



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

St Paul's Glenrothes, St Mary's Leslie, & Chapel Royal Falkland
Church House & Office: St Paul's, Warout Rd, Glenrothes, KY7 4ER

Mgr Philip Kerr: 01592 756758

Email parish@stmarymagdalenes.org.uk

Website www.stmarymagdalenes.org.uk

St Vincent De Paul Group 07597979463 Safeguarding 01592 756758

22 FEBRUARY 2026 – 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

An obvious contrast is made between Adam and Eve's yielding to temptation in the first reading and Jesus' resistance of temptation in the Gospel. But another contrast can be noted: the first reading is set in a garden of plenty while the Gospel is set in a desert. Adam and Eve succumb to temptation even though they already have everything they need. In fact, they had everything they had ever wanted before the serpent put ideas in Eve's head. Jesus, meanwhile, had fasted for forty days and forty nights, recalling lengthy times of trial in the Old Testament, and is surrounded by emptiness. Nevertheless, Adam and Eve act selfishly and disobey God, bringing sin and death to humanity. Jesus, meanwhile, acts selflessly and obeys God's will, which will eventually bring redemption and eternal life to humanity.

The devil's final temptation promises Jesus all the kingdoms in the world. Had Jesus taken the offer, he would have soon found out that he wasn't getting what was promised at all. Would Jesus have emerged from

the desert as king of every nation with every army sworn to obey him and every person subject to him? The fact is, this was an empty promise, designed to gain Jesus' fealty. With none of these temptations is the devil actually promising to do anything. He doesn't promise to turn stones to bread or catch Jesus from the parapet himself. When we renew our baptismal promises at Easter, we renounce Satan's empty promises, his "empty show," for, configured to Christ in baptism, we recognize that the devil's promises are hollow.

Even if Jesus had turned stones to bread, he would have grown hungry again. The bread of this world satisfies for only a few hours. At the Last Supper Jesus turns bread into his Body, providing spiritual food that can satisfy forever. The devil's second temptation is echoed on Good Friday, when passers-by tempt Jesus to throw himself down from the cross. Instead of prostrating himself to the devil in the desert, Jesus kneels in Gethsemane and affirms that he will follow God's will to the end. Jesus not only refuses the devil's temptations now; he turns them all around in the end.

Question of the Week: How do I resist temptation? Can I remember to look ahead to the long-term consequences before I choose what to do?

Sunday 22 February

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: Gen 2:7-9. 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Monday 23 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 24 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

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

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

Wednesday 25 February

Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass

1 p.m. Funeral Service in St Paul's Church followed by cremation at 2.15 p.m.

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

Thursday 26 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: Est 4:17; Mt 7:7-12

Friday 27 February

7.30 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 8.30.am.

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

Saturday 28 February

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

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

Sunday 1 March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's (Fr Leonard Norman OCR RIP)

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (Special Intention)

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

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's (People of the Parish)

Readings: Gen 12:1-4; 2Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

Lent Study – Bishop Barron's *Catholicism* We shall continue watching this in Romero House on Tuesdays after Mass – this week's topic is *The Mystery of God*.

SCIAF: Michael Hamilton will return to the Parish on Wednesday at 7pm (St Paul's). He will be accompanied by Ben Wilson the Director of Public Engagement who visited Ethiopia last year. He will give us a more in-depth presentation of the situation there. This year's fundraising event is the 'Big Lent Walk' - SCIAF are asking us to 'Walk the Blue Nile River' 1450km. Please sign up and collect a sponsor sheet from the churches. Further information can be found on the posters in the church foyers. 'Long or short, the kilometres will add up!'

Youth Group (P7+) meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in St Paul's hall. Leaflets with more information are in the church porches.

Fundraising: The recent table-top sale at Romero House raised £459.60. Thanks to everyone.

Music get-together: the next get-together of musicians and singers will take place next Saturday after 10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's finishing by 12 noon. We will be playing hymns and settings for the Mass, familiar and new. Players of any musical instrument and people who enjoy singing are welcome. If you need a copy of the music to play or sing, please let a parish musician or the parish office know you are coming along the weekend before - otherwise just drop in.

World Day of Prayer – Friday 6 March: The service for our area will be held in the Salvation Army Centre, Caskieberran Road at 2.30 p.m. This year's service has been prepared by Christians in Nigeria.

Coptic Church For several decades there has been a place of Christian worship according to the Coptic tradition in Kirkcaldy. Copts have a tradition which goes back to the first century of Christianity, and they hold that St Mark brought them the gospel in Egypt. On Sunday 8 March we plan to have a visit to their church in Links Street from 2 to 3.30 p.m. – if you plan to come along, please put your name on the sheet in the porch.

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.

Hustings prior to Scottish Parliamentary Election Glenrothes Churches Together plans to hold a gathering in the second half of April, at which we will be able to discuss issues with prospective candidates. If you are interested in helping to organise this event, please email the parish office.

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

Last Sunday's Collection £642.98; Building Fund £201.19. (£2929 is being received monthly through standing orders for the Sunday collection and £694 for the Building Fund.)

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. **£17,774.09** has been raised so far. **THANK YOU.**