



*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'

The Feast of The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 31st December 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. In our natural competitive attitude, we are tempted to look at the Holy Family as an ideal we cannot realize in our families. But, Jesus, Mary and Joseph had their share of struggles. The trust which is fundamental to a marriage was challenged by the pregnancy.

Joseph must have felt terrible when he had to bring his wife to a stable to have the child. Living in a foreign land, Egypt, away from family and traditions, was far from ideal. Still, the Holy Family made it through the difficulties of their family life for one reason only: they had great faith. Joseph had faith in the angel of his dreams and treated the pregnant Mary in an honorable way. He had faith that God would help him protect the child, and he moved the family to Egypt. Mary had faith both in the angel and in God's working through Joseph.

Jesus, having emptied himself of his divinity, had faith in his parents to care for him. The child Jesus didn't need to perform miracles. He had all the miracles he needed in parents who cared for

him. The Holy Family conquered their struggles through their faith-life. This must be the primary concern of our families. What children need is a Christian home. It is in the cradle of a family where a child learns the meaning of love. He or she experiences in a physical and emotional way the feeling of being loved, protected, cared for, treasured.

This is the first step that the child takes in his or her discovery of God, because God is love. The love of the father and mother prepares the child to meet the God of love. In the gentle voice and tender touch of the parents, the child is touched by God. Every time you smile at your child, hold them in your arms, feed them, change their diapers or put fresh, clean clothes on them, comb their hair or wash their face – every time you show them your care and tenderness, you are teaching them about the caring and tender God. The way you interact with one another in your family will be the model you set for all human relationships.

As you show respect, forgiveness, kindness, gentleness and encouragement to one another, you will be fulfilling your role as a teacher of what it means to be human. What a great calling every parent has! You are the first teachers of your children in the ways of faith and love. Every parent has the beautiful and awesome responsibility of setting their children on the pathway to the experience and knowledge of God. But as your children grow in their experience of being loved, you then need to help them come to know what it means to love others.

They will observe how you interact with other people. What you say to your children about love is important, but what you do with your love is even more important. If you as a family cultivate a spirit of welcome towards others, your children will come to know that it is a good thing to open your home and your heart to others. Today's Gospel is acted out almost every Sunday in every parish. Mary and Joseph went to the temple holding Jesus. Simeon and Anna made a fuss. This happens in our parishes also. Couples come in to the church holding their newborn child.



There joy is indescribable. "Look who we have with us," they say before they ever open their mouths. Most priests, like me, make believe they are surprised even though they may have seen the expectant Mom every week. I love seeing the babies, and I enjoy making a fuss. And I love seeing the huge change in the parents who present their first child. One young couple told me something that I know all of you realized when he came home from the hospital with that first child.

They said, "You know, we can't come and go and do the things we did before we had the baby, but we have so much more now. Life was great before, but much better now." Parents, we all love seeing how much you love your children. Please remember: to be the best parents you can be, remain grounded in the Lord. Make prayer a part of your home life. Pray with your children at bedtime and pray for them after they fall asleep. Do your best, and trust God to do the rest. May all our families be Holy Families.

Have a wonderful week— wishing all of you a happy and healthy New Year!

Fr Bogdan SDS

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for
ever.

Gospel Acclamation

At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the
prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.

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.

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!

Collections

24th December 2023 – £563.00.

Christmas: 25th December 2023 – £1652.00.

Feast of St Stephen (Polish Mass)

26th December 2023 – £296.50.

Thank you again St Mary Magdalene Parish cannot do what we do what we do to serve God without your generous support. Father Bogdan

Next Sunday

Second Collection for Justice & Peace

Priest's Musing

Sixteen-year-old Jimmy had just received his driver's license. To celebrate, the whole family trooped out to the driveway and climbed into the car for his inaugural drive. Dad immediately headed to the back seat, directly behind the newly minted driver.

"I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front seat teaching me how to drive," said the beaming boy to his old man. "Nope," came dad's reply; "I'm gonna sit back here and kick the back of your seat while you drive, just like you have been doing to me for sixteen years."

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.

Thank you

Many thanks to all who worked hard to make our parish Christmas Masses worthy and fitting. Special thanks to our organist Eileen Williamson and the ashers. A very sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who offered me Christmas wishes, prayers, cards offerings and gifts. I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year 2024.

Fr Bogdan



1st January 2024

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on 1st January which falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. The Blessed Virgin Mary is honoured as the Mother of God because she conceived and gave birth to Christ, who is the incarnation of God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. It is fitting to honour Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ.

When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Since the first centuries of Christianity, the Church customarily has regarded the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God for a simple, logical reason; by the power of the Holy Spirit, she conceived Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Since the divine Person, God the Son, assumed, or took on, human nature, she is the Mother of God in the fullest since: "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ. The Church solemnly defined this belief at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus AD 431.

New Year Masses

St Mary Magdalene, Perth

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

11am – Polish

Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday 7th)

8:30am – Polish

10am – English

12pm – Polish

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Tuesday: 2nd January

Memorial of St Basil and St Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday: 3rd January

Weekday of Christmas Time

Thursday: 4th January

Weekday of Christmas Time

Friday: 5th January

Weekday of Christmas Time

Saturday: 6th January

Weekday of Christmas Time

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