



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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18 JANUARY 2026 – 2ND 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

Today's Gospel begins with John the Baptist's bold proclamation: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). But John goes on to confess twice that at first he did not know him. Even though the whole reason he called on people to repent and be baptized was to prepare for the Lord's arrival, he himself did not recognize Jesus for who he is as Messiah until he saw the Holy Spirit come down upon him like a dove. We all likely visualize Jesus somewhat differently. We may picture him the way renaissance artists portrayed him, or from an image used on a holy card, or an image we've seen developed by forensic anthropologists or even one recently created by AI. But no matter which image we are picturing, we too would probably not recognize him in a crowd. We know him from what he does. As John testified, he "takes away the sin of the world."

Many expected that the Messiah would take away sin by defeating it or driving it out, much as a general would

lead an army to do. But defeating or driving out an enemy does not finish that enemy off forever. Sin would always return to wreak destruction and death. To truly overcome sin, Jesus had to suffer from the sins of others, like Isaiah's suffering servant, as the Lamb of God, the innocent who is sacrificed, to overcome sin and death and open the door to salvation.

Once John witnessed the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon Jesus, he gave witness, pointing him out and testifying that he is the one God sent to take away the sin of the world. We witness Jesus, but in other ways. Here, in the Eucharist, in each other gathered in his name, and in the priest celebrating Mass. We may also witness him in the person in need, the least of our sisters and brothers, and in an act of forgiveness. We, like John, are called to give witness, in words and in deeds, to his presence in our lives.

Question of the Week How will I witness to my faith, to Jesus, this week?

Sunday 18 January

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 (Private Intention)

Readings: Is 49:3.5-6; 1Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Monday 19 January

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

Readings: 1Sam 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday 20 January

10 a.m. Funeral Mass in St Paul's followed by burial at St Drostan's Cemetery.

Readings: 1Sam 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday 21 January – *Memorial of St Agnes (291-304), martyred in Rome*

Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass.

Readings: 1Sam 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday 22 January

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Readings: 1Sam 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12

Friday 23 January

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.am.

Readings: 1Sam 24:2-20; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday 24 January – *Memorial of St Francis De Sales (1567-1622), bishop of Geneva, who did much to foster religious harmony in the post-Reformation period*

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

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

Readings: 2Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 17, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday 25 January – *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – feast of the Conversion of St Paul*

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

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal People of the Parish)

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

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

Readings: Is 9:1-4; 1Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins this weekend. A special prayer service will be held next Sunday 25 January at 6 p.m. in St Columba's in the town centre. Come and celebrate the faith we hold in common with all Christians in our area – we shall be using some material prepared in Armenia, the oldest Christian nation in our world.

Sacramental Initiation of Children There will be a preparation rite next Sunday at 11.30 a.m. Mass.

Confirmation Preparation for children not at St Paul's school begins this Sunday at 10.30 a.m. at St Paul's church

Pastoral Council meets on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the church house

Youth Group (P7+) This will recommence on Thursday from 7 to 8.30 p.m. in St Paul's hall.

The Kingdom for the King This unique prayer initiative for Life is taking place between Monday 19 January and Tuesday 17 February. More details at www.thekingdomfortheKing.co.uk

Diploma in Catechetics Explore the richness of the Catholic faith in 2026 by taking the Diploma in Catechetics. The course is run by the Archdiocese and takes place at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday on Zoom, starting 22 January. Cost £220. Register at bit.ly/diploma2026

The Community Club will recommence on Monday 26 January at 2 p.m. in Romero House. Please come along, everyone is welcome.

Fundraising: The Fundraising and Social Committee are looking for good quality clothes and shoes for their table top sale on 7 February in Romero House.

Message from Catholic Parliamentary Office -:
Financial Help for Scots in 2026 As households across Scotland continue to feel the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis, many people may be missing out on vital financial support they are entitled to. To find out more about benefits that may be available, visit mygov.scot/benefits

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

Last Sunday's Collection £563.07; Building Fund £322.37 (£2929 is being received monthly through standing orders for the Sunday collection and £694 for the Building Fund.) **Crib Fund** donations will be distributed to local charities.

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. **Over £10,000.00** has been raised so far. **THANK YOU.**