



*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'

23rd Sunday of the Year 10th September 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Jesus is telling us, in no uncertain terms, that we have a serious responsibility to bring a saving word of correction to others. Our first reading is even more dramatic. In it the Lord says, "... (if) you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death." Remaining silent can be a deadly thing, both for ourselves and for others.

A Christian minister gives us this recollection: "I recall a fine teenage girl who destroyed her life doing drugs. I asked her peers if they were aware of her problem. Yes, they knew - they even knew the pusher who was her supplier; but they never confronted her or communicated her problem to anyone else. Was she killed by kindness?" (Rev. Dr. Elton Richards).

These young people, for whatever reason, chose to remain silent. Their silence most likely had a hand in the death of this young girl. What a terrible responsibility. Doing nothing should not have been an option for them. But what kept them from speaking out? Was it the mistaken notion that we must not interfere in the personal life of another? Did they think they were being kind by not saying anything to her, or to her parents, or anyone else who could have possibly helped? Or was it just too hard for these young people to lovingly confront



their friend? The minister asked the question: Was she killed by kindness? It is not kindness when we allow someone to destroy herself.

In the Book of Proverbs we hear these words: "Better a frank word of reproof than the love that will not speak." (Proverbs 27:5). Or, as another translation puts it, "Better open reproof than voiceless love". It's not enough just to have love in our hearts, if it never expresses itself in some very real and concrete ways. In fact, voiceless love is not really love at all. It is simply a form of weakness or cowardice.

True love is active. It does what needs to be done, no matter how difficult the doing may be. Fear is one of the most common obstacles which most of us face when we are thinking about warning another person about his or her behaviour. We imagine that they will become angry and defensive, perhaps even cutting off our relationship with them. Or we might fear what effect our words would have on the other person, and we tell ourselves that we wouldn't want to upset them. But, it would be a false compassion that would keep us from telling our neighbors their house is on fire because we did not want to upset them. How can we prepare ourselves if we need to undertake this distasteful task of warning another person about the danger they are in?

First, we must make sure that the issue that we want to bring to the other is a serious one. We're not

talking about nagging or trying to change a person just because they don't do things the way we do. The issue has to be something that is hurting them or others. The example I gave above about the teenage girl on drugs involved just such an issue. Next, we need to examine our motives for considering such correction. Jesus told us that we should remove the plank from our own eye before we attempt to remove the splinter from the eye of someone else. Love must be the overriding concern if we are to bring a word of correction to another person.

It must be done out of genuine love for the other, and because we want nothing but the best for that other person. And finally, we must pray for the sensitivity to be kind, and for the courage to be brave. Saint Pope John XXIII, when he joined the seminary, asked two of his friends to tell him his faults and mistakes every day.

This helped him a great deal to have an honest image of himself. None of us is fully perfect. At times we need others to help us see this truth about ourselves. It can be a great gift to discover that we have strayed off of the path, because that gives us the chance to get back on the road again. May God grant us the wisdom, courage and compassion to be true companions to one another.

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

Fr Bogdan SDS

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For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen
to his voice
Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Your word is truth, O Lord
consecrate us in the truth.

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of Krzysztof Zieliński, Anna Brennan.

Hugh Boyle and Marcin Petasz, 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

3th September 2023 – £762.00

Today our second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund

Priest's musing

A woman had lost a lot of weight over the course of several years. One day she and her little niece were going through some old clothes and found an old pair of pants.

"Wow," said the woman, "These must have been from when I was over 200!" This surprised her niece. "You were 200?" she asked her aunt. "Yes, I was." said the aunt. The little girl paused for a moment and then asked, "How old are you now?"



Fire and Drills - Meeting with Property Officer

Mr John O'Meara – The Diocese Property Officer has asked for a meeting on 16th September at 9:45am for the parish ushers to ensure that they are aware of their role should a fire break out during a Mass. It was agreed that the appropriate people for the role would be those who take up the collection each week. Don't miss that date.

New Organ for Our Church

The current organ is about 35 years old and Fr Bogdan has been told by the gentleman who was recommended to service the organ that it is not cost effective to service it. Rather he has recommended that we replace it with a refurbished second hand organ when required, which would cost in the region of £5000 - £7000. It was agreed that for the months where there is only one special collection currently scheduled we would have an additional collection to enable a fund to be created which would go towards the cost of the replacement. A new bank account will be created so that the funds can be very clearly ring fenced with a running total being available following each collection. Should the fund reach £5000 before the organ replacement is required then the second collections will cease at that point. Current dates agreed for the collections are 24th September, 8th October and 17th December. (From the minutes of PPC and Finacial Committee)

Healing Service / Blessing of the Sick

It is proposed that a quarterly Blessing of the Sick should be held during the 10am Sunday Mass, with the date being announced in the bulletin for about one month prior to the actual date to enable people to plan their attendance. The first Blessing will take place during Mass on 1st October.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

"Is anyone among you sick? They should call for the priests of the church, and he will pray over them and anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any sins, they will be forgiven." — Letter of St. James 5:14-15. Suffering and illness affect us in body and spirit. If one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all

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.

the members suffer with that member. In times of frailty, sickness, treatment, or surgeries the parish family assures the infirmed of our care and support through our prayer, personal visits and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for all who face a serious illness or surgery or who are impaired by old age. It is distinct from the "Last Rites," or Viaticum, in which the Church offers Holy Communion as food for the journey to life eternal. One may celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick many times if needed for strength and healing in mind, body and spirit. In this sacrament of anointing, Christ strengthens our faith and bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 11th September
23rd Week of the Year

Tuesday 12th September
23rd Week of the Year

Wednesday 13th September
Memorial of St John Chrysostom

Thursday 14th September
The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday 15th September
Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday 16th September
The Feast of St Ninian

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