



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

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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'

6th Sunday of Year (A)

12th 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.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice...Before each person are life and death, and whichever we choose will be given." These are the opening words of today's first reading, a reading from Sirach, one of the wisdom books.

The key word in that quotation is choice. Life is a choice. Love is a choice. In fact, love is a decision. Love is a decision. Love is something that we decide to do no matter how we are feeling. This gives us control over our loving because decisions come from our will, the place where we make choices. At times people who love each other lose some of the emotional content of that love. This lessening of feelings can happen for many, many different reasons. It may happen for a little while or, in some cases, could even last for a long while. So during this time when you don't have a lot of loving feelings towards another, what are you to do? The answer is not one that you may like at first, or even understand.

What are you to do? Nothing. Well not quite nothing - at those times you must continue to make the decision to love the other person. Say that your friend or spouse seems emotionally far away from you. Should you respond in kind by creating your own distance from them? You could create that distance by deciding not to be kind or compassionate towards the other. You could withdraw from any real communication. You could stop calling that person, or spend as little time as possible with him or her. These would all be reactions to a perceived coldness on the part of the other. But in terms of real love your reaction is to be one that comes



from the decision making part of yourself. Love is a decision. So instead of withdrawing emotionally from the other, you make the decision to love the other. We acknowledge our feelings. We don't pretend that they don't exist.

We don't say that they are unimportant. But we know that loving is above all a decision. We decide to love even when we don't feel like loving. This is what Christ did. This is what he expects of his followers. Actually, this is the only way to live a human life. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us over and over that we must do the right thing: don't criticize and make fun of one another, be reconciled, forgive, be faithful to our spouses, tell the truth. All of this is possible because love is a decision. This little phrase, "Love is a decision", has given many people a renewed faith in their ability to love another person. On this Valentine's Day, the very best thing you can do for your husband or wife, friend or community, is to renew your decision to love. Then you will be loving as Christ loves you, with a love that is strong and a love that is faithful.

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

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

They are happy
who follow God's law!

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord, your
servant is listening:
you have the message
of eternal life

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently - Kevin Reilly and Kathleen Doogan and for Margaret Small, Cecilia McCoid, Rosina McAdam and 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 5th February – £646.00.
Votive candles: £51.00

Next Sunday (19th February)

2nd Collection for the Ecclesiastical Students Fund.

Priest's Musing

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Diocesan Lenten Day of Renewal and Prayer

This will take place on Saturday 11th March, 2023, the theme being 'Water, Light and Life' focussing on the Initiation Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, at the Pastoral Centre, St Mary's Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, Dundee. Poster and full details to follow.

The Mass of Chrism

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated as usual on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 5 April, 2023 at 7pm in the Cathedral. All are welcome!

Lenten Retreat in St Mary Magdalene's Parish

The Parish of St Mary Magdalene is about to celebrate a Parish Lenten Retreat from 26 February (First Sunday of Lent) to 1 March 2023... a special event in the life of our parish. It is an opportunity to slow down and look at your life; at your relationship with God, with others around you and with yourself.

There are many reasons why people stop going to church or don't go very often. Sometimes people just get out of the habit of going; perhaps they are divorced and remarried and feel unwelcome; maybe they are still afraid about their health after the pandemic time or they are nervous about feeling out of place. Whatever the reason, this retreat will give you the chance to do something about your faith in God.

You are cordially invited to come along for this very special time God is giving us at the beginning of Lent. The parish retreat will be led by Very Reverend Dr Thomas Canon Shields, Parish Priest of St Fillan's Crieff.

Fr Bogdan SDS

Parish Lenten Retreat Programme

'Discovering our true selves in Christ'

Sunday 26th February, 10am
Mass with sermon

Monday 27th – Tuesday 28th, 6pm
Mass with sermon

Wednesday 1st March, 6pm
Penitential Service
with sermon and
individual confessions

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 6th February
6th Week of the Year

Tuesday 7th February
Feast of St Cyril and St Methodius,
Patrons of Europe

Wednesday 8th February
6th Week of the Year

Thursday 9th February
6th Week of the Year

Friday 10th February
6th Week of the Year

Saturday 11th February
6th Week of the Year

Bishops' Conference of Scotland Commission for Marriage and the Family

We are looking to increase the provision of marriage counselling available to Dioceses in Scotland. If you are an experienced counsellor, we offer you an interesting opportunity to broaden your professional practice.

You will be provided with CPD training to help equip you for the role. We would be looking to expand upon a service already used in some areas of the country that supports couples married in the Catholic church and is underpinned by the Christian tradition. Essential criteria: Current registration with a professional counselling body including BACP, COSCA, UKCP or registered equivalent. Hold a minimum of a Diploma in Counselling or equivalent. Have a minimum of 450 client hours (post qualifying) experience. Interested? Please contact us on 07706 063936 to have an initial chat. We look forward to hearing from you.

A Date for Your Diary

The Dunkeld Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage will take place this year from 14th to 21st of July. You can currently place a note of interest with Joe Walsh Tours at <https://joewalshstours.co.uk> and application forms should be in parishes over the next few weeks. If you, or anyone you know, would like more information about our pilgrimage, the services offered by the Dunkeld Lourdes Service (yellow t-shirts) or our medical team please contact Ruth Anne O'Neill on ruthanne@pobox.com or 07801 227443. Thank you very much in anticipation. Ruth Anne

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