably on Tuesday 21 July, we hope to invite others including people from all his former parishes and have a more formal celebration with an Evening Mass in St John's followed by a celebration in the hall and in the church (maybe even in Brighton Park if the weather permits).'

Would you be willing to help us organise these events?

We will need help with planning and catering and suggestions on all aspects of the celebrations.

If you are willing and able, please let Fr Shaiju or Deacon Eddie know.

Maria Igoe writes: 'The **Legion of Mary Thanksgiving Day** will be held on *Sunday 24 May* at Carfin Grotto, Motherwell. We will leave Portobello at 12 noon and arrive in time to have something to eat and wander around the Grotto, before the celebration of Holy Mass at 3.00pm. There will be a short break followed by the Rosary Procession around the grounds. Transport will be provided at a cost of £15. If you wish to come, please contact me at 07981333219. Thank you.'

A THANK YOU FROM SCIAF: Michael and Maria, from SCIAF Community Engagement Team, write:



‘On behalf of everyone at SCIAF, we sincerely thank the parishioners of St John’s (Portobello) and St Mary Magdalene’s (Bingham) for your generous donation of **£431 to our Lenten WEE BOX Appeal.**

Your contribution enables us to continue our vital work, from providing clean water and food security to empowering communities through education and economic development.

‘I would love to say thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart because every person, every Christian, is like a chain that keeps us tethered to Christ.’ - Sister Mana, Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat, Ethiopia

Matthew 10:42 says, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of those who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." Your donation is a real example of this message, putting your faith into action to help others. By supporting SCIAF, you are bringing hope and practical help, which makes a huge difference in the lives of families who are struggling. Pope Leo reminds us that 'charity has the power to change reality'. Through prayer and action, you are living out the Gospel call to love your neighbour.

May God bless you for your kindness and commitment to building a better world of justice, peace, and hope.’

FROM ARCHBISHOP LEO’S AD CLERUM

Pentecost event for young adults - Join young adults from across the Archdiocese to celebrate Pentecost at St Andrew's Church, 77 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DP, on **Saturday 23 May**, beginning at 4:00pm. There will be a talk from **Fr Daniel Magaji**, Eucharistic Adoration & opportunity for Confession, Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cushley and a barbecue. Organised by the Archdiocese along with the young adult ministries at Edinburgh Jesuit Church, St Mary's Cathedral and St Albert's Chaplaincy. Register at bit.ly/pentecost26. Come, Holy Spirit!

Mothers and Daughters: May Crowning and Procession - Mothers and Daughters of all ages are invited by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma for an afternoon to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. Activities include a May Crowning and procession, Marian crafts and cookie decorating. The event is hosted on **Saturday 23 May** from 1:00-2:30pm at St. Andrew's, 77 Belford Rd. Edinburgh, EH4 3DS. RSVP by 20 May to edinburgh@almamercy.org.

Corpus Christi Procession - The Archdiocesan Corpus Christi procession, led by Archbishop Cushley, will take place from Our Lady & St Andrew's, Stirling Street, Galashiels, at 3:00pm on **Sunday 7 June 2026**. Afterwards there will be Benediction in the Church followed by refreshments in the presbytery garden. This annual event is a beautiful, public celebration of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. All welcome.

Edinburgh Seven Hills Pilgrimage - The Seven Hills of Edinburgh Pilgrimage route is approximately 26km, taking in Castle Hill, Corstorphine Hill, Craiglockhart Hill, Braid Hill, Blackford Hill, Arthur’s Seat and Calton Hill. Starts at St Mary’s Catholic Cathedral at 9:00am on **Saturday 13 June** with a dedicated reflection at each peak from Monsignor Jeremy Milne. Details and registration at bit.ly/sevenhills26

St Margaret Pilgrimage - This annual national Catholic event takes place on **Sunday 14 June** in Dunfermline. Schedule: 12:00pm Angelus at St Margaret's Cave; 1:00pm Prayer Service at St Margaret’s tomb at Dunfermline Abbey; 2:00pm Procession from Glen Gates to St Margaret’s Memorial Church, East Port; 3:00pm Mass at St Margaret's Memorial Church, celebrated by Archbishop Cushley.

World Youth Day - “Experience the universal Church first-hand amidst the unique and vibrant story of Catholicism in South Korea. From remarkable saints, bustling markets and poignant shrines to Holy Mass with Pope Leo and sleeping under the stars. Come with us from our Archdiocese and discover, in a profound and personal way, God, the Church, and the transforming power of faith.” - Archbishop Cushley. If you are aged 19-35 and want to find out about attending the World Youth Day in South Korea, **3-8 August 2027**, please register your interest at youth.office@staned.org.uk.

Scam Emails - Please be cautious of emails or messages claiming to be from priests or parish members asking for money or gift cards. Do not respond or send money. Your parish will never request funds in this way. Please report any suspicious messages to the parish office.

