



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord 6th of August 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Life is about Jesus Christ. Anything and everything that matters flows from Him and returns to Him. This is the fundamental message of Christianity. It is exemplified in today's feast: The Transfiguration of the Lord. When Jesus brought Peter, James and John up that mountain, he met with Moses and Elijah. Moses and Elijah! These were two of the most important people of the Hebrew Scriptures. Moses was the great Law Giver. The first five books of the Bible, the Torah, were attributed to Moses. Elijah was the greatest of the prophets. He was the prophet who never died, but was taken up into heaven by the fiery chariot of God. And there, on that mountain, the disciples witnessed Jesus meeting with Moses and Elijah.

Why? Why did they meet? What could they have been discussing? Perhaps it was the way that the Father's Plan would be fulfilled in the Son. Certainly the voice from heaven told the disciples what they needed to hear, "This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." And so we go back to that quick answer to the college student. Jesus Christ is the center of history. He is the center of the universe. Everything that matters flows from

Him and points to Him. He is the one who fulfills God's plan for mankind. We have to listen to Him because we also have a role in God's plan for mankind. That meeting with Moses and Elijah had transcended time. Moses probably lived six hundred years before Elijah, and Elijah probably lived eight hundred years before the Incarnation of the Lord. But on that mountain they were united in time. It was as though all that Moses gave, all that Elijah prophesied, was happening in the eternal now of the Word Become Flesh. We are part of that Eternal Now. "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him." Those words are directed to us as well as to Peter, James and John.

But why? Why are we included in the Transfiguration? We are included because each of us has a role to play in God's Plan for mankind. We were created for greatness, to share in the Triumph of the Kingdom. How? How do we share in the Triumph of the Kingdom? We do this by reflecting the presence of God in that unique way that we were created to do. Each of us can provide the world with an image of God the world never saw before and will never see again. We can and must do this.

That is why we need to be united to God in every aspect of our lives and at every moment of our lives. "It was not by way of cleverly concocted myths that we taught you about the coming in power of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we were eyewitnesses of his sovereign majesty. We ourselves heard the voice from heaven say "This is my beloved son on whom my favor rests" while we were in his company on the holy mountain." This passage is from today's second reading taken from the Second Letter of Peter. It was written towards the end of Peter's life while he was a captive in Rome. Peter was aware that some people were leaving Christianity. They were attracted by some very strange stories, half Christian and half pagan. Among these stories were the stories of the Gnostics. The Gnostics taught that there



was a secret seed that was implanted into their heads. If you didn't believe them it was because you didn't have the secret seed of knowledge in your head.

The word gnostic means a secret knowledge. Gnosticism was so confusing that most people couldn't figure out anything about it other than it was strange. For that reason it had an attraction to many people. In some ways it was similar to modern day Scientology, a secret society based on fabricated stories. St Peter's message to the Christians of his time and ours is to stop looking for fantastic stories and believe the accounts of the eyewitnesses of the Lord.

Many refuse to listen to this message. Fantasy seems so interesting. But this attraction can be destructive. It can lead to us denying our faith. The Lord is real. He is right before us. We experience His Presence within us. And we proclaim to the world: God is real. Jesus Christ is real. All that matters is that which flows from the Lord and returns to Him.

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

The Lord is king
most high above all the earth

Gospel Acclamation

This is my Son, the Beloved
he enjoys my favour
listen to him.

PRAYERS

For our departed parishioners,
friends, and family members.

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 30th July – £508.63.

Today our second collection is for the
Bishop's Mensal Fund

Priest's musing

There was a Christian lady that had to travel a lot for her business. Flying made her nervous, so she always took a Bible along with her to read and help her relax. One time, she pulled her Bible out and the man sitting next to her gave a little chuckle and went back to reading his newspaper. After a few minutes, he turned to her and asked, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there, do you?"

The lady replied, "Of course I do. It is the Bible." He asked, "Well what about that guy that was swallowed by a whale?" She replied, "Oh Jonah. Yes, I believe that; it is in the Bible." He asked, "Well how do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?" The lady said, "Well, I don't really know. I guess when I get to heaven, I will ask him." "What if he isn't in heaven?" the man asked sarcastically. "Then you can ask him," replied the lady.

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.

The Everyday Grace of Weekday Mass

In many churches throughout the world, Catholics have the opportunity to attend Holy Mass, not only on Sunday, but every day. There is something very special about participating at a weekday Mass: it changes our day, sanctifies it, unites us with Jesus and the Church, and reminds us that we belong to God and not to the world. We live in a culture focused on trivial, unimportant things. The Mass reminds us of what is real and true: Jesus' Incarnation, His death and resurrection, and His gift of eternal life for us with Him in heaven. On days we attend Mass, our participation in the Liturgy will be the most important of our actions. At Mass, we worship, adore, and thank God, ask forgiveness for our sins, and pray for others. We unite ourselves with the priest in the Sacrifice of the Mass and offer God our lives, prayers and works, thus actively participating in the Liturgy. When Catholics are in a state of grace, free of mortal sin and believing that Jesus is truly present, they can receive His body and blood in the Eucharist. We are so blessed to have the opportunity receive Jesus in this way often, even every day, making us have a closer relationship with Him and giving us many graces. These graces include the forgiveness of venial sins, strengthening our will to avoid committing mortal sins, increased union with Jesus, and union with the members of His Mystical Body, the Church. Please join us from Tuesday to Saturday at 9am.

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 7th August
18th Week of the Year

Tuesday 8th August
Memorial of St Dominic
Priest

Wednesday 9th August
Feast of St Teresa Benedicta
of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday 10th August
Feast of St Lawrence
Deacon and Martyr

Friday 11th August
Memorial of St Claire,
Virgin

Saturday 12th August
18th 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