



*Drawing by John R Hume,
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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

20th Sunday of the Year 20th of August 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This Sunday's readings are very difficult. We have Paul seeming to speak in circles to the Romans, "you have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy." Then we have the incident of Jesus and the Canaanite women.

She has a real need, and she cries out to him. But He refers to her people as dogs, and says that he came only for the lost sheep of the House of Israel. The best way to understand all this is to realize that the readings are speaking about the spread of faith. The reading from Romans refers to the many times that Paul visited various cities.

When he visited a city, he preached to the Jews first. If they rejected the Gospel of Christ, Paul then preached to the gentiles. Often, the Jewish people were so inspired by the faith of the Gentiles that they took another look at Christianity and opened themselves up to faith. That is why Paul

says that their being closed to faith, disobedience, resulted in the gentiles turning from their sins, their own disobedience to the natural law, what they knew was right or wrong. Experiencing the gentiles receiving faith, this led many of the Jews to embrace faith. In the Gospel Jesus plays the role of the traditional Jew, at odds with the rest of the world.

To the traditional Jew, the Canaanite Woman would have no claim to the gifts God bestowed on the Jews. Jesus states this in his dialogue with her. But she still receives healing for her daughter. Why? Because she had faith in him. Faith is more powerful than ancestry. This passage in the Gospel of Matthew occurs right after the passage where Jesus calls Peter a man of little faith. He tells his disciples that this gentile is a person of great faith. Faith is a raging fire. It spreads from person to person.

When we are exposed to a person of faith, our faith grows. As our faith grows, we ignite others with the fire of God's love. As others grow in faith, our faith increases. The Fire is the Fire of the Holy Spirit. Nothing can stop the flame. Nothing can stop the Spirit. When it comes to the Fire of Faith, the Love of God, the Holy Spirit, we have got to allow God to be God and experience His Presence however and whenever He calls out to us. We cannot do this if we put Him into some sort of box that we have created, describing how God can and cannot act. Nor can we tell others that we have the inner knowledge of whether God is in their lives or not.

Everything that we do. Everything of value that happens here in Church and in our lives is about the Love of God whom we have been graced to know as Jesus the Christ. The Mercy of God is infinitely greater than people's concept of his mercy. God



is infinitely greater than human beings.

Human beings put others in hell if they do not fit into their nifty box that they label this or that religion. In today's Gospel, human beings decided that since the Jews were the chosen people, Jesus should not bother with that Canaanite woman. "Send her away," the disciples said. In the early days of the Church, St. Paul and others had to confront the fallacy that gentiles could not become better Christians than those Christians who had been fervent Jews.

If we were to shut others out of our lives due to our own inflated self worth, our own pride, we would deprive ourselves of being inflamed by the fire of God they have been given by the Holy and Merciful One. Jesus saw the faith of the Canaanite woman. He sees your faith and my faith. He knows how we are trying our best to serve Him.

He knows us better than we know ourselves. He loves us more than we love ourselves. We are called to throw the fire of God's love upon the world. To do this we have to allow ourselves to be exposed to the fire of God's love in others. May we have the humility to experience God's love in others and the grace to lead others to faith.

Have a wonderful week – stay well. Please keep me in your prayers as you all are always in mine.

Fr Bogdan SDS

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Let the peoples praise you, O God

let all the peoples praise you

Gospel Acclamation

The sheep that belong to me

listen to my voice

says the Lord,

I know them and they follow me.

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of Helen Fidgeon, and Mary Esther Swai who died recently, and for Jack Simpson and 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 13th August – £507.50.

Priest's musing

A local priest and a pastor were fishing on the side of the road. They thoughtfully made a sign saying, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" and showed it to each passing car. One driver who drove by didn't appreciate the sign and shouted at them, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" All of a sudden they heard a big splash, looked at each other, and the priest said to the pastor, "You think maybe we should have just said 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society would like to say a big thank you to all who support its work by their generous weekly contributions. Thanks are also extended to members of the Society who give so freely of their time and energy towards helping those in need within our Perth community. We are always looking to recruit new members to carry on our charitable work; it is an excellent way to express your faith through practical charity and works of mercy. Recent assistance has included the provision of vouchers to help vulnerable families with their energy bills. If you are interested in learning more about our work, please speak to Father Bogdan or Ivan Carnegie.

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee meeting

The next meeting of the PPC and Finance Committee will take place in the Church Porch on Tuesday 22nd August at 7pm. Any parishioner who has an issue relating to parish affairs which he/she wishes the Council/Committee to consider is invited to provide details to Father Bogdan.

The Everyday Grace of Weekday Mass

I believe that frequent attendance at Mass and frequent reception of the Blessed Sacrament has given me an increase of the virtue of charity. I have a greater desire to serve Jesus through service to others in the works of mercy. I attribute having that desire and the graces to do the works of mercy to my participation at Mass. The Mass prepares us to be missionaries in the world. Before the blessing, the priest sends us to live as Jesus' disciples with the dismissal: "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Each day Mass is usually offered in the morning, at noon, and less often, in the evening. It is beautiful to begin your day with Mass in the morning; spending time with Jesus gives you the strength to fulfill your duties the rest of the day. Mass at noon is a time of tranquility in the midst of a busy day, a way to become recollected to the presence of God in your life. Evening Mass can provide us with a feeling of awe in Jesus' presence, as we remain in His light while the night sky turns dark.

Attending weekday Mass is a way we can celebrate the feast days and holy days of the liturgical year. For Catholics, every day is a holiday. Not only do we have great feast days such as Christmas, but we have many days honoring the Blessed Mother, and the numerous saints and blessed who are part of our family in the Church. The Mass is the greatest way we can help others. At the beginning of each Mass, we can offer it for someone or for a specific intention, such as the protection of unborn babies from abortion or world peace. We can also arrange to have Masses celebrated for individuals who are living or deceased, or for our intentions. It is not always possible to go to Mass every day, but whenever we can, taking the opportunity would benefit us. If you don't already participate at Mass during the week, the season of Lent would be an ideal time to begin. As the priest prays in the Third Eucharistic Prayer, "...You never

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.

cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting, a perfect sacrifice may be offered to Your name." I try attending Mass daily because I love Jesus, want to spend time with Him, want to thank Him for all His blessings, and because I know I need His graces. I also believe that because Jesus loves me, He wants me to be at Mass with Him.

Louise Merrie

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 21st August
Memorial of St Pius X, Pope

Tuesday 22nd August
Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 23th August
29th Week of the Year

Thursday 24th August
Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle

Friday 25th August
20th Week of the Year

Saturday 26th August
20th Week of the Year

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