Archdiocesan events - Events are listed at archedinburgh.org/events

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – JOHN 14:15-21

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

I bought 10 Iris stems today. Tesco's best: £3.50. I love the combination of the blue and yellow and their promise, particularly their promise. I buy them when the buds are just showing, a hint of blue and then watch as they unfold, revealing their inner beauty, that glorious blue with the delicate yellow inner. It doesn't take long for them to open – half a day max on a warm sunny window ledge. Sometimes they seem to open as I look on. I was thinking of their apparent supersonic speed as I watched Sir David Attenborough exploring the secrets of a comparatively recently discovered Mammoth jawbone. For many people, he is without parallel when it comes to sparking interest in all things to do with the natural world. The mammoth remains – for there were many - had been discovered just north of Swindon and its discovery set off a whole chain of archaeological events and happenings. Human (Neanderthal) remains had also been found nearby, triggering the question: 'Had the Mammoth killed the humans or had Neanderthal man learned how to effectively hunt the huge creatures. We learned that the Mammoth first appeared some 5 million years ago, but the one discovered near Swindon was a mere youngster, dating from 200,000 years ago. A fascinating (to me, at least) exposé followed, culminating in one of those AI recreations of the Swindon countryside from that era. If your only experience of Swindon had been an area full of roundabouts then you were in for a surprise. A group of our neanderthal forbears were sat around feeding on the mammoth carcass and communicating with each other. They were probably a set of family groupings who had learned how to pass on and share their skills and knowledge as was evidenced by the clear development and refinement of the tools that had been discovered. A whole community. It was this idea of community that probably excited me more than the bones and skeletal parts. Community is what makes us whole. Community adds depth and richness to the routine and humdrum, the ordinary and the banal. Christian community is Church in action. Was that 200,000-year-old Neanderthal gathering tormented by the same questions as you and me? Were they like Monty Python looking for the Meaning of Life, the meaning of their existence? How did they cope with the death of one of their group – and the birth of another? Could they articulate joy and grief? Did they even know what these feelings were?. Did they wonder about the meaning of their life? Did they look up at the night sky and share our wonder, or did they huddle in the dark, nervously awaiting the return of daylight? How did they cope with the darkness of the night and the sounds that are always amplified by the lack of sight.

We're fast approaching the end of our Paschal Season. Soon we will observe the Ascension and then we will witness the birth of the early Church and Pentecost Sunday. Throughout his public ministry Jesus explained to us what it means to be children of God, unique in His creation where our meagre life span and even 200,000 years for our friend the Swindon mammoth are no more than half a blink when measured against eternity, won for us by His victory over the Cross. Christ is alive and He invites us to live with him – if we do but one thing: *Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* (Today's Gospel). He doesn't offer a negotiated deal – like a discussion between the IRGC and the USA. No – there is no compromise on offer: **IF** you love me **you will keep my commandments.** That is an almighty 'IF' – an 'IF' of mammoth proportions. If we keep his commandments, then social justice would prevail. If we keep his commandments there would be no 'have nots' only 'haves'. This, perhaps, is a measure of just what little progress we have made – and how far we have yet to travel.

It's easy to romanticise the human response to life's important questions. Whenever we spend any amount of time trying to understand our world, our planet, our history we are left with a growing awareness of our own insignificance in the grand scheme of things. Mammoth started plodding around the planet 5 million years ago, Jesus 2000 years ago – you and I considerably less. The longing for understanding never leaves us – and for this we are eternally (there's that word again) grateful. After the Resurrection and the dawning in the minds of his followers what they had experienced, their own understanding grew at differing rates, doubts and fears were as unique as they, but they were theirs. We should be as proud of our fears, doubts and questions, as we are of our faith. He reassures us today: *I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you....* We wait with those doubts and fears – for we are not alone in those questions. He is here with us.



PARISH REGISTER



Please pray for those who have died recently:

*Sr Patricia Mary Bell
Frances McConnell
Moya McDonald*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time:

*John Norman
Theresa Chapman
Frank Bell - Harry Haston
Audrey Tait
Maureen and Vincent Collie
Fr Tommy Greenan
Zander Williams
Barbara Blackburn
Christine Pugh
Cillian Dempsey*



Anniversaries:

May 9: Rosanna O'Neill (1970); Bruno Nicora (1932); **May 10:** Vincent Collie (2023); Kevin Ketchum (2022); Michael McGovern (2004); William Cunningham (1984); **May 11:** Veronica Ginnelly (2001); **May 12:** Theresa Chapman (2023); Cathie Young (2020); Ian J Berry (2013); Helen McGuire (1991); Kathleen Ogilvie (1970); Ninian Connolly; **May 13:** John Bonar (2005); Sr Marie McAllister (2001); Rena Tow (1992); Edward Black Sen. (1985); **May 14:** Frank Bell (2022); Cecelia McKenzie (2009); John Gordon Kerr (1994); Sr Mary Tait (1994); James Waugh (1979); Ann (McCann) Murphy (1956); **May 15:** Harry Haston (2021); James Kelly (2004); John O'Brien (1954);

