



*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 EASTER 14th of April 2024



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

Now, at Easter time, as we celebrate the new life of the Lord, we, perhaps surprisingly, come upon a Sunday when all three readings reflect upon sin but the reflections of Easter on sin and penance differ from those of Lent. The focus during Easter is not on the evils of sin but on redemption from sin. With the resurrection of Christ, the world has been transformed. We are no longer mired down by darkness, by evil. The world is being restored to God's original plan. He has given us life. He has conquered sin, which is death, so that we may be united to his Resurrected Life.

There are people in our world who do not know this. There are people in the world who have heard about Christ, about religion, about forgiveness, but have not been

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us
as you talk to us.

led to an experience of the Lord's forgiveness. These may be the people of the deep, dark night suffering in the world of prostitution, the sex industry or the drug culture. They are exploited so others can become rich. They see their only option in life being to make the best of a terrible situation or end their lives. These people have not witnessed a transformation of life. No one has brought them the witness of the Resurrection. Perhaps the people in darkness are the people of the lonely home and lonely life. They have worked long and hard to get the most out of the world. Their lives and their houses are full of beautiful things. Now that their dreams have been fulfilled, they realize that they are not happy. They need more to life, but there is nothing left for them to buy. No one has brought them the witness of the Resurrection. Perhaps the people who have not witnessed the new life of Jesus are those who move from one new experience to another.

Commitment is viewed as an antiquated notion, whether it is commitment to other people, to a cause, or even to their own well being. Their lives are continually in flux. Their lives are like a marathon, but one without a finish line. They just keep running and running, mainly running away from themselves. They need someone to give witness to a new way of life, the way of the Lord. "I am not a ghost," the Lord says in the Gospel. "I am real. There is a new and better way to live. Go tell the world. You are my witnesses." We are his witnesses to a new and better life, the life of Christ.

I want to tell you about a wonderful lady I once knew named Rosa Muso. She was ninety years old and a resident of a nursing home when, one Easter Sunday, she learned about the death of one of her sons. She came to Mass the Thursday after Easter. She asked me if I would visit her as soon

as possible. I made it a point to go to the nursing home the next day. Do you know what she wanted to tell me, this ninety year old lady who was confined to a wheel chair, who grieved over her son's death? She wanted me to know that there was a lady across the hall from her in the nursing home who did not have God in her life. Rosa said to me, "Father, how could she live like that? I talked to her. You need to talk to her."

Rosa was a witness to the Resurrection. She was not a theologian, but she understood that life with the Lord is different, transformed. Life without him is meaningless. When confronted with someone living a meaningless life, she, as a Christian, had to do something about it. She had to give witness to God in the world and in her life. There are so many people whose lives are meaningless because no one has given them witness to the new and better and transformed life of the Lord.

They depend on us to give this witness, us, not just in the concept of the Church, but us as each individual reflecting the New Life of the Lord in his or her life. There are people in the world who will accept your witness to Jesus Christ because they have come to know and respect you. They need you to lead them to God. They need you to lead them from a meaningless life. They need you to be a witness to freedom from darkness and sin, a witness to the New Life, a witness to the Resurrection. May we fulfill the mission that Christ gave us when he called us to tell the world that He Lives.

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 SDS

PRAYERS

We pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop-Elect Martin Chambers who died recently and for Marc Blacklock and all those 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 7th April 2024 – £822.00.

Next Sunday our second collection will be for the Organ Fund.



Priest's Musing

A small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness to the stand in a trial—a grandmotherly, elderly woman. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?" She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy. And frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, you manipulate people, and you talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a rising big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you." The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Williams, do you know the defense attorney?" She again replied, "Why, yes I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to baby-sit him for his parents. And he, too, has been a real disappointment to me. He's lazy, bigoted, and has a drinking problem. The man can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him." At this point the judge rapped the courtroom to silence and called both counselors to the bench. In a very quiet voice, he said with menace, "If either of you asks her if she knows me, you'll be in jail for contempt within five minutes!"

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 15th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 16th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 17th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Thursday 18th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Friday 19th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Saturday 20th April
Third Week in Eastertide

Healing Service/ Blessing of the Sick

The next blessing will take place during Mass on 21st April 2024.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for all who face a serious illness or surgery or who are impaired by old age. It is distinct from the "Last Rites," or Viaticum, in which the Church offers Holy Communion as food for the journey to life eternal. One may celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick many times if needed for strength and healing in mind, body and spirit. In this sacrament of anointing, Christ strengthens our faith and bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain.

Our Bishop Elect - Fr Martin Chambers

It is with deep regret and sorrow that I inform you that our Bishop Elect, Martin Chambers, died in his sleep on Tuesday 9th

April. May he rest in peace and may his family and loved ones find consolation in the Risen Lord and the love of family and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto his soul, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Where's Our Joy...?

We know that we cannot simply command ourselves to be joyful. But we can choose where to focus and anchor our lives. We can centre our lives on things that perish and lead to disappointment and grief or focus on the Lord. By turning to God we are also turning to the source of all joy. When we deliberately choose to focus on the Lord, we will find that we will always have a great reason to be joyful. One spiritual discipline that is tremendously helpful in helping us to switch the focus of our lives towards God and joy is prayer. Prayer is not simply talking to God but also an opportunity for God to transform our hearts and minds. Slowly and continuously prayerful life draws us near the rays of divine joy. It transforms our worldview, our perspective of life, self, and God. Prayer helps our spiritual eyes to see and recognize all the wonderful things that God has done for us out of his abundant love. The realization of how much and how deeply we are loved by God feels us with joy. This joy is fundamentally different from simply feeling gladness and happiness, it transcends the realities and circumstances of our lives. It is divine and can't be disrupted by any disappointment and setback we might encounter in life. Then we too can, like the apostle Paul, pray and feel the divine joy every time we do so, in every breath we take, in all our thoughts, in words we utter, in decisions we make and actions we embrace.

Fr Bogdan

**Fr Bogdan and
Deacon Krzysztof
wish you all a
Happy and Holy Easter!**

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