



*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 Lent 3rd of March 2024

Welcome to Saint Mary Magdalene — we are happy to have you join us today to celebrate The Third Sunday of Lent.

There were people who used the Temple worship to make money. There were and are people who use religion to make money. It is said that a visitor to the Vatican was overwhelmed with the beauty of the Basilica of St. Peters. He asked a priest he saw walking in St. Peter's square, "What did this cost?" The priest answered: The determination to raise money to build the basilica led money grubbing preachers to sell indulgences at a nifty price. In Germany the preacher, Johann Tetzel, promised release from purgatory for buying a dispensation to support the building of St. Peter's. Departed loved ones could be freed.

"As the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory," he and many others like him proclaimed. He even promised release from punishment due to the buyer's personal sin, even sins that the buyer had not yet committed. The indulgence sellers raised quite a bit of money for the building, for themselves, and for all up the ladder to the papal coffers. As you know, the selling of indulgences tipped Martin Luther off.

He challenged the Church on this issue and ninety four others and began what became known as the Protestant Reformation. Northern

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, have a message of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die.

Europe ended up becoming Protestant. Now, do not get the idea that the reformers were so pious and pure in their intentions. Leaving the Roman Catholic Church gave kings, and dukes and earls and counts the opportunity to seize the property of the Church. There were vast monastic lands that supported the local towns and villages. They were taken.

A great deal of money was made by the nobility of Northern Europe in the name of what they called true religion. Jesus knows how people can twist the sacred commands of His Father into a money making scheme. He looks on so many from televangelists to priests who have found ways to make a profit on religion. He sees how some people could transform a valid charity, such as caring for the poor, into an opportunity to make money for themselves. The Lord knows human nature. He sees this. But he also sees so many people who work hard to succeed in an honest way, a way that cares for others, a way that does not take advantage of others. The Lord sees so many so many of you folks who have succeeded the right way, the honest way. He sees how generous you are to those who need help. He sees how you have turned against the instinct to make money on the backs of others.

For so many people Number One is Jesus Christ. When they hear the saying, "Take care of Number One first," they do not see themselves as the reason for their work. They see Jesus Christ present in the needs of their spouse, their children, their families and all those who are hungry, thirsty, or in need of any sort. Jesus cleansed the Temple because people had turned it into an abomination, a marketplace, not a place to worship. The Jews, and by that the Gospel of John means the leaders of the Jewish people, asked him to give them a sign that he is called by God to do this. They wanted a miracle. He responded, "Destroy this Temple and I will raise it up in three days." He was speaking about the Temple of his body that would be raised up in three days after they attempted to destroy him.



They would receive their miracle. It would be an empty tomb on Easter Sunday. The empty tomb. The resurrection of the Lord is a call to faith, faith that there is infinitely more to life than the physical, the here and now.

The empty tomb is a call to the spiritual. It is a call for all who follow Jesus Christ to join Him in eternal life. And so rich and poor alike, and all in between, are called to live only for the Lord. This is difficult for the rich because they have so many distractions from what they really need. This is difficult for the poor because their poverty can lead them to envy others, and to long for that which they really do not need. And it is difficult for all of us because we continually have to reorganize our priorities in life.

The great blessing of the Season of Lent is that it calls us to take a close look at ourselves. How well are you and I living for God? He knows us all. He knows the direction the world tries to point us. And he knows how hard we fight to walk a different way than the way of the world. He knows how hard we fight to walk in His Light. May this Lent guide us in the journey of our life.

Have a great week—Stay safe and well and enjoy the gifts and blessings God has given us. May God bless you always.

Fr Bogdan

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Jimmy O'Donnell, who died recently, and for 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

Sunday 25th February 2024 – £790.00
Votive Candles: £44.00.

Next Sunday 10th March – Second Collection for the Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)

Priest's Musing

A man walks into a bar with a dog. The bartender says, "You can't bring that dog in here." "You don't understand," says the man. "This is no regular dog, he can talk." "Listen, pal," says the bartender, "if that dog can talk, I'll give you a hundred pounds." The man puts the dog on a stool, and asks him, "What's on top of a house?" "Roof!" "Right. And what's on the outside of a tree?" "Bark!" "And who's the greatest baseball player of all time?" "Ruth!" "I guess you've heard enough," says the man. "I'll take the hundred in twenties." The bartender is furious. "Listen, pal," he says, "get out of here before I throw you out." As soon as they're on the street, the dog turns to the man and says, "Do you think I should have said 'DiMaggio'?"

Parish Lenten Retreat

I would like to express my big gratitude to all of you who have been participating in our Parish Lenten Retreat this year. It was a great time for all of us to pause for a moment and meditate about the great Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Reconciliation. We are grateful to Lord God and to Fr Pio for this time of grace as we all journey to the Easter celebration. Thank you for all the confessions you have made and may our Merciful Lord continues to spread His blessings upon us and our Parish Community as we all waiting to meet Resurrected Christ on Easter Sunday.

Fr Bogdan SDS

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2024

– St Mary Magdalene's Church

Sunday 24th March

PALM SUNDAY

8:30am (Polish),
10am (English), 12pm (Polish)

Monday 25th March

9am (English)

Tuesday 26th March

9am (English)

Wednesday 27th March

9am (English)

Thursday 28th March

HOLY THURSDAY

7pm, Mass of the Lord's Last Supper
(English),
Watching ends at 9pm.

Friday 29th March

GOOD FRIDAY

3pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Polish)

Saturday 30th March

**HOLY SATURDAY AT
THE TOMB OF CHRIST**

10am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)
11am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)
12am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)

7pm, Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection
(English)

Sunday 31st March

EASTER SUNDAY

7am (Polish), 10am (English),
12pm (Polish)

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross and the Way of Sorrow (Via Crucis in Latin), detail fourteen different moments on the day Jesus died. This prayer pilgrimage is a powerful way to grow closer to Jesus at any time of the year, though it is most popular during the Lenten season. Station of the Cross during Lent every Friday at 9:30am after morning Mass. Come and join us!

"O Jesus Christ, my Lord, with what great love you traveled the painful road which led to your death – and how often have I abandoned you.

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 4th March

3rd Week of Lent

Tuesday 5th March

3rd Week of Lent

Wednesday 6th March

3rd Week of Lent

Thursday 7th March

3rd Week of Lent

Friday 8th March

3rd Week of Lent

Saturday 9th March

3rd Week of Lent

But now I love you with my whole soul, and because I love you, I am sincerely sorry for having offended you. My Jesus, pardon me, and permit me to accompany you on this journey. You died for love of me, and it is my wish, O my dearest Redeemer, to be willing to die for love of you. O my beloved Jesus, in your love I wish to live, and in your love I wish to die. Amen" (Saint Alphonsus Liguori).

Catholic Families for Life

"Catholic Families for Life" - Latest issue of newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life – download a copy on www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk from 1st March onwards.

Holy Year 2025

In preparation for the Holy Year, a walking pilgrimage from Motherwell Cathedral to St Andrews is being organised. This is a distance of about 110 miles (175 km) and will be walked over 10 Tuesdays starting on the 2nd of April 2024. For more information visit the Holy Year Scotland 2025 page on <https://www.facebook.com/holyyearsotland2025> or email info@holyyear2025.org.uk or contact Jim McKelvie on 07957 847290.

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance meeting

The next meeting of the PPC and Finance Committee will take place in the church porch on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7pm.

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