



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

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 336141

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 Lent 10th of March 2024

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

This Sunday is called Laetare Sunday. The word Laetare is Latin for joy. This Sunday refers to the type of joy that is light hearted. Think of floating for joy. Think of the feeling you experienced when you first held your first child. You were floating for joy. This floating with the joy of the Lord is in stark contrast to the deep, heavy, grief we feel at on Good Friday. When the disciples learned that Jesus had risen from the dead, they were so full of joy that they proclaimed Alleluia in such a way that they were almost hyper-ventilating. This Sunday we are reminded of how much we are loved.

The people of the first reading were suffering. They had been brought into exile by the Babylonians. Their Temple had been wrecked. Their palaces burned. They brought all this on themselves. The reading details how they committed one abomination after another. In exile in Babylon, the Jews were completely helpless. They had no army. They had no political clout. But what they did have was their determination to return to follow God. They became adamant in the practice of their faith. They formed a way of life, a system where they expressed their determination to live for God. And God had mercy on them. They were, after all, his people. He loved them. Before the exile as the Babylonians were gaining power, the prophet Jeremiah had said that although they would be taken into exile, after seventy years the people would be released. And they were.

God did this through a pagan, Cyrus of Persia, who conquered the Babylonians and then sent the Hebrews back to their country to rebuild it and to rebuild their Temple. Imagine the joy, the light heartedness of the Jews as they left Babylon for Judea and Jerusalem. In the second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, we hear that by grace we have been saved. We did not earn salvation. God saved us because He loves us. And this is the main teaching of that Gospel reading we have heard so often. God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. Jesus did not come to condemn us. He came to save us. Jesus is the judge of the living and the dead. Those who are determined to reject His Life will suffer the most terrible consequence, loss of union with God. That is hell.

All the pictures of the tortures of hell like the lower part of Michelangelo's Last Judgement, all the scenes of hell depicted by Dante in the Inferno, and by so many others are trivial next to the loss of union with God. Jesus came to restore our union with God. He called us to walk in the light, His light. Light-hearted Sunday is the Sunday that emphasizes the joy we have when we walk in the Light of the Lord. We really need the reminder that we live in the joy of the Lord. This has been a heavy year. There are wars throughout the world, mostly notably in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza.

I notice that so many of the songs speak about defeating fear. Fear tells us that we are not good enough. This is the negativity fueled fear which the devil uses to incapacitate us. We do not need this type of fear. Our God loves us as a people and as individuals. This is our joy. When we reverence God, we are freed to be all that we can be. St. Irenaeus of Lyon, an early doctor of the church, is credited as writing "The Glory of God is man fully alive." Human beings are the summit of God's creation.

When we reverence the Lord with all that we are, when the fear of the Lord becomes the core of our lives, then we become all God has created us to be. We are fully alive because we are not just physical. We are physical and spiritual. Again, St. Irenaeus, "The Glory of God is man fully alive." And we are loved. We are loved by God. The love of God is deeper than the love a husband and wife have for each other. The love of God is stronger than the love parents have for their children. The love of God is so powerful that it leads us to conquer anything that is attacking us,



outside of us, among us, or within us.

As we come to a deeper understanding of how much God loves us, we experience joy. In fact, we are floating with the joy of the Lord. Laetare. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. He sent him for all of us, and he sent him for each of us. We are loved. Laetare. Float with joy. Be lighthearted and know your God.

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

### 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. 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).

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not!

#### Gospel Acclamation

God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son;  
everyone who believes in him  
has eternal life.

## PRAYERS

We pray for our departed parishioners, friends, and family members 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 3rd March 2024 – £809.00.

### Second Collection today for the Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)

## Priest's Musing

*Jimmy was going off to church one morning with several of his friends. His mother gave him two quarters. "One for you and one for God," she said. As Jimmy walked along, he was flipping a quarter up in the air and catching it, over and over. Finally, he dropped the quarter and it rolled down a sewer. "Oops!" he said. "There goes God's quarter!"*

## SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

**Monday 11th March**  
4th Week of Lent

**Tuesday 12th March**  
4th Week of Lent

**Wednesday 13th March**  
4th Week of Lent

**Thursday 14th March**  
4th Week of Lent

**Friday 15th March**  
4th Week of Lent

**Saturday 16th March**  
4th Week of Lent

## 'Wet Monday' or 'Śmigus Dyngus'

Did you know that Poland has a "soaking people with water" day? Or more correctly, Poland has a "Wet Monday," known locally as "Śmigus Dyngus." This Polish tradition adds itself to other such Polish festivals like Fat Thursday, All Saints Day and the drowning of Marzanna. So here's a quick guide to Poland's Wet Monday, in case you are unaware of what is happening and you end up getting drenched. Wet Monday takes place annually on Easter Monday in Poland where people get water thrown on them. Traditionally guys soak girls on Monday. It is said that if you don't wake up early on Wet Monday, you will be awoken by having water poured on you. This happens all over the country in family homes, universities and flats. The festival dates back a few centuries. Boys would sneak into girls rooms on Easter Monday and throw buckets of water over them while they were still in bed. After that, the boys would spank the girls with pussy willows. In some Polish regions, boys would chant "Dyngus, dyngus, po dwa jaja; nie chcę chleba tylko jaja", which translates, more or less, to "I don't want bread, only eggs." It is also said that the girl who gets soaked the most will be the next one to get married. Easter Monday every year is Wet Monday.

It's a public holiday in Poland and part of the Easter Christian Festival. It is normally around the start of Polish spring. So now that you know all about it, how do you survive this day as a visitor to Poland? First thing, the festival has developed gender-wise, which means it's not only about girls getting soaked. Everyone is now at risk of getting wet, and in some towns and villages they hold fun water fights and competitions. So no matter who you are, or where you might be on Easter Monday, be sure to be ready for it. On that day, don't carry around valuables or electronics. Belongings such as passports, important work documents, laptops and smart phones should not be carried.

You could end up completely soaked with a bucket of water and therefore your belongings will be ruined. Secondly, don't dress up in style. Wear clothes that are less important to you – old and worn T-shirts and jeans, clothes that you don't mind getting wet. Some people might suddenly come out of the bushes with a bucket of water and throw it on you, so it can also be hard to spot even if you are alert. But it's not all doom and gloom, it's only water, and it's only a bit of fun.

**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)

**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