



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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31 MARCH 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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

At the Easter Vigil, the most important liturgy of the year we hear stories of momentous events, the creation of the world, Moses' parting of the sea, and of course the discovery of the empty tomb with the news that Jesus had been raised. This last story includes the instruction to go to Galilee. Why there? It's 100 miles from Jerusalem on the outskirts of the Jewish region. This is where the disciples first encountered Jesus and from where they set off Jerusalem. Why return to this unexceptional region? Perhaps this is to teach us that the risen Lord, though transformed in glory, is to be found in the ordinary places of our day to day lives. "There you will see him", the angel says (Mk 16:7), and with eyes of faith we do.

It sounds wonderful when we hear this with the ears of faith, but as humans we sometimes have ears of doubt. So did the women who came to the tomb. Mark ends his account of the discovery of the tomb describing how the women fled "seized with trembling and bewilderment. They spoke to no one because they were afraid." (16:8).

They may have thought that they had seen a ghost. To accept that Jesus had been raised from the dead meant taking a leap of faith. Overcoming fear and doubt is a continual challenge.

There is another way to look at the words of the angel "He is going before you" that reflects Jesus' entire mission. Many expected that the Messiah would bring a lasting political and military victory to the descendants of Abraham. But this was not Jesus' mission. He did not come to end suffering, hardship and defeat, but to share our suffering, hardship and defeat. Jesus, being fully human, was not impervious to the human condition. No matter how unbearable our suffering is, he has gone there before us. During our own worst times, in the most desperate circumstances, God has suffered with us. Jesus has even experienced human mortality, the ultimate human injury, and in a most difficult way. He has gone before us to the tomb, and now he has gone before us to the Father, enabling Paul to write "When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might live a new life." (Rom 6:3-4)

Question of the Week Where have I seen the Lord, though perhaps only in hindsight? Where do I look for him today? How can I learn to see him?

Sunday 31 March

Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's (People of the Parish)

Readings: Gen 1:1-2:2; Ex 14:15-15:1; Eze 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (Canon Roddy Johnston RIP)

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

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

Readings: Acts 10:34.37-43; 1Cor 5:6-8; Mk 16:1-7

Monday 1 April

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Readings: Acts 2:14,22-23; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday 2 April

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday 3 April

Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass

Readings: Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday 4 April

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

Friday 5 April

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11 a.m.

Readings: Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday 6 April

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

Readings: Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15

Sunday 7 April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

Divine Mercy Devotions at 3 p.m. in St Paul's

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

RCIA There will be no meeting this Tuesday, but we shall resume weekly meetings at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 9 April at 7 p.m. in Romero House.

Pastoral Council meets on Wednesday 10 April at 7 p.m. in the church house.

Confirmations The archbishop will be celebrating this sacrament on Friday 19 April at 7 p.m. in St Paul's.

First Communion Catechesis for children not at St Paul's primary will begin on Sunday 21 April at 10.30 a.m. in St Paul's meeting room.

Across Group is running a Thrift Shop from Saturday 20 April to Friday 26 April between 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. in Wellesley Road, Buckhaven.

Deeply Devoted A workshop on the rich history of Catholic devotions is taking place on Saturday 27 April at Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/deeplydevoted>

The Scottish Government is consulting on a proposed new law to end conversion practices. The proposals have drawn sharp and widespread criticism, described by Aidan O'Neill KC as "ill-thought out" and "fundamentally illiberal". Please respond to the consultation before the closing date of April 2. You will find guidance on responding to the consultation, here: <https://rcpolitics.org/conversion-practices/>

Assisted Suicide Please sign the online petition at www.carenokilling.scot You can also watch on the archdiocesan YouTube channel "Euthanasia: A Warning from Canada"

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 £718.03 **Building Fund** £261.24

Gift Aid / 200 Club Envelopes 2024/25 are now available to collect from the back of the Churches.

SCIAF boxes should be returned by next week.

A happy and joyful Easter to everyone in our parish. We should all be grateful to everyone who has helped over Holy Week and throughout the year to make our liturgies so uplifting. Enjoy this holy season of 50 days!