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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

5th May 2024



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

The Book of the Revelation of Jesus, begins with seven letters to seven Christian communities. The communities represent all of Christianity. The letters are the framework for the entire Book of Revelation. All but two of these letters condemn the new Churches for watering down Christianity, for restoring pagan practices, for being part-time Christians, etc. The first of these seven letters addresses something that is fundamental to Christianity. This is the Letter to Ephesus. Note now, this is not the New Testament Letter to the Ephesians, but a message from Jesus through the Book of Revelation to all who were making the terrible mistake which was prevalent among the Ephesians. The letter begins by complimenting the Ephesians for their courage and faith. "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance." That term patient endurance refers to suffering for the

faith including martyrdom. The Ephesians are commended for fighting against evildoers and for rooting out false apostles from their community. They are commended for hating the works of the Nicolaitans.

The Nicolaitans were people who tried to water down Christianity saying that Christians could attend and participate in pagan sacrifices and pagan immorality. Still the Ephesians are censured. They are told they are fallen. They are told that unless they change something that is fundamental in what they are doing, the Light of Christ will be removed from them. What is this they are doing? The letter says: "I hold this against you: you have abandoned the love you had at first." You see, the Ephesians were fierce in defending the faith. They were brutal to others and among themselves.

In the name of orthodoxy, they broke charity. That is where they were losing their Christianity. Orthodoxy for the sake of orthodoxy always defeats itself. Orthodoxy only has value when it is founded upon love. In the second reading for today from the First Letter of John, we read: "the person without love has known nothing of God, for God is love." (1 John 4:8) Stern and fierce in their decisions, never considering the pain and grief of the person they censured, the Ephesians were following the rules, keeping the dogmas, but not practicing the faith.

Their community was not reflecting the love of God. They were orthodox for the sake of being orthodox, but in reality they were not Christian. We can look at the history of the Church and see how in certain areas in certain epochs this mistake was repeated. For example, how can we find justification for the Spanish Inquisition, for the pillaging that was part of the Crusades, for the religious wars occasioned by the Prot-

estant Reformation. The love of God was not in evidence in any of this. Still, we, as a community and as individuals, should not be as concerned with history as with our own tendency to repeat the mistakes of the Ephesians.

We have to have rules in our families. Out of love for our children and our teenagers, we have to set guidelines so they can grow, develop, and spread their wings while they are still under our protection. More important than these rules is the reason for their establishment: love. You make rules for your children because you love them. At the same time, we have to be careful that we never allow a rule to destroy love.

For example, saying to a teenager: "You know the rule. You broke it. Now get out of this house." or "You ran off, and now you're in trouble with the law, don't even think you can come home." or "You broke the rules, you are no longer part of this family," these and similar decrees are not the ways Christians should act.

No good was every accomplished by hiding love behind rules. "As the Father has loved me so I have loved you. Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments. This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you." Today's gospel leads us to pray: Lord, help us to be people whose structures as a country, a family, and in all relationships, reflect the presence of your love.

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

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said:

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

PRAYERS

We pray for the repose of the soul of Fatima Alphonsa Mary and Mary Kerr, and for all those who 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: 28st April 2024 – £625.50.

Next Sunday 12th May

- **the Second Collection will be for
The Apostolate of Communications.**

My Dear Parishioners

We have received from HMRC the „Gift Aid” repayment £4,721.64 for the second part of the tax year (October 2023 – April 2024). The Receipts & Payments Reports for the tax year 2023-24 are available in the church porch. Thank you to all of you for the continued support of the parish.

Fr Bogdan SDS

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord *Holy Day of Obligation* Masses - 10am (English) 7pm (Polish)

Say NO to Assisted Suicide

A Bill is presently before the Scottish Parliament, The Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, which will make assisted dying (suicide) legal in Scotland. It would allow anyone, who is 16 years or over suffers from a terminal illness and is mentally competent, to choose to commit suicide, using lethal drugs prescribed by a doctor. Our Bishops are firmly opposed to the Bill, as are the majority of doctors in Scotland. The fear is that vulnerable elderly or disabled patients may feel that they have become a burden on their communities and the NHS and that their only option is to choose to die. Of course the alternative is for the Government to provide better palliative (end-of-life) care facilities, including more hospices dedicated to providing that care. Our Bishops are requesting you to contact your MSPs urging them to reject this Bill and to press the Government to improve palliative care provision. Please show your opposition to this Bill by contacting your MSP, Jim Fairlie – The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP or e-mail: jim.fairlie.msp@parliament.scot.

God could: Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me’ Jesus confirmed the faith of those who worshipped him and taught them that the power they were to receive was a sharing in his own divine Power. The power to forgive sins, and to bring about a rebirth through Baptism is the power of Christ himself given now to his Church. The mission of the Church is to continue always the work of Christ, to teach men divine truths and make known the demands these truths impose, to help men follow God’s way through the grace of the sacraments. He said to them... You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Thus does St Luke describe for us the Ascension in the Acts of the Apostles. He withdrew from their sight little by little. The Apostles remained for a long while, looking up as Jesus ascended majestically until a cloud took him out of their sight. It was the cloud that signifies the presence of God.’ In John Chrysostom’s words: It was a sign that Jesus had entered Heaven. Jesus’ life on earth finished not with his death on the Cross but with his Ascension into Heaven.

It is the last of the mysteries of his life here on earth. It is a redemptive mystery which together with his Passion, Death and Resurrection makes up the Paschal Mystery. It was fitting that those who saw Christ die amid insults, scoffing and mockery on the Cross should see him now exalted. Fr Bogdan

Fr Bogdan

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 6th May
Sixth Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 7th May
Sixth Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 8th May
Sixth Week in Eastertide

Thursday 9th May
Solemnity of The Ascension
of the Lord
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

Friday 10th May
Sixth Week in Eastertide

Saturday 11th May
Sixth Week in Eastertide

Christ’s Glorious Exaltation Culminates in the Ascension.

According to the Gospel of St Luke the last gesture of our Lord on earth was to give a blessing. The Eleven had gone, as Jesus had told them to, from Galilee to the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. On seeing the risen Christ once more they fell down before him as their Master and their God and worshipped him. Now they are much more conscious of what they had for some time believed in their hearts and confessed with their lips: that their Master was the Messiah?

They were delighted and full of joy at having their Lord and their God so near. After the forty days spent in his company they could be witnesses to what they had seen and heard. The Holy Spirit would confirm in them the teachings of Jesus and would lead them to the complete truth. The Master spoke to them as only

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