



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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18 FEBRUARY 2024 – 1ST 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

The author of Genesis does not use the word "rainbow" to describe the object God sets in the sky after the Great Flood. No, the word we see repeatedly is "bow," as in "bow and arrow." When God says, "I set my bow in the clouds," what God is doing is unilaterally disarming (9:13). In effect God is saying, "You have just seen the power I have to destroy all life on earth, but now I am promising you that I will never do it again; in fact, I will transform this weapon of aggression into a thing of beauty." When we commit to peaceful, nonviolent action, we make ourselves vulnerable, but this is exactly what God does in making this covenant. May we be as willing as God is to do so.

By the waters of the flood the world was transformed. By the waters of baptism, we are transformed. God established a covenant with Noah, his descendants, and all living creatures, transforming humanity's relationship with God. We enter into a covenant in baptism,

transforming our relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we journey through these forty days, let us open ourselves to the transformative grace of God in our lives.

Mark tells us precious little about Jesus' forty days in the desert: no details of Satan's temptations, as we hear from Matthew and Luke. But he mentions that Jesus "was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him" (1:13). We too may find ourselves beset by "wild beasts" within and without as we try to resist temptations. Let us look to the angels in our lives who care for us, who offer their occasional assistance when we need it or their constant support throughout our trials. Better yet, may we be "angels" who minister to others when they undergo difficulties or trauma and feel deserted and in need. This is the time of fulfilment.

Question of the Week: How will I minister to others during these forty days of Lent? Who is in need of my help?

Welcome to Fr Simon Hughes, chaplain at Dysart, who will celebrate the Vigil Mass this weekend.

Sunday 18 February

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's (Private Intention)

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (People of the Parish)

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

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

Readings: Gen 9:8-15; 1Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday 19 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday 20 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday 21 February

Divine Mercy Devotions at 10 a.m.

10.30 a.m. Funeral Mass in St Paul's followed by cremation in Kirkcaldy.

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday 22 February – Feast of the Chair of St Peter

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

Friday 23 February

7.30 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

11.45 a.m. Funeral in Kirkcaldy Crematorium

Readings: Eze 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday 24 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

Readings: Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday 25 February – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's (Sick Person)

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 (People of the Parish

Readings: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10

St Vincent De Paul Society meets on Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in St Paul's Hall.

Across Group Bingo Tea takes place this Saturday (24th) at 2 p.m. in St Paul's Hall. All welcome!

Parish Finance-Fabric Group will meet on Thursday at 5.30 p.m. in the parish house.

The Chosen (Series 2) We shall resume this Wednesday at 7 p.m. in St Paul's hall. Come along and discover fresh insights into the gospels.

First Confession and Confirmation: A Parents' meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm in St Paul's Church Hall.

Pastoral Council retreat takes place next Sunday at 2 p.m. in Romero House.

Readers Workshop will take place on Saturday 9 March between 10.30 and 12 noon in St Paul's hall.

Lent Workshops on Old Testament will take place on the Tuesdays of Lent from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. in the Nazareth Room, Leslie – we shall look at the context of the passage used on the previous Sunday.

SCIAF boxes are available at the back of our churches so that we can support the needy of our world. SCIAF (in conjunction with CAFOD its English equivalent) is encouraging us to walk 5km a day as a fundraising initiative. And if we walk instead of using our cars, we shall be helping the environment. **If interested in taking part, take a sponsor sheet from the back of the churches.**

World Day of Prayer – Friday 1 March Services are taking places at 2 p.m. in St Luke's Church, Glenrothes, and at 7 p.m. in Falkland Parish Church.

Communion Ministers Workshop will take place on Saturday 16 March between 10.30 and 12 noon in St Paul's hall.

Parish Irish Evening will take place in Romero House on Friday 8th March at 7pm. Tickets are £10 per adult, £5 per child. Tickets will be on sale next weekend.

Union of Catholic Mothers invite parishioners to a Saint Patrick's afternoon with entertainment, tea and home baking in St Paul's Hall on Wednesday 20 March from 2 to 4 pm. (NB There will be no meeting this Wednesday. Next meeting will be Wednesday 4 March.)

Youth2000 Arise Retreat is being held for young adults (18-35) at St Albert's, 24 George Square, Edinburgh on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is £15 (includes lunch and dinner) Register at www.youth2000.org/events/Edinburgh

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

Last Sunday's Collection £586.58 Building Fund £204.55 **Special collection** this Sunday for retired clergy.