



*Drawing by John R Hume,
courtesy of Scotland's Churches Trust*

St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 336141

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

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

5th Sunday of Year (A)

5th February 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.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright

Gospel Acclamation

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

We are the salt of the earth. Salt gives flavour to food. Being the salt of the earth implies that as Christians we are to give flavour to the earth – restore it from being flat and lifeless. Besides being the salt of the earth, Jesus also calls us the light of the world. This is the very description that Jesus used of himself. In the Gospel of John Jesus says: I am the light of the world (John 9:5). And so when Jesus describes us in the same way as he described himself, he was demanding that we should be like he is. But this light that we are called to be is a reflected light – a borrowed light.

We are not asked to produce our own light. We must shine with the reflection of the light that is Christ. If it is only our light that we give then we give darkness. We often describe a bride as being 'radiant'. This radiance comes from the love she has received from her husband-to-be and which she is, in turn, giving back to him. We will only be truly lights when we allow Christ's love to enter our hearts and decide to return that love to him. A light is something which helps us to see. Without light we could not carry on any kind of normal life.

We would be constantly running into things, hurting ourselves and others. We would not be able to properly grow and prepare foods. Soon we would die of hunger. Without light we would not be able to carry on life – giving relationships with others. We would have to spend all of our energy coping with the darkness. Light enables us to live and to be in relationship to others. When we live with the light of Christ we have a way out of the darkness.



I would like to conclude today's meditation by drawing your attention to a line in the first reading that you probably missed. Isaiah tells us that we are to share our bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into our homes and clothe the naked. Then we read these words: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.

Does this mean that when we reach out to others in need we in turn will receive healing in our own lives? At times we despair of becoming better than we are. Some habit seems to always be rearing its ugly head. This can lead to a sense of hopelessness about ourselves, but this reading rescues us from that feeling. It tells us that healing comes to us when we give to others. Is it possible that at times we spend too much time trying to overcome a certain wound, when the Lord is asking us to take the focus off of ourselves, and take care of the needs of others? Being salt and light is good for the world, good for the Church, and also very good for ourselves.

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

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently - Kevin Reilly, Mary Porter, Mariusz Garbos, Tomasz Ankiewicz, and John Oswald and for all 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's 29th January – £612.00.

Priest's Musing

After suffering a heart attack and having quadruple bypass surgery, a man woke up to find himself in a Catholic hospital with nuns taking care of him. As they nursed him back to health, one of the nuns asked him if he had health insurance. "No," he replied. "No health insurance." "Do you have any money in the bank?" asked the nun. "No. No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have any relatives you could ask for help?" The man replied, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." At this, the nun became irritated. "Nuns are not spinsters. Nuns are married to God!" "Okay then," said the man. "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

New Dawn in Scotland

New Dawn in Scotland invites everyone to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Dundee, on Saturday, 11th February, 2023. The day will start at 10am with Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Stephen Robson, followed by praise and worship, inspiring talks, testimonies, workshops, reconciliation and an evening healing service, led by two or more priests. New Dawn is a worldwide organisation of laity and priests, whose aim is to share and deepen our Catholic faith.

It is Eucharistic centred, sacramental, Marian and spirit-filled. As we all know,

the world is in great turmoil at the moment, and we as Catholics need to be more than ever firmly rooted in our faith. Come and be refreshed and share with us the treasures of the Catholic church and experience the healing power of Jesus. More information and details are on the posters sent to diocesan churches and on the New Dawn in Scotland website and Facebook.

www.newdawninScotland.com

Responding to the publication of the Scottish Government's 'expert' advisory group on 'Ending Conversion Practices'

Scotland's Catholic Bishops have issued the following statement:

The Church is pastorally sensitive to the experience of people who identify as homosexual. They are to be met with compassion and particular care and support in the challenges that come with all that life brings them. The Church supports legislation which protects people from physical and verbal abuse. The advice of the expert committee, however, seeks to extend the scope of such legislation in a way that is gravely concerning in regard to freedom of religion and expression.

A fundamental pillar of any free society is that the state recognises and respects the right of religious bodies and organisations to be free to teach the fulness of their beliefs and to support, through prayer, counsel and other pastoral means, their members who wish to live in accordance with those beliefs. The conclusions of the Scottish Government's 'expert' advisory group on "Ending Conversion Practices" are gravely concerning. If accepted, legal counsel has warned that they would outlaw pastoral care, prayer, parental guidance and advice relating to sexual orientation, expression of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, other than that which is deemed by the state to constitute "affirmative care".

These proposals, if passed by the Scottish Parliament, would criminalise mainstream religious pastoral care, parental guidance, and medical or other professional intervention relating to sexual orientation, unless it was approved by the State as acceptable. It could criminalise the Church's teaching

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 6th February
Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions

Tuesday 7th February
5th Week of the Year

Wednesday 8th February
5th Week of the Year

Thursday 9th February
5th Week of the Year
Friday 10th February
Memorial of St Scholastica

Saturday 11th February
Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
World Day of the Sick

about God's creation of the human person as male and female and the meaning of sex as within marriage, and that anyone who proposes this teaching to someone with same sex attraction or gender identity issues would face sanctions.

This would apply even if the person with these issues wanted help to follow Church teaching since this law would say they cannot consent to this teaching. Priests could be banned from working in Scotland, the Church could lose its charitable status, and classroom and pastoral teachers could lose their jobs. There would be uncertainty about the future of Catholic schools and children could be taken away from their parents. As the first educators of their children, parents alone have the right to advise and guide their children in such matters.

Moreover, the 'expert' advisory group is unclear what is meant by the term 'conversion practices' and this will create a chilling effect and may criminalise advice or opinion given in good faith. Existing legislation rightly protects all people from physical and verbal abuse, however, these proposals go much further.

In urging the Scottish Government to reject this report, we are drawn to the recent words of Pope Francis who has pointed out: "There is a risk of drifting into what more and more appears as an ideological totalitarianism that promotes intolerance towards those who dissent from certain positions claimed to represent "progress", but in fact would appear to lead to an overall regression of humanity, with the violation of freedom of thought and freedom of conscience."

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