



*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'

24th Sunday of the Year 17th of September 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? These verses are taken from today's first reading from the Book of the Sirach, or, as it is sometimes called, the Book of Ecclesiasticus. The message of these verses is brought to life by Jesus in the Gospel reading of the parable of the Unmerciful Servant. I fear that at times I distance myself from this parable. After all, I wouldn't go around throttling someone. I wouldn't react like the Unmerciful Servant and refuse to forgive a small amount after I've been forgiven a tremendous amount.

I wouldn't be like that. Or would I? Or would you? Something within us seems to feel that we have a right to continue in our anger towards someone who has hurt us badly. After all, we didn't create the situation. The other person did. We didn't attack the other person. The other person attacked us.

We were the victims, not the aggressors. Our lives would have been significantly different if that other person had not said or done this or that. And so we attempt to justify our anger, our grudge. To make matters worse, when we

reflect on a past upset, we relive it in our minds, and in our bodies. We feel the emotions welling up in us, even though the incident was ten, twenty, or maybe even thirty or forty years ago. Before we realize it, we are there, at the scene of the attack. We once more feel the rage we had and obviously still have. All of us have our own personal battle stories. Everyone has been wronged by someone, hurt by someone. But no one has the right to harbor a grudge, at least, not if we consider the staggering amount of mercy God has showered upon us.

God is good to all of us. Those of you who have children remember what it was like when you held your first child, or each of your newborns. Husband and wife, you just looked at each other and at the baby with a joy that you could not put into words. One brand new Mom called me up from the hospital and told me that she just had the best baby in the world. I told her, "The baby is only four hours old. Give him time." God is so good to us, to each of us and to all of us. The Lord also has his battle stories, but he continues to forgive us.

Why? Because He loves us. He knows what humans are like. He knows that we all make mistakes. Sometimes we mean well but do wrong. Some times we choose wrong because we are too weak to withstand the pressures around us. We often offend against God's love, but the Lord does not hold a grudge. God knows that the rest of us are far from perfect, but he still loves us. All of us have received abundant mercy from God because he loves us too much to hold a grudge.

One of my favorite books is Sheldon Vanauken's „A Severe Mercy." This is a love story about two people who found God in each other. Sheldon and his wife Davey, tried to construct the perfect marriage. But God was not part of their lives. They constructed what they called a shining barrier, to protect their love. But their love was self-centered. No one would be allowed to penetrate their shining barrier, including having children.



That is how selfish they really were. It was not real love, just a mutual decision to live a life of selfishness. But God eventually penetrated the barrier. They were intellectuals and received a grant to take courses at Oxford University. There they met and became friends with C. S. Lewis. He led them to the Lord. They became believers and learned a new love. Now they found God's love in each other. They bitterly regretted their former way of life, and were very much aware of their need for God's mercy. Davey eventually became sick and passed away, but she died saying words that had become her and Sheldon's way of expressing God's love in their lives. She said, "Under His mercy."

This is how we all live. We live under the mercy of God. He has been so good to all of us. When we consider what we have received, the call to be merciful to others is a tiny reflection of God's great gift to us. Living under His mercy, we must bring his mercy and compassion to others. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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 compassion and love
slow to anger and rich in mercy

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening
you have the message of eternal life.

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of Neale McCole and Marcin Petasz who died recently and for Harry McLoughlin, Ivy and Lawrence Ciantar, and Kazimierza Cyzman. 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

10th September 2023 – £679.00.

Second collection for: The Sick & Retired Priests Fund – 197.00

Next Sunday's second collection will be for the Organ Fund.

Priest's musing

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques. Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear busy, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?" The man said, "Sure. I've come to install the phone!"

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 Financial 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

To support and strengthen those who are sick, the Church gathers to pray and anoint those who are ailing with the healing oil of the sick. This oil symbolizes the presence of God at a time of great physical and emotional need and assures the recipient of God's love and healing presence to give strength and hope. The Anointing of the Sick conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy Spirit against anxiety, discouragement, and temptation, and conveys peace and fortitude. Anointing with sacred oil is a sign of blessing by the Holy Spirit of the one who is sick. Who may Receive the Anointing? Does a person have to be dying to receive this sacrament? No.

The Catechism says, "The Anointing of the Sick is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of

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 faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived" (CCC 1514). Any baptized Catholic who is seriously ill and has sufficient reason to be comforted by the Sacrament may receive it. The Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after the anointing but becomes ill once again, or if, during the same illness, the person's condition becomes more serious. A person should be anointed before surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the intervention. For those who are about to depart from this life, the Church offers the person Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and the Eucharist as Viaticum (food for the journey) given at the end of life. These are "the sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland" (cf. CCC, no. 1525).

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 18th September
24th Week of the Year

Tuesday 19th September
24th Week of the Year

Wednesday 20th September
Memorial of Sts Andrew Kim
Tae-Gon and Paul Chong
Ha-Sang and Companions

Thursday 21st September
The Feast of St Matthew, apostle

Friday 22nd September
24th Week of the Year

Saturday 23rd September
Memorial of
St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

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