



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

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

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

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

**PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'**

## 4th Sunday of Advent & The Nativity of The Lord

24th/25th of December 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and The Nativity of the Lord.

The scene depicted in today's Gospel is the scene we usually call the Annunciation, where Mary allowed the Word of God to enter her and transform her from a simple maiden to the mother of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, to the Queen of the Universe.

She was open to the Word of God, and the Word of God used her to transform the world. The what of Jesus, what is he, is human and divine, two natures. But the who of Jesus, who is he, is always the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary said "Yes!" to the Word in her ear and became the Mother of God.

That same Word of God whispers into our ears, yours and mine. He calls us to continue the transformation of the world. He calls us to make the Saviour real to those who long for his presence. Will we reject the Word

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever  
of your love, O Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have  
said be done to me.



and force Him to look for another ear? Will we obey grudgingly and limit His action through us? Or will we make a decision for the Lord, and offer ourselves totally to God? We are here because we have chosen Jesus Christ. We recognize our humanity, our weakness, and we seek strength to remain faithful to this choice.

Mary's great virtue was her obedience. In contrast to Eve, Mary, the New Eve, brought new life, Divine Life, to the world. The Word of God calls us to nurture the presence of Christ within us. The Word of God whispers into our ears and calls upon us to bring this Divine Presence within us to others. We do this by standing up for our faith.

We do this by searching out for those who need His Strength. People who are wandering the world listlessly, from thing to thing, need special care. People who are sick and elderly and wondering if this will be their last Christmas, need the assurance that God's love will usher them an eternal Christmas. What a wonderful time we are living in.

Not just Christmas time. We are living in the time of the Word of God. His Presence is within us. His Presence is around us. His presence is real. He is Real. The Word of God whispered into Mary's ear, and she conceived. The Word of God is shouting into our ears, and we are transforming the world with His Presence. Hail Mary, Full of Grace. Because you let God work within you, we have become the Masterpiece of His Hand.

Have a great Sunday—God bless you all!

Fr Bogdan SDS

**Happy Christmas  
From  
Fr Bogdan  
and Deacon Kris**

## PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul Jim Doogan of 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

17th December 2023 – £862.50.

## Priest's Musing

*Once there were two exceedingly mischievous brothers. Whatever went wrong in the neighbourhood, it turned out they had a hand in it. Their parents were at their wit's end trying to control them. Hearing about a priest nearby who counseled problem children, the mother suggested to the father that they ask the priest to talk with the boys. The mother went to the priest and made her request. He agreed, but said he wanted to see the younger boy first. The priest sat the boy down across a huge, impressive desk. For about five minutes they just sat and stared at each other.*

*Finally, the priest pointed his forefinger at the boy and asked, "Where is God?" The boy looked under the desk, in the corners of the room, all around, but said nothing. Again, louder, the priest pointed at the boy and asked, "Where is God?" Again the boy looked all around but said nothing. A third time, in a louder, firmer voice, the priest leaned far across the desk and put his forefinger almost to the boy's nose, and asked, "Where is God?" The boy panicked and ran all the way home. Finding his older brother, he dragged him upstairs to their room and into the closet, where they usually plotted their mischief. He finally said, "We are in BIG trouble." The older boy asked, "What do you mean, BIG trouble?" His brother replied, "God is missing, and they think we did it."*

## 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!

## Pope Francis Appoints Motherwell Priest As New Bishop Of Galloway

On 22nd December 2023 it was announced, that Pope Francis had nominated Fr. Frank Dougan as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Galloway. He will succeed Archbishop William Nolan who was Bishop of Galloway from 2014 to 2022 when he became Archbishop of Glasgow, since when it has been administered by Fr William McFadden.

Reacting to his appointment, Fr Frank said;

"I am humbled and more than a little bit nervous that Pope Francis has asked me to take on this office. I feel confident however that I will not be alone in spreading the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be joining with every single person in Galloway Diocese all of whom have a role to play, my role being just one of them."

"With God's grace and the deep faith of the Church in Galloway we can continue to build on the solid foundations left by those who have come before us, stretching back to St. Ninian who first planted the seeds of the Christian faith in Scotland here in Galloway."

Fr Frank added; "My mother was from Ayr, and I spent many childhood summers here, so you could say there is a little bit of coming home for me! But most importantly, we must proclaim a Church where everyone can feel at home and welcomed."

## 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 25th December**  
The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

**Tuesday 26th December**  
The Feast of St Stephen

**Wednesday 27th December**  
The Feast of St John, Apostle

**Thursday 28th December**  
The Feast of the Holy Innocents

**Friday 29th December**  
Christmas Octave by date

**Saturday 30th December**  
Christmas Octave by date

**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