

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

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6 JULY 2025 - 14TH 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

A little background helps put today's first reading in context. The Chosen People's exile in Babylon ended in 538 BC, but when they returned home they found the temple had been destroyed and the city burned to the ground. Grief-stricken and hopeless they mourned the loss of their holy city. But Isaiah sees it differently. He portrays Jerusalem as a nursing mother, comforting and restoring the health of its citizens, leading to a rebirth where prosperity flows like the bountiful milk she provides. Where the people see death and destruction, the Lord sees rebirth and rejoicing.

The cross manifests a similar contradiction. A cross was a symbol of ignominy and death. Even for Jesus, it was a sign of hardship and sacrifice. In encouraging his disciples to carry their crosses, he taught them to sacrifice their own desires for God's will and their neighbours' needs. But Jesus' victory over death on a cross adds a completely different meaning. It is through the cross that we are redeemed, that we are given

eternal life. Paul goes so far to say that he has no reason to boast of anything that he has done, but only of what Jesus did on the cross. His victory on the cross makes all things new. The world and all of us in it are a new creation.

Jesus does not make it easy for his disciples. Instead of sending them out in a group so that some could just tag along, he sends them out two by two. He sends them with no money or change of clothes, making them dependent on the people they meet (and on God). He sends them "like lambs among wolves" (Lk 10:3). But he gives them all that they truly need: the power to build the kingdom in his name. Jesus calls us to do the same. We can bring peace to a household with understanding and forgiveness. We can heal suffering with our presence and kindness. We can drive out the demons of hatred and discord, of injustice and oppression, by being the voice and hands of Christ in the world. Then we will rejoice as the disciples did, marvelling at what we can accomplish in Jesus' name.

Question of the Week How am I willing to labour this week to add to Jesus' harvest?

Sunday 6 July

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

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

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

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's (Special Intention) Readings: Is 66:10-14; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Monday 7 July

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Readings: Gen 28:10-22; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday 8 July

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Gen 32;22-32; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday 9 July – Feast of Our Lady of Aberdeen Divine Mercy devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass

Readings: Gen 41::55-57; 425-7, 17-24; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday 10 July

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Gen 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15

Friday 11 July – Feast of St Benedict (480-547), whose rule of life for monasteries had a profound influence on European civilisation

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

Readings: Gen 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday 12 July Memorial of St Drostan, companion of St Columba who founded the monastery of Deer in Aberdeenshire in C6.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass and at 5.30 p.m. in St Mary's Readings: Gen 49:29-33; 50:15-26; Mt 10:24-33

Sunday 13 July – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's 9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (Private Intention) 10.40 a.m. Rosary at St. Paul's

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's (People of the Parish) Readings: Dt 30:10-14; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

Deanery Holy Year Events: On the last Sunday of every month there will be a special hour of prayer held at the Carmelite Convent, Hot Pot Wynd, Dysart from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. On Sunday 27 July we shall reflect on the virtue of justice.

We have postponed walking the Fife Pilgrim Way in stages until the 6 Saturdays between 30 August and 4 October.

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic? After the summer holidays we hope to begin again group meetings to explore the Catholic faith. Fr Philip will be happy to have a chat with anyone about this.

Prayer and Praise We are invited to share in this event taking place on Friday 18 July from 7 to 9 p.m. in St Margaret's Church of Scotland.

Bake Sale to raise funds for the Parish takes place on Sunday 20 July after Mass in St Paul's.

Parish Feast Day We shall celebrate our patron, St Mary Magdalene, on Tuesday 22 July with Mass at 7 p.m. in St Mary's followed by refreshments at Romero House.

Coffee morning fundraiser takes place on Saturday 2 August between 10.30am & 12.30pm in Romero House. More details to follow.

Youth Ministry We plan to begin a group for our young people (P7+) – we shall have an initial gathering for a barbecue on Thursday 7 August at 7 p.m. at St Paul's

Summer School this will take place on Monday & Tuesday 11 & 12 August. More details later.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage This takes place with flights from Glasgow between 24 September and 1 October costing £780 (£150 single room supplement) including breakfast and dinner. More information on notice in church porches or email roger.fostersenior@gmail.com

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

Last Sunday's Collection £659.31. Peter's Pence £563.51 (£2929 is being received monthly through standing orders for the Sunday collection and £694 for the Building Fund.) SCIAF boxes - this year's total is £1216. Next Sunday we are asked to pray for those who work at sea – if you want to support financially the Church's mission to sailors, take an envelope for the Apostleship of the Sea from the back of the church and include it in next Sunday's ordinary collection.

Buy a Brick – St Paul's perimeter wall If you have not so far obtained a form, they are available at the back of our churches. There has been a great response so far. The total raised at Thursday 3 July is £2,670.00. Well done!