



*Drawing by John R Hume,
courtesy of Scotland's Churches Trust*

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Rev. Bogdan Palka S.D.S. - Parish Administrator

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

17th Sunday of the Year 30th of July 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

There are many sad stories that are told concerning the death of people and the wills that they leave behind. It happens all too often that the relatives of the deceased person seem more interested in what the person left them in their will, than in what that person meant to them while they were living. Families have been split, and enemies made for life, because people did not get what they thought was coming to them. Their pearl of great price was not the love for the person who had died, but the love for what that person would leave for them after death.

The over-riding concern of such people is clearly based on what they have, not on who they are. They have declared to the world that the treasure they seek has to be treasure that one can count. If it doesn't have a price tag on it, then they say it is really not worth that much. Today we are asked to reflect on what our treasure in life really is. When we hear the Scriptures read aloud to us or when we quietly read them ourselves, we need to somehow respond to what they are calling us to.

One of the questions this reading asks of us can be phrased like this: What is the overriding passion in my life? What is so important to me that if I lost it, I also would be lost? What possesses the deepest part of myself so much, that if it were not there, I wouldn't know where to turn

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, how I love your law!

Gospel Acclamation

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my
Father.



next? We have to force ourselves to answer these basic questions. If we don't, then there is a good chance we will continue on our journey in an aimless fashion, until one day that journey will be over, and we still will not have come to realize why we ever lived. Yes, today's Gospel is that dramatic. There is one important aspect to both of these parables that we shouldn't overlook. The treasure in the field was hidden and needed to be found, and the pearl needed to be seen for what it really was, a priceless treasure.

William Randolph Hearst invested a fortune collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Mr. Hearst read the description of a valuable art item, which he sent his agent abroad to find. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasure. To the surprise of Hearst, the priceless masterpiece was stored in none other than his own warehouse. The multi-millionaire had been searching all over the world for a treasure he already possessed. In our own lives, it is quite possible that we have grown so used to our faith that we no longer see it for the priceless value that it has. Perhaps we have always believed in Jesus and his teachings, and now they don't seem that special any more.

Maybe it seems shocking to say that we can grow too used to our faith, but as human beings we have that capacity. We can become careless and casual about the very beliefs that form the foundation of our lives. We all know that over

time we can take precious things for granted - the love of a spouse or friend or family member, the beauty of a sunrise or the ocean or the mountains. The same thing can happen with our faith. The wonder and the beauty of our faith can fade for us, if we do not take care. Hopefully, if this has happened to us, we can use today's Gospel as the beginning of a new awakening and discovery of the treasure of our faith. But we know it will not just happen on its own. We need to pick up that treasure, hold it in our hands, look at it again from different angles, hold it up to the light, sit in wonder at it.

There are many avenues to this re-discovering of our faith and its beauty. For many people, spiritual reading holds the key to rediscovery. As we read how other people see their faith and what it means to them, we can be moved to re-examine how it can infuse our whole life with new meaning. It can change the way we look at our marriage partner, our children or parents. It can help us through difficult times and times of deep grief. Prayer is absolutely essential on the path of rediscovery. As we place ourselves in God's presence over and over, each day, even for very short periods of time, we will gradually come to see the treasure of our faith in a new and revealing light.

Have a great week - stay well and enjoy the gifts and blessings God has given us. May God bless you always,

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
the soul of Kate Campbell
who died recently
and of all whose anniversaries
occur about this time.

**Eternal rest grant
unto their souls, O Lord.
May they rest in peace. Amen.**

Thank You

We thank you for your spectacular generosity. Your generous support of our Parish and your help with the needs of our community is greatly appreciated!

Collections:

Sunday 23th June – £612.00.

Next Sunday – 6th August

**Our second collection will be for
the Bishop's Mensal Fund**

Priest's musing

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. "Will I die?" she asks. God says, "No. You have 30 more years to live." With 39 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. Since she's in the hospital, she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great!

The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. Up in heaven, she sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live," she complains. "That's true," says God. "So what happened?" she asks God shrugs. "I didn't recognise you."

Mass to mark the retreat of Bishop Stephen Robson

The Mass to mark Bishop Stephen's retreat has now been rescheduled. It will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Thursday 24 August at 7pm. An open invitation is extended to everyone.

A Big Thank you

A very big vote of thanks from Father Bogdan and the Parish Pastoral Council to everyone involved in the celebration of our Saint's Feastday. Particular thanks to Marzana and Lucjan Warna who donated the strawberries, to Sylwia for the beautiful flower arrangements on the altar, and to everyone responsible for the excellent catering arrangements. May God bless you all!!!

The National Pilgrimage to Carfin

I write to inform that the Annual National Pilgrimage to Carfin will return this year to its traditional date on the first Sunday in September. The Pilgrimage Mass will take place at the Grotto at 3pm on Sunday 3rd September. I extend an invitation to all parishioners to participate in the pilgrimage.

The Bishops have decided that we will pray for peace, particularly in the Ukraine, at our Pilgrimage. Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family in the UK will preach at the Mass, and the Choir of the Ukrainian Catholic community in Scotland will participate in the Mass along with the Motherwell Diocesan Choir.

Bishop Hugh
Gilbert, the
President of the
Bishops' Confer-
ence of Scotland
will be main cele-
brant. With my
prayers and best
wishes,

Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Toal



NORMAL MASS SCHEDULES

Monday
No public Mass

Tuesday – Saturday
9am

Friday
7pm (Polish)

Sunday
8.30am (Polish)
10am (English)
12noon (Polish)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
9:30am (after Mass)
or call to make an appointment.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 31st July
Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola, priest

Tuesday: 1st August
Memorial of St Alphonsus Liguori

Wednesday 2nd August
17th Week of the Year

Thursday 3th August
17th Week of the Year

Friday 4th August
Memorial of St John Mary Vianney

Saturday: 5th August
17th Week of the Year

Sunday: 6th August
Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?

Name _____ Hospital _____ Ward _____

Please complete/ tear off and hand it to Fr Bogdan after Mass