



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 DECEMBER 2024 - 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

Bethlehem was a town easily overlooked: too small, writes Micah, to be counted among the twelve tribes of Israel. Overlooked, just as its most famous son up to this point, David, was when he was working in the fields while Samuel greeted Jesse's older sons. Mary was a "lowly servant" (Lk 1:48) from an even more remote town, Nazareth, when God sent Gabriel to announce the momentous news. Yet God chose Mary to bear the Son of God and Bethlehem to be the place of his birth. We ourselves may feel lowly and insignificant, but we are not so to God. God chooses each and every one of us to become a dwelling place of God.

Years before Jesus repeatedly used the words, "Blessed are you" in order to preach the beatitudes, Elizabeth showered Mary with these words, for she recognized that God was with her cousin in a special way. In a sense, she is anticipating God's blessings upon the poor and lowly of the world. In the days before texting or social media, or even telephones, how could Elizabeth

have known Mary's momentous news? Luke provides a hint. He writes that as soon as Mary entered her house, Elizabeth was "filled with the Holy Spirit," leading her to shower Mary with blessings (Lk 1:41). Since we have been filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism, we too have the power to recognize the Lord in others. But do we?

Consider the way both Elizabeth and her unborn son reacted when they first encountered Jesus, though he was still in Mary's womb. Elizabeth cried out with praise and John did somersaults in his mother's womb. Is that how we react when we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, in our assembly, or in each other? Probably not, but maybe inside we would if we took the time to realize how close he is.

Question of the Week: What do I need to do in order to discern Jesus' presence in someone I've just met? In a friend? In someone I disagree with?

Sunday 22 December

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: Mic 5:2-5a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday 23 December

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

Confessions after Mass

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday 24 December

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Confessions after Mass

Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday 25 December Solemnity of the Nativity of our Saviour (Holy Day of Obligation)

Christmas Night Mass with extended readings and carols on Tuesday 24 December at 9 p.m. in St Mary's (People of the Parish)

Readings Is 9:1-17; Tit 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

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

Readings Is 62:11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass at 11 a.m. in St Paul's (Special intention)

Readings: Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Thursday 26 December – Feast of St Stephen, first Christian martyr

11 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Friday 27 December – Feast of St John, apostle and evangelist

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8

Saturday 28 December – Feast of the Holy Innocents

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's (Mgr Nicholas France RIP)

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

Readings: 1Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday 29 December – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph The opening of the Jubilee Year is celebrated in the world's Cathedrals today.

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

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal where we shall also celebrate the patronal feast, St Thomas of Canterbury (People of the Parish)

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

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

Readings: 1Sam 1:20-28; 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Sunday Missals with the new lectionary translation are now available (£15) and also **Archdiocesan Directory 2025** (£3.00) at each of the Churches.

Chapel Royal music group is playing Christmas carols in the Lomond View Care Home in Falkland on Monday at 2pm. Please come along and join us for a sing along. We will provide song sheets for all the old favourite carols. Many residents receive no visitors so this will be a big event for them. Parishioners from all three churches are very welcome.

Communion Ministers Please collect calendars for 2025 to take to the housebound.

Pro-Life Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon on Saturday in St Margaret's chapel, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh

New Year's Day Mass will be at 11 a.m. in St Mary's.

Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 5 January, the feast of the Epiphany, in St Paul's hall from 2 to 4 p.m. Sign up on sheets in our church porches.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who organised, supported and attended this year's Christmas Fayre.

Marriage & family Life Newsletter is online at <https://marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk/newsletter>

Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 takes place from 11 to 18 July. More details at www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25

Catholic Media Many of the traditional newspapers did not survive the pandemic lockdown. The following website is very useful for information about the Church in the United Kingdom www.indcatholicnews.com

Faith formation The following are very useful: www.thinkingfaith.org, Jesuit reflections on scripture, doctrine and spirituality, <https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk>, about Christian social and moral teaching. For help in daily prayer visit <https://sacredspace.com>

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

Last Sunday's Collection £529.76 Building Fund £1170.76 (£2929 is being received monthly through standing orders for the Sunday collection and £694 for the Building Fund.) **Special collection** at Christmas Masses for the Carmelite sisters at Dysart.

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL