



*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'

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st of April 2024



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

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It's a time to think and pray about vocations, and especially about vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. In the Eucharist Jesus reveals the mystery of who he is. Jesus Christ is the greatest gift that God could have ever given to us. A few Sundays ago we heard that God so loved the world that he gave us his only-begotten Son. Jesus is first and foremost a gift to us.

While on this earth he gave his life for us and in the Eucharist he gives us himself as bread and wine. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we once again receive the greatest gift—Jesus himself. And it is here that the meaning of our life is revealed to us. We are called to become gifts to others. The call to love is precisely a call to become a gift to our world and to all who are in the world. The more we become a gift to the world and

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep and my own know me.

to those in the world, the more we become the person God meant us to become. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus gave himself completely for our sake.

It's very clear when we look at the lives of people who give themselves in love that these people are really themselves – they may suffer and have to endure all kinds of hardships, but they have become the persons God meant them to be. They are fully human and at peace. We can almost see it in their faces. Following our call faithfully and with a strong sense of purpose brings out our full humanity. We easily see this in marriage couples. The married couple who believes in marriage, and in their marriage in particular, has a confidence and peace about them.

They may have many difficulties in life to face, but they gain strength from the sacrament of matrimony to which they have committed themselves. They know they are in the right place and that God will help to carry them through whatever life throws at them. Well, it is also true in priesthood and religious life. The man or woman who is faithful to their call, experiences a feeling of knowing that they are where they should be. Of course, all lives have their difficulties. So do those in religious life.

But we shouldn't get stuck in just looking at the difficulties of such a life. If we did that with marriage, no one would be married. And yet it seems that there is a tendency in that direction today with regard to religious vocations. We are almost afraid to encourage people to seriously explore the possibilities of a religious vocation. It's time to re-capture the nature of a religious vocation as a gift. We have begun to look on such a vocation as a burden. That does a great injustice to this gift from God. Every vocation is a gift given from God. We are

asked to receive it as a gift and, in turn, give that gift back in service to the people of God and to the world we live in. Jesus as Good Shepherd – a calling to bring people into God's family – to nurture, protect, encourage, watch over, take care of. We are called to build a civilization of love.

Pope Francis in his message for today appeals in a special way to the generosity and ideals of young people. Here is a small part of his message: "Dear young people, go to meet Jesus the Saviour! You are able to draw from Him the courage to be His apostles in this particular period of time: the twenty-first century will be how you young people will want it to be and will make it.

After so much violence and oppression, the world needs young people capable of "building bridges" to unite and reconcile; after the culture of man without vocation, men and women are needed who believe in life and accept it as a call that comes from above, from the God who calls, since He loves; after the atmosphere of suspicion and distrust, which poisons human relationships, only courageous young people, with minds and hearts open to high and generous ideals, will be able to restore beauty and truth to life and to human relationships." The first duty of all of us concerning the promotion of vocations is prayer. Today we pray in a special way for vocations, but let us remember to keep this cause in our prayer throughout the year.

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 Jimmy Gallagher 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 14th April 2024 – £718.50.

Votive Candles: 52.50.

Our second collection today will be for the Organ Fund.



Priest's Musing

A cowboy from Colorado skipped church one Sunday to go bear hunting in the mountains. As he turned the corner along the path, he and a bear collided. The cowboy stumbled backwards, slipped off the trail, and began tumbling down the mountain with the bear in hot pursuit. Finally the cowboy crashed into a boulder, sending his rifle in one direction and breaking both legs. As the bear closed in the cowboy cried out in desperation, "Lord, I'm sorry for what I have done. Please forgive me and save me! Lord, please make that bear a Christian." Suddenly, the clouds parted and a beam of light shown down on the bear. The bear skidded to a halt at the cowboy's feet, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together, and said, "God, bless this food which I am about to receive."

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 22nd April
Fourth Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 23rd April
Fourth Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 24th April
Fourth Week in Eastertide

Thursday 25th April
Feast of St Mark
Evangelist

Friday 26th April
Fourth Week in Eastertide

Saturday 27th April
Fourth Week in Eastertide

Foodbank - We Are Moving

Perth & Kinross Foodbank will be moving to new, modern premises in York Place, Perth on Tuesday 30 the April. For further details please see the informational leaflet on the Church noticeboard.

My Good Shepherd

In an ordinary relationship, we pick and choose when, to whom and how much of our life, our past, our true feelings we reveal. We decide which personality traits we project boldly and which we conceal carefully. Revealing too much or at a wrong time, revealing to a wrong person or in a wrong way can make us feel exposed and frightened that they will no longer be able to accept us, that they will not be able to understand, that they might mistreat and abuse our trust. When it comes to our relationship with Christ – the Good Shepherd of our lives – there is nothing we can reveal to him that he does not already know.

There is no dark corner of our minds that is unknown to Him. There is no chapter of our lives, no event, no heartbreak and no joy that Christ does not know about. He knows us on a molecular level of our physical bodies and existence, on a deepest level of our psyche. There are major differences in how Christ knows us versus how others, including our closest friends and loved ones know us. For the Good Shepherd of our souls that knowledge is not merely information, but also an experience. Our sor-

rows and losses, our fears and joy are not only known by God, but also experienced. As our loving parent, compassionate creator and the source of our lives, He feels and experiences our pain and fears just as we do.

The Church and the faithful are the body of Christ and therefore, all our troubles and joys radiate through that body and reach to Christ. Also, God knows us and everything about us not simply because He has that ability as the omnipotent creator of the heavens and earth, but out of pure and unconditional love. The good shepherd is not someone who is hired to look after the flock, instead the sheep belong to him, He knows each by name and is bound to them by a relationship and trust. He is not just any shepherd, but "The Good Shepherd" in the same way as he is "The light of the world", "The Door", "The True Vine" and "The Bread of Life".

The sheep recognize his voice and will only follow him. The Good shepherd is ready to give his own life to protect his sheep. Let us take a hard and deep look into today's beautiful Scripture reading, let us reflect and pray on the immense divine love found in the story, let us open the gates of our souls so the Good Shepherd can enter and show us the way to the green pastures of peace, to his nourishing and healing heart, to the renewed and re-energized life of faith full of Christ's presence and peace.

Fr Bogdan

NORMAL MASS SCHEDULES

Monday - No public Mass

Tuesday-Saturday
9am Mass

Friday
6.15pm Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament
7pm (Polish Mass)

Sunday
8.30am (Polish)
10am (English)
12pm (Polish)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
9:30am (after Mass)
or call to make an appointment

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