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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

2nd Sunday of Advent 10th of December 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

"Console, console my people." The prophet of the first reading is told that the time of misery is coming to an end. Comfort the people. Let them know that God is going to come to free them from their sadness and their pain. Right now, we need comforting. We are living in very difficult times. Politics has polarized us.

People don't just disagree with each other, they show anger and even hatred towards those who hold a different opinion than they do. Our Church is also divided between those who want a return to a traditionalist faith where Mass is celebrated in Latin and those who want the Church to continue developing with the times. Deeper than that, there are those who treat the Holy Father as a heretic, and those who treat anyone who questions Rome as being a schismatic.

This is very stressful for us all. Many of our families have had difficult years with horrible tragedies. Life as they knew it will never return. They need comforting. We all need consoling. That is a great word, console. We remember how when we were little our Moms or Dads used to tuck us in for the night. They made sure that we were comfortable so we could sleep peacefully. Being console is the feeling of peace, of release from stress, of freedom from all that is hurting us. The prophet of the first reading promised comfort to the people. He

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



told them that God was aware of their pain and suffering. They had been held captive by the Babylonians for fifty years. They were totally powerless.

They had been led to Babylon with hooks through their noses. They had to serve the pagan kings of Babylon. There was no way that they could be freed. They had no army, no means of rebelling. But then, after the prophecy that God is coming to bring comfort to the people, political events resulted in their being freed to return to Judea and Jerusalem. Babylon was conquered by Persia, and the new power released all the captive peoples to return to their homelands.

God found a way to bring comfort to his people. People are looking for comfort. They may not realize it, but they are looking for God. It is up to us to tell them that Divine Help is near. "Prepare the way of the Lord," John the Baptist calls out in the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent. We are called to tell people that God is in control. He is going to free us from all that is attacking us. We have got to tell people to have faith and trust in God.

We are called to let others know that comfort is near. More than that, we are called to let them know that Jesus, the Divine Comforter, is here. We can do this if our faith is the very center of our lives. We can do this if our lives are motivated by

the presence of the Lord within us. We can proclaim comfort by living our Christianity. The decisions that we make in life, the way that we treat other people, the very way that we approach our day, must reflect the presence of Christ within us.

People need us to be men and women of faith. People need our witness to our Christianity. Others are dependent on us. We must prepare them to receive the Lord in their lives. We must bring comfort and console God's people.

Have a great week—stay well and be happy—God bless you all!

Fr Bogdan SDS

Advent quotes...

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."
—Henri Nouwen, priest

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Sheena Docherty who died recently and for Nicholas Carnegie and John Small, 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

3rd December 2023 – £753.00

2nd collection (last Sunday) for the Poor Mission Fund – £290.89.

Christmas Dinner and Dance

Perth Italian Association Christmas Dinner Dance will be at Salutation Hotel on Monday, 18th December at 6:30pm. Music will provide Roberto Enzo. Price £30. If you ready to celebrate please enter your name and the phone number on the list in the porch of the church or phone directly to Norma at 01738 622661.

Priest's Musing

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. He put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years," the note read. "If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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!

Foodbank Request

What are you doing for Christmas? For many of us this is a time for visiting friends and family, going to parties and nights-out. For others it is a time of worrying whether they can put food on the table for their families or afford to buy presents for their children. At the foodbank the Christmas period will be a busy and stressful time for volunteers, a time when demand for food parcels will be at its highest.

Some statistics – this year 2479 emergency food parcels were issued between April and November, feeding a total of 4808 people; between April and September 2054 families were supplied with food, an increase of 112% in the last 5 years. Most needed food items are UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, rice, coffee/tea, tinned tomatoes, nappies, washing powder. The need is great; please give what you can and help make Christmas a season of goodwill for poorer members of our community. (Ivan Carnegie).

Christmas Masses

St Mary Magdalene, Perth

Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th)

7pm – English
9pm – Polish

Christmas Day (Monday 25th)

Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation
8:30am – Polish
10am – English
12pm – Polish

Feast of St Stephen (Tuesday 26th)

9am – English
11am – Polish

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sunday 31st)

8:30am – Polish
10am – English
12pm – Polish

New Year 2024 (Monday)

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9am – English
11pm – Polish

Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday 7th)

8:30am – Polish
10am – English
12pm – Polish

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.

“Be On Your Guard...” Advent Reconciliation Service

There will be a Service of Reconciliation on Tuesday 19th December 2023, at 6pm in St Mary Magdalene's Church. „Stay awake...” and plan a time to attend this important part of the preparation before the Christmas. Fr Piotr Rytel, parish priest from Banff, will lead us through this service and priests will be available for the individual confessions.

As we begin the new liturgical year in the Church we invite all to begin anew with souls nourished from the gift of the divine mercy and forgiveness God has for everyone. „There are people who are afraid to go to confession, forgetting that they will not encounter a severe judge there, but the immensely merciful Father” (Pope Francis).

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 11th December
2nd Week of Advent

Tuesday 12th December
2nd Week of Advent

Wednesday 13th December
Memorial of St Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr

Thursday 14th December
Memorial of St John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday 15th December
2nd Week of Advent

Saturday 16th December
2nd Week of Advent

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