



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'

3rd Sunday of Advent 17th of December 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

In this morning's first readings we are called upon to assume the role of John the Baptist, proclaiming a new way of life, a new kingdom. Who was this John the Baptist? In the Gospel for today we hear him declare that he is not Elijah, not the prophet Moses spoke about, nor is he the anointed one, the Christ. Who was this John the Baptist? The first words of today's gospel tell us everything we need to know about him. He is the one who was sent to give testimony. He was the first one sent to proclaim the presence of the Christ. He was also the first Christian martyr. John was the first one to give testimony to the Truth of Christ among us. He paid with his life for his testimony to Truth. We are called to be like John the Baptist. We have been entrusted with a mission from God. We have been created for a purpose.

We were given God's life at baptism so we can share his life with others. We are his witnesses. We are called to make the presence of Christ a reality in our worlds by giving witness to his presence in our own lives. The world deeply needs our witness to Christ. Look how evident that is right now, just two weeks before Christmas. For many people Christmas has become a pagan celebration. Materialism is their god. All mention of spirituality is rejected. They claim that Christ does not exist, or that if he ever did exist he has lost his impact upon the world. With this as the basis of their lives, they condemn themselves to a life of frustration. Because they reject Christ, they reject his cross and find themselves incapable of putting sacrifice for others before their own selfishness. They demand that all mention of Jesus be taken out of Christmas. They refer to



Christmas as the gifting season. They want the feast of Christ's presence among us to become the exact opposite of the whole reason why God sent his Son. They reject Christ and contort Christmas into a celebration of materialism. Their Christmas models their lives: shallow, empty, meaningless. And they hurt. They hurt because deep within themselves they need this Messiah whose life they have rejected. But where can they find him? The world that has rejected Jesus Christ needs witnesses to His Presence.

The world needs new John the Baptists to point to Jesus. We are called to be these witnesses. We are called to stand up before friends, families, working companions, or maybe just that idle acquaintance and say, "For me, the Life of Christ is more important than anything the world can offer." If this reality is present in the core of our being, the Holy Spirit that is within us will convince others of the truth of our witness. We are called to wear a cross, not just around our necks but imprinted upon our very being. We are called to sacrificial lives, for we recognize the presence of Christ in our families, among our immediate society, and throughout the world. We are called to reverence God in every action of our lives because our commitment to Christ is the whole reason for our lives. The very world that has rejected Jesus

craves his presence. The world that has rejected Christ is made up of the lowly, the brokenhearted, those who are captive to the gods of materialism. They are seeking meaning to life, but they do not know where to find it. We are the new heralds of the Kingdom. We have been sent by God. We are the new apostles. We are the new witnesses.

We are the new John the Baptists, apostles and witnesses. We have a responsibility to the world around us to reflect the presence of Christ. Others need to find Jesus. Others need the testimony of those who are sent by God. We, apostles and witnesses, the new Baptists, will best prepare for Christmas if we spend time determining how we can fulfill our mission of reflecting God's presence in the world. "There was a man named John, sent by God to give testimony to the Light." People whose lives are in darkness are seeking meaning, are seeking light. May our lives lead others to rejoice in the Light of Christ.

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

Fr Bogdan SDS

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of the Lord
has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring
good news to the poor.

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls of all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Eternal rest grant unto their souls, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Advent quotes...

“Sometimes it seems as though we spend our lives waiting. Daydreaming about an upcoming vacation, worrying over a medical test, preparing for the birth of grandchild-our days are filled with anticipation and anxiety over what the future holds. As Christians, we too spend our lives waiting. But we are waiting for something much bigger than a trip, bigger even than retirement or a wedding: We are waiting for the return of Jesus in glory. Advent heightens this sense of waiting, because it marks not only our anticipation of Jesus’ final coming, but also our remembrance of his arrival into our world more than 2,000 years ago.”

Anonymous

“A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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 December 2023 – £597.50

Priest’s Musing

A TV evangelist arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was.

When the boy had told him the TV evangelist thanked him and said, “If you’ll come to the church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.”

“I don’t think I’ll be there,” the boy said. “You don’t even know your way to the post office.”

Pope Francis

Gift Aid Boxes

New Gift Aid envelopes for the year 2024 are now available for collection in the porch. Thank you for your continued support.

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).

“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”

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

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 18th December

3rd Week of Advent

Tuesday 19th December

3rd Week of Advent

Wednesday 20th December

3rd Week of Advent

Thursday 21st December

3th Week of Advent

Friday 22nd December

3rd Week of Advent

Saturday 23th December

3th 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