

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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 336141

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

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

22nd Sunday of the Year 3rd September 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Today's Gospel demands that we give ourselves up to God as a living sacrifice. We are to follow Christ who gave Himself up as a living sacrifice to the Father. So many of you do exactly that as your lifestyle. How often I hear about people whose lives revolve around caring for others in their families, at their workplaces, in their neighborhoods. All of this takes sacrifice. I just spoke to a young mother whose life has gone from caring for one after another of her parents, in-laws, and grandparents. She still has to care for her husband and children. There is little to no time for herself.

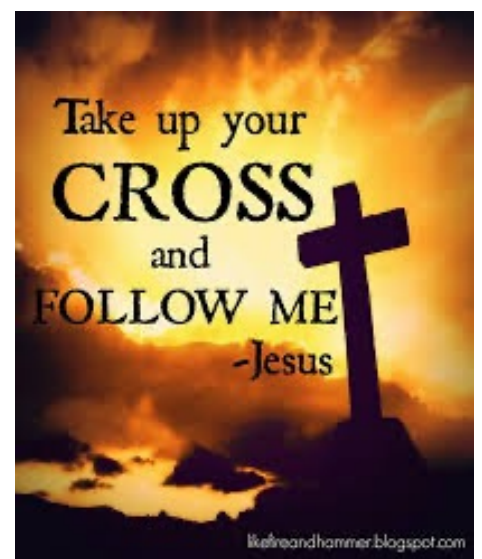
She does not regret this. This is her lifestyle. Her life is a living sacrifice to God. I remember an elderly man, a widower, who married an elderly widow. They were both in their 80's. After just a few years of marriage, she was stricken with cancer in her face. It was horrible. It took part of her nose, her jaw, her cheek. Well, that man cared for her, and protected her dignity by limiting those who saw her. When his wife passed on, I said to him that he had been a wonderful husband. He looked at me as though I was clueless and said, "Well, I took vows, didn't I?" He took vows to live the Christian way. He gave up his life, his own pleasures, for his wife. He became a living

sacrifice not just for her but to God who bound him to her. In so many ways, I have the greatest life there is because I get to witness the lives of so many great Christians, you all. Paul warns us not to conform to this world but be transformed by the renewal of our mind so we might discern what the will of God is, what is good, pleasing and perfect. It is easy to conform to the world. It is easy to just go along with what everyone is doing without even considering how our actions are devastating our spiritual life. Our spiritual radar should go up when we hear someone say, "It's a new world now. Things have changed. Everyone is doing this or that." We need to ask ourselves, "Am I willing to sacrifice my spiritual life to join what people say everyone is doing?" That is what sin is, isn't it?

Sin is pushing God aside for the sake of conforming to the world. In Jesus' prayer to His Father in John 17:16 he prays for us and says, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." When we conform to that which is not the Christian way of life, we are going against our very being, our spiritual essence. Sin leaves us disjointed, at war with ourselves. It steals our identity from us. In Jeremiah 2 the prophet warns the people, and us, that when we seek that which is worthless, we become worthless. It is so very correct when we say, "I cannot do that. I am so much better than that." We do not have to conform. We can be transformed by the renewal of our mind, our soul."

We believe that our lives are a progression of coming to a fuller understanding of whom we are as sons and daughters of God. This understanding gives us a new determination to live the Christian life in its fullness. For us conversion is a process that begins with baptism and concludes with our final breath. C.S. Lewis wrote, "If you live for the next world, you will get this one in the deal. But if you live only for this one, you will lose them both." "You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself to be seduced."

Jeremiah cried out in the first reading. Commitment to the Lord carries the cost of rejecting



those elements of the world where He is not present. Like Jeremiah, we want God in our lives, but we will not fully understand the cost of Christianity until that cost becomes personal. Yet, like Jeremiah, we live for the fire burning within our bones, the fire of God's love. We allow ourselves to be duped. We want God. "The problem with you is that you are thinking like the world does, not like God does," Jesus told that disciple he had just called his rock. Peter wanted to prevent Jesus from dying. Jesus said that the devil would want to prevent God's plan from taking place. He actually called Peter a devil, "Get behind me, Satan."

Jesus was more upset with Peter for this comment, then he was when Peter denied him three times. Why? What did Peter do that was so wrong? He allowed himself to be drawn from the Kingdom of God. He was conforming to the world. We cannot allow this to happen. A world that is in darkness needs us to be its light. People are looking for hope. People are searching for a reason for living. We can give them that hope. We can give them that reason for life. We can be the Light of Christ for others.

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

For you my soul is thirsting
O Lord my God

Gospel Acclamation

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind
so that we can see
what hope his call holds for us

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of Canon Keegan, Canon Adamson and Fr Campbell, 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!

Sunday Collection

27th August 2023 – £630.00.

Next Sunday, 10th September, our second collection will be for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund.

Priest's musing

A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson in logic. "Here is the situation," she said. "A man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help.

His wife hears the commotion, knows he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?" A little girl raised her hand and asked, "To draw out all his savings?"

SCOTTISH BISHOPS APPOINT DELEGATE FOR 2025 HOLY YEAR

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has announced the appointed of Jim McKelvie as the Scottish Delegate for the Holy Year 2025. The Holy Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Traditionally, it begins just before Christmas and ends on the Epiphany of the following year. The Pope inaugurates the Holy Year with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica.

There is normally a gap of 25 years between Holy Years. The Vatican has announced the motto of Holy Year 2025 will be 'Pilgrims of Hope' Commenting on his appointment, Jim McKelvie said: "I am honoured to have been given the task of organising Scotland's response to the Holy Year of 2025. The Holy Father is encouraging the faithful to visit the Eternal City, there are many events being planned for Rome, and individual countries are encouraged to organise their own events closer to home."

"We hope to organise some pilgrimages to Rome from Scotland in the Holy Year, when there will be delegates from Scotland's 8 Dioceses we also intend to arrange pilgrimages and events in Scotland throughout 2025." "I hope parishioners across Scotland will get in touch with me as we seek to build awareness of this great event."

First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation

St John's R.C. Academy is the designated denominational school for St Mary Magdalene's Parish and offers the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation in the Primary school years.

If your child does not attend St John's R.C. Academy then please contact Fr Bogdan to discuss alternative arrangements for the reception of these sacraments. Classes will commence on Wednesday, 6th September at 4:30pm in the church porch.

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.

Important Memorials

Memorials can be dedicated in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion—birthdays, anniversaries, living and dead etc... or for your own special intention by ordering a Holy Mass. Offering a stipend for a Mass intention is a way of contributing to the upkeep of your priest. It is a donation. Thank you for all your orders.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 4th September
22nd Week of the Year

Tuesday 5th September
22nd Week of the Year

Wednesday 6th September
22nd Week of the Year

Thursday 7th September
22nd Week of the Year

Friday 8th September
Feast of the Nativity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 9th September
22nd 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