



**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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## 28 JANUARY 2024 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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

It is interesting that Mark chooses not to write anything about what Jesus taught in the synagogue, but only about how he taught. Twice he says that Jesus taught with authority. Teaching with authority can mean two different things. The obvious meaning is reflected in the way Jesus confronts the unclean spirit: he orders it to come out of the man and the unclean spirit obeys. But teachers also speak with authority when they know the subject inside and out. Clearly, no one knows the subject of God or faith better than Jesus. This is the authority the unclean spirit recognizes. Jesus is able to interpret the law beyond measure because he himself has come to fulfil it.

Mark also contrasts Jesus' teaching with the scribes, much maligned in the Gospels. It is not their fault; no matter how much the scribes studied the law, they could not truly understand it as Jesus could. Therefore, when we attempt to discern what Jesus would teach us today

about our current issues and problems, we look to his authority in both senses: inspiring obedience and knowing God's will.

"Have you come to destroy us?" asks the unclean spirit in the Gospel, knowing that without a person to reside in, it was doomed (1:24). Indeed, Jesus only expels the unclean spirit from the poor man; he does not slay it. In a way it is destroyed, however, because it no longer has a host. The unclean spirit is made powerless and the man is freed of his torment. But the man would be wise to avoid the vulnerability that could lead to this demon returning to him, for it is only defeated for now, not destroyed forever. We too depend upon a higher power to exorcise our demons, but forever taking care to resist their reappearance later.

### **Question of the Week:**

Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that seeks to destroy me? Can I find the courage to ask God to free me from this demon?

### **Sunday 28 January**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's**

**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: Dt 18:15-20; 1Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

### **Monday 29 January**

**10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's (Sick Person)**

Readings: 2 Sam 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20

### **Tuesday 30 January**

**6 p.m. Funeral Mass in St Paul's Church.**

Readings: 2 Sam 18:9-10,14,24-25,30 – 19:3; Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday 31 January** – *Memorial of St John Bosco (1815-88), Italian priest who dedicated his life to street children in Turin, establishing the Salesian congregation*  
Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

**10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's**

Cremation in Kirkcaldy at 11 a.m.

Readings: 2 Sam 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday 1 February**

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

Readings: 1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13

**Friday 2 February** – *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

**7 p.m. Mass in St Paul's with blessing of candles**

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

**Saturday 3 February** *Memorial of St Blaise, Armenian bishop who died in 316, famed for his healing gifts*

**10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's with blessing of throats**

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

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

**Sunday 4 February** – *5th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

**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: Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 1:29-39

**The Chosen (Series 2)** We shall continue watching this on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in St Paul's hall – same format as before. Come along and discover fresh insights into the gospels.

**Sacramental Initiation of Children:** This Sunday (28th) we shall have another preparation rite for baptised children preparing for first Confession, first Communion and Confirmation.

Meeting for parents with children preparing for **first confession and confirmation** will take place on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm in St Paul's Church Hall.

**Volunteers Evening** This will take place on Friday at St Paul's beginning with Mass at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments in the hall. For catering purposes, please sign up on sheets in the porch.

**Parish Family Party** This will be held on Sunday 11 February from 2 to 4.30 p.m. in St Paul's hall. Sign up on sheets in church porches. Tickets: £5.00 per family.

**Justice & Peace Scotland** seeks to appoint a Campaigns, Communications and Events Co-ordinator working 24 hours a week. More information from [jill.kent@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk](mailto:jill.kent@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk) Deadline for applications is Monday 5 February at 5 p.m.

**Easter** this year is Sunday 31 March. The Church encourages us all to participate in the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and in the solemn liturgy of Good Friday afternoon, so please mark these in your diaries now. Ash Wednesday is 14 February.

**New Dawn in Scotland** This retreat day is being held in SS Nicholas & John Cantius, West Main Street, Broxburn on Saturday 3 February beginning with Mass at 10.30 a.m. with talks later on evangelisation by Terry Quinn and Fr Frankie Mulgrew and ending with a healing service at 7.15 p.m. More information at [www.newdawninScotland.com](http://www.newdawninScotland.com)

**Valentine's Retreat** This archdiocesan event for married/engaged couples is being held at St Kentigern's, Parkgrove Avenue, Edinburgh on Saturday 10 February from 2 to 5 p.m. A crèche is available for primary school children. Register at [bit.ly/valretreat](http://bit.ly/valretreat)

**Bishops' Conference Interreligious dialogue committee** is holding a 24 hour colloquium on *The role of interreligious experience in interreligious dialogue* from Friday 23 to Saturday 24 February at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge. More information at [www.interreligiousdialogue.org.uk/colloquium](http://www.interreligiousdialogue.org.uk/colloquium)

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

**Sick List** We pray for the sick in our parish community and family and friends who are ill. Please contact the office on 01592 756758 if you would like someone's name added or removed.

**Last Sunday's Collection** £597.88 Building Fund £185.25 Crib collection £132.89