



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'

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

12th May 2024



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

For the past weeks after Easter we have been hearing gospel readings from one long scene in the gospel of John that on the surface are all about a long goodbye. All these gospels, including today's, take place on the last night that the disciples and Jesus had together, the night before Good Friday. They are still in the same room, on the same evening, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example of how they should live.

But they are still up late into the night talking, and there's unspoken tension in the air, because everyone knows that the next night Jesus will be dead, and nothing will be the same for any of them. The disciples are seeing the end of the only kind of relationship with Jesus they've ever known, and

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and
your hearts will be full of joy.

Jesus is trying to find words that will make it possible for them to keep going. And not only to keep going, but to realize that they won't be without him.

He uses image after image to tell them what it's going to be like, He called himself a vine, and they are the branches, a shepherd and they are the sheep, the bread of life, and they will consume him. And today he says that above all, they will need to leave this room and go back out into the world, they will be soldiers mounting a frontal assault on the world using only love, no matter how discouraging it will be to be part of a world that can be so cruel to all of us. It's a hard sell, convincing these friends that they'll be just as strong and just as persistent with Jesus gone as they were with him, in fact maybe even stronger. But if there's one thing you come away from these scenes with, it's a feeling of what a powerful relationship there was between Jesus and the people he loved so much, his friends, he called them, not his slaves, and on this last night, the only thing he's concerned about is what will happen to them, and of course by extension, if we truly see what's happening here, the only thing he's concerned about is what's going to happen to us.

Because here we still are, all these years later, also with a feeling of being left behind, in a way, in a world that may or may not feel like a place that is our home. It's a world where sometimes it seems like Christians are on the decline, where it seems most people are not looking that hard for Jesus, where there are awful problems and conflicts that can't be fixed. The enormous mess of this world is a great excuse to hunker down somewhere and work on our own business, to be angry or discouraged or just self-absorbed. We can easily set up a private corner of the world and live there busily working on things where we have a comfort

level, or on problems manageable enough for us to handle. But if we start living like that, this gospel stands in our way, doesn't it? Because the message of this reading is that this world is where we belong and where we do our work. We're here not to make the best of a bad situation, to live on an island in the midst of a hostile world, but to be people who love this world, and not just love it in the abstract, but to see it as a place where work needs to be done.

Jesus loved this imperfect world so much, that he wants it transformed over and over. The disciples could have gone back to fishing and tax collecting, but there was work to do, and maybe this talk Jesus had with them actually worked, because as it turns out, even with Jesus gone from their midst, they felt the confident presence of the love of God with them. That is what we want, too. That second reading we heard says that God is love. Not God wants us to love, or God loves us, although that's all true, but that if there's a word that describes what God actually is, why this world exists, love is the closest word. That is what this world needs to hear, that is the only message that will transform this place where we find ourselves.

We've all been left here like the disciples were, but our challenge is to love being here, to love this world. These disciples in the gospel were facing an entirely new life, and Jesus was telling them that despite everything, it would be a life of joy, centered on love. It's available to us, too, if we are willing to leave our little corner of the world and embrace all the rest of it.

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 Susan Riddell, 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 5th May 2024 – £713.50.

Today our Second Collection is for the Apostolate of Communications.

Fr Bogdan SDS

SSVP Bus Trip

St Vincent de Paul Society is sponsoring a coach outing for sick/elderly parishioners of St Mary Magdalene and St John the Baptist for Wednesday 5th June leaving St John's at 1pm. The trip will end with high tea at a suitable location. Anyone interested should add their names to the list in the church porch.

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 13th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 14th May
Feast of St Matthias, Apostle

Wednesday 15th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Thursday 16th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Friday 17th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Saturday 18th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Priest's Musing

A man hailed a cab and when he got in, the cab driver said, "Perfect timing, You're just like Vince." "Who? The man asked. "Vince Sabatini. There's a guy who did everything right. Like me coming along when you needed a cab. It would have happened like that to Vince every single time," the cabbie explained. "There are always a few clouds over everybody," the man said. "Not Vince," the cab driver continued. "He was a terrific athlete. He could have gone on the pro tour in tennis.

He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star." The man replied, "He was something, huh?" And the cab driver went on, "He had a memory like a trap. Could remember everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which fork to eat with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole neighborhood blocks out." "No wonder you remember him," the man said. "Well, I Never actually met Vince," the cab driver added. "Then how do you know so much about him?" inquired the passenger. "I married his widow."

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.

Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has announced for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year. The Pope said: "Dear brothers and sisters, the coming months will lead us to the opening of the Holy Door, with which we will begin the jubilee. I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and to experience the power of God's hope. The Vatican and the city of Rome are expecting an estimated 35 million people to flock to the Eternal City for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope — the first ordinary jubilee since the Great Jubilee of 2000. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church.

It typically takes place once every 25 years, though the Pope can call for extraordinary jubilee years more often, such as in the case of the 2016 Year of Mercy or the 2013 Year of Faith. Jubilees have biblical roots. The Book of Leviticus called for jubilee years to be held every 50 years for the freeing of slaves and forgiveness of debts as manifestations of God's mercy. The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Dec. 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve), and concludes on Jan. 6, 2026. The Holy Doors are a central part of any jubilee. These doors, found at St. Peter's Basilica and Rome's other major basilicas, are sealed from the inside and opened during a jubilee year. The opening of the Holy Door symbolizes the offering of an "extraordinary path" toward salvation for Catholics during a jubilee. Pilgrims who walk through a Holy Door can receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.

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