St Mary Magdalene's:

May 10: Audrey Tait (2023); Samuel Tosney (1999); Patrick Walker (1991); **May 12:** Dorothy McEwan (1995); **May 16:** Ian Graham (2003); Joseph Flynn (1974); Catherine Tough (1970);

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of our Parishioners:

Stewart McIntosh, Chris and Ewa Kiersztejn, Roy Robertson, Harriet Wingfield Digby (aged 11), Anne-Marie Fryer, Andy Flatt, Michael Marshall, Nigel Verity, Donald Miller, Harry Pearce, Louise Mandars, Eileen and George McCabe, Stevie McGill, Martin Robertson, Fr Joe Russel, Jeff Grieve, John and Anne Havard, Barbara Tansey, Ina Bain, Fiona Kinsella, Angela Whyte, Agnes McLaren, John Carwell, Douglas Wallace, Martin Dobie, Marina Smith, Marlene McLaren, Anne Cunningham, Sr Bridget McCann, Saramma Samuel, Agnes and Kathleen Reville, little Elena Melrose, Revd Peter Millar, young Elizabeth Mugure Obandoh (aged 13), Annette Morrison, Mary Jo Bonikowski, Jennifer Kay, Mian Astill, Dr Grier Gordon, Eleanor Bagnell, Ken Lewis, Eugene Grant, Baby Freddie Cross, Josie Young, Irene McIsaac, Sophie Robinson, Tricia Scott, Baby Aidan McGuire, Job Jose, Sr Jeanette Connell LCM, Tish Deacon, Elizabeth McGrath and Granny Elizabeth, Vaji Naji, Christopher McCarthy, Caroline Cassidy, Ben Higgins, Roger Bromley, Wyns and Jan Meise, Jacques and Monique Kopp, Tom Cullimore, Nancy McDermott, James Sutherland snr, Christine Henderson, young Riley, baby Felix, Clare, Sau Mee Jin, Jenny Offord, Sr Monica Delaney FMDM, Roz Paton, Carl Barber, Danielle D'Souza, Damian Mulvenna, Edward and Francisca Chan, Coralie Isherwood, Phyllis Oliver, Sandy Reid, Vincent McCann, Revd Bill Wishart, Amparo Serrano, James Shepherd, Alison St Clair Ford, Kirsty McCrimmon, Noel Power, Mary McCormack, Sheila Laughlin, Helen Campbell, Mr Mega, young Zachary Cowie, King Charles, Elizabeth McKenzie, Marna Clarke, Eugene Feehan, Ann Currie, Jacob Green (aged 14), Pat Campanile, Mireille McNab (aged 15), Michelle Lee, Helen Robertson, young Josh Simpson Evelyn Walsh, Eunice McDonald, Grace Stuart, David Fenwick, Judith Franklin, Clare Johnston, Mary and Derek Lamarque, Michael Doherty, Angela Khan, Charlotte O'Brien, young Martha Moyes (aged 8), Kazim Kazimoglu, Tony Rigg, Elizabeth and Gordon Marron, John Kellagher, Betty Blyth, James O'Rourke, Andrew Franklin, Jamie Mitchell, Edward Caulfield, Igor Rekowski, Mary Turnbull and young Ray Donovan Syme.

Please pray for those Parishioners who are sick:

St. John's:

John Spencer, Mike Burns, Pat Robertson, James Flannigan, John Lowe, Rosemary Gillen, Sr Veronica Ranaghan RCSJ, Moira McDiarmid, Klara, Christine Muir, Rosella Ritchie, Mary Grady, Margaret Hand, young Saoirse Golden, Susan Cammack, Sr Nan McKinnon RSCJ, Kate Walsh, Pauline Robertson, Dorothy Dickson, Celia Stone, Carol Simpson, Maggie and John Flanagan, Alex Nielsen, Belinda Wingfield Digby, Sr Helen McLaughlin RSCJ, Helen Kilgour, Moira McCafferty, Young Shay Graham, Jimmy Curnyn, Simon Hall, John McLaughlin, May Matthews, Rose Thornton, Margaret Thom, John Lawler, Betty Dougal, Barbara Durcacz, Mairi O'Connor, Lesley O'Donnell, Donald Oswald, Mary Slight, Mike Noonan, David Reid, Ann O'Brien, Diane McCarthy, Kenny O'Connor, John Whyte, Maria Pacitti, Chloe Sutherland, Ruth Vizor, Pauli Walker, Vincent Knowles, Sarah McManus, Sr Jennifer Lindsay, Norman Telfer, Erin Corbett, Roz Byers and Marie Angela Crolla.

St Mary Magdalene's:

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