



PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
Gather to Worship, Sent to Serve

St Paul's Glenrothes, St Mary's Leslie, & Chapel Royal Falkland
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15 MARCH 2026 – 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mission Statement: The parish of St. Mary Magdalene is a Catholic community of Christian faith with three churches – Saint Paul's in Glenrothes, Saint Mary's in Leslie and the Chapel Royal in Falkland. We are centred on the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Our mission is to live the Gospel and share it with those we meet. We are a welcoming and inclusive community of prayerful disciples, using our gifts for the glory of God and in service to one another and our neighbours. We are committed to do this now and in the future through:

- Worship and prayer
- Service to others
- Continuous faith formation, striving to engage all parishioners
- Stewardship, seeking to build a better world - our common home- for future generations
- Building our faith community

In today's first reading, it is asserted that God does not see as people see. We tend to see appearances, but God looks into the heart. How often do we find ourselves unable to see beyond appearances: the way someone looks, sounds or acts? In doing so, are we showing unconscious biases, prejudices, or assumptions? Let us not be like the Pharisees in the Gospel who become indignant when questioning the man who once was blind. They cannot see past their belief that the man must have been born in sin. Nor can they look past the fact that Jesus happened to heal this man on the Sabbath. These preconceived judgments blind them to the wonders of God, revealed in Christ.

The questioners in the Gospel think they have a good argument in their assertion that the formerly blind man was born totally in sin. What they fail to realize is that we all were born in sin. We all have inherited original sin. Moreover, we all are sinful creatures, susceptible to sin each and every day. Do we look at others who have

sinned as less than us because their sin is worse or more visible? Does acting "holier than thou" help us feel better about ourselves? Can we challenge ourselves to look honestly at ourselves before criticizing or judging others?

There is an especially tender moment in this Gospel passage, nestled inconspicuously in the aftermath of the cure. It's easy to miss, as it's just half of a verse in a passage that includes an entire chapter of John's Gospel. After the formerly blind man has the audacity to suggest that Jesus must be from God and the religious authorities respond by expelling him from the synagogue, John writes, "When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him . . ." (Jn 9:35). Here was a man who had been blind his entire life. An outcast from society, he used to sit and beg, likely often outside the synagogue. He would not have been welcome inside, since it was thought he or his parents must be sinful if he is blind. Then his whole life changed with a chance encounter with Jesus. But the authorities are unable to accept this sign from God and eventually he is excluded once again from the community he had been able to join for only a day or two. When Jesus is told about this, he immediately goes and finds him. One imagines that he feels terrible that the timing of his healing caused this awful consequence. Perhaps he is justifiably angry at the religious authorities. But whatever the motivating factor, he feels compassion for the man he'd healed and wants to comfort him. And comfort him he did, for it is only then that he completes the cure for his blindness. The man's spiritual eyesight is fully realized as he desires to believe in the Son of Man and comes to know that Jesus is he.

Question of the Week: What are my blind spots? What biases do I have that distort the way I see others or see the world? Am I willing to ask someone I know well to be honest with me?

Sunday 15 March

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's (People of the Parish)

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal

10.40 a.m. Rosary at St. Paul's

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's (Special Intention)

Readings: 1Sam 16:1, 6-7.10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Monday 16 March

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday 17 March – *Feast of St Patrick (385-461) – after being a slave in Ireland, he returned once ordained to evangelise the country instilling a profound missionary ethos*

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's (Sick child)

7 p.m. Guided prayer at St Paul's until 8 p.m. – drop by for as long as you want

Readings: Eze 47:1-12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday 18 March

Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's (Special Intention)

Confessions after Mass

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday 19 March – *Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary*

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: 2Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

Friday 20 March

7.30 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 8.30 a.m.

Readings: Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday 21 March

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's (Special Intention)

Confessions after Mass and at 5.30 p.m. in St Mary's

Readings: Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-52

Sunday 22 March - 5th Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's (People of the Parish)

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal

10.40 a.m. Rosary at St. Paul's

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's

Readings: Eze 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Stations of the Cross The text associated with the pictures at St Mary's which we used last Wednesday is now on the parish website for you to use at home.

Lent Study – Bishop Barron's *Catholicism*: We shall continue watching this in Romero House on Tuesdays after Mass – this week's topic is *Liturgy and the Eucharist*.

Passover Meal takes place on Friday at 7 p.m. in Romero House. Tickets (£12 per adult, children free, inc wine/soft drinks) available from passkeepers.

Penitential Service with individual confession and absolution will take place in St Paul's on Thursday 26 March at 7 p.m. Some of our children will be celebrating this sacrament for the first time at this service. 4 priests will be present at this service.

Lent Retreat Evening: This will be held in St Paul's on Friday 27 March from 5 to 8.30 p.m. led by Fr Shyju Naduvathaniyil from Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries. Mass will begin at 5.30 p.m. followed by praise, teaching on Scripture, a healing service and Eucharistic adoration, interspersed with refreshments.

Music practice takes place on Saturday 28 March in St Paul's after 10 a.m. Mass.

Tabletop sale of clothes, knitting and home baking will take place in St Paul's hall on Saturday 21 March from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feel free to drop in after Mass.

Pyxes: If any former Communion Ministers have pyxes at home, could they return them to the church as we are running short. Many thanks.

Sick List: We pray for the sick in our parish community and family and friends who are ill.

Last Sunday's Collection £794.51; Building Fund £205.77. (£2929 is being received monthly through standing orders for the Sunday collection and £694 for the Building Fund.) **Special Collection** today for Papal & Episcopal Charities. (75% to SCIAF)

Buy a Brick – St Paul's perimeter wall If you have not so far obtained a donation form, they are available at the back of our churches. **THANK YOU.**