



Drawing by John R Hume,
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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Rev. Bogdan Palka S.D.S. - Parish Administrator

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

The Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God 1st January 2023

NORMAL MASS SCHEDULES

Monday
No public Mass

Tuesday – Saturday
9am

Friday
7pm (Polish)

Sunday
10am (English)
12noon (Polish)

CONFESSIONS

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Today, as so many in the world celebrate the beginning of a new year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Mother of God. It is the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy. It is also a feast uniquely appropriate to those of us concerned with new beginnings, with new resolutions, and renewed hopes.

On the feast of the Holy Mother of God we see Mary marvelling at what has happened, treasuring the events of Christmas in her memory, and pondering them in her heart. The image is that of the contemplative woman who ponders the marvels the Almighty has done for her and for all people. She ponders in response to what the shepherds said to her.

Those simple, humble shepherds had preached the gospel to her, repeating what had been told to them by the angels, "Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." It is this good news, this gospel, that she treasured and pondered over. The same gospel has been preached to us, and we are invited to treasure it, to ponder on it and to respond to it, as Mary did. Today, New Year's day, is a day when many feel drawn to make good resolutions. What better new year's resolution could we make today than that of adopting Mary's stance before the grace of God?

Today's feast invites us to share in Mary's sense of awe and wonder before God's merciful love, made known to us in Christ, her son. As we look towards the new year, which begins today, we ask Mary to help



us to treasure the gospel as she did, so that Christ might come to others through us as he came to us through Mary.

She is blessed of all women, and we are told in the great Aaronic blessing from the Book of Numbers in today's first reading, that God will smile upon those he loves and who love him, that his face will shine upon them. And today, this New Year's day, we know that the face that smiles upon Mary as she holds him in her arms, presenting Him to His Father in the Temple, is that of her new-born Son Jesus. This is the face we yearn to see, the face of God made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary.

A Happy New Year and every blessing and good wish for 2023!

Fr Bogdan SDS

*Father Bogdan and
Deacon Krzysztof Jabłoński
wish you all a Happy
and Healthy New Year*

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

O God, be gracious and bless us.

Gospel Acclamation

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
of the souls of
all whose anniversaries occur
about this time.

**Eternal rest grant
unto their souls, O Lord.
May they rest in peace. Amen.**

Priest's Musing

One Sunday a parish priest told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to consider giving a little extra in the offering box. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering boxes were passed, the priest glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a £1,000 note in the offering.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the box. A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the parish priest. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the church and said, "I'll take him and him and him!"

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!

Christmas' Collection: 25th December —
£1573.25.

The Feast of St Stephen 26th December
(Polish Mass) – £361.00.

**Next Sunday (8th January)
There will be a Second Collection for
the work of Justice & Peace.**

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 2nd January
Memorial of St Basil and St Gregory

Tuesday 3rd January
Weekday of Christmas Time

Wednesday 4th January
Weekday of Christmas Time

Thursday 5th January
Weekday of Christmas Time

Friday 6th January
Weekday of Christmas Time

Saturday 7th January
Weekday of Christmas Time

From the letter of Archbishop William Nolan...

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We begin this new year praying for peace and justice. As we look around we see a world that is suffering under human mismanagement. We should not question our need to pray nor doubt the power of that prayer - for only God can help us. The present economic crisis means that we are all having to tighten our belts financially. But though all of us are suffering we are not all suffering in the same way or to the same extent.

Those who are better off may have to cut back on some of the luxuries or pleasures of life: a night out or a foreign holiday. But others are now struggling to afford food to feed their family or to pay for gas and electricity to heat their homes. Meanwhile war in Europe continues. The prospect of peace in Ukraine is remote. Syria, Yemen, and Ethiopia are just some of the other long term conflicts where peace is a distant dream.

There is no shortage of these conflicts, nor seemingly any shortage of arms to fuel

them and keep them alive. And refugees continue to arrive on our shores, despite the efforts of government to blockade the English Channel. In a world where, at over 100 million, there have never been so many forcibly displaced persons, the root causes of migration have yet to be tackled. We need to pray for peace and be active in supporting those in need.

Pope Francis says we need to roll up our sleeves and put our faith into practice. And many are doing just that. It is encouraging to see so many parishes involved in supporting food banks for the hungry and in providing warm places for those shivering with cold. And it is commendable that many people pressure those in power to respect the human dignity of all in need: whether it's the poor in our own country, the refugees seeking shelter from oppression, or those in foreign lands whose climate we have destroyed.

Prayer is needed not just to soften the hearts of those in power, but to soften our own hearts also. For when we are worried about our personal financial wellbeing it can be hard to be concerned for others. And when conflicts persist for so long compassion fatigue can set in. Despite the problems that humanity has created and that weigh us down, there is so much goodness in the world, and so many good people showing concern and compassion for those in need.

May our prayer be that God will work with us and through us to bring about the peace and justice for which we all long.

With my prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and just world,

+William Nolan
Archbishop of Glasgow

President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Justice and Peace Commission

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