

*Drawing by John R Hume,
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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'

7th Sunday of Year (A)

19th 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 Lord is
compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation

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

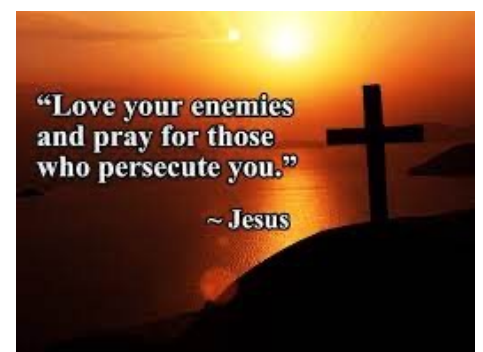
Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Hatred kills. There is nothing earth shaking about that statement. Wars demonstrate this. There are people who hate other people and who do everything they can to eliminate the other people. There are atrocities taking place every day. The innocent, particularly children, die. But we don't have to go so far to find hatred. People are being attacked on our UK highways, in the cities and even in the suburbs all due to hatred.

There two victims of hatred: the person who is physically hurt and the person who hates. The foremost victim of hatred is the person who hates. Hatred transforms a person from a compassionate human being, to a person whose main concern is to seek vengeance on someone who the person feels has wronged them. Life is consumed with the desire for retaliation and reprisal. Maybe this vengeance will not be seen in a physical attack.

It very well may result in a verbal attack or a destruction of another person's reputation. The fact is that the person who hates has transformed his or her life. This person cannot be the loving person Christ called him or her to be. Hatred kills. If God is love, than how can a Christian hate? The Christian who hates is sacrificing Christianity for the sake of the hate. Again, the Christian who hates is the first victim of hate. "But, Father", you say, "I have really been treated poorly by my ex-husband or wife, by my sister in law or brother in law.

Every meeting is a battle with all sorts of nasty things emanating from this person I am supposed to love. How am I supposed to



handle these situation?" Well, we have got to let go of the past. We cannot let the past destroy us. We can still love those who have hurt us. In fact, we have to love them.

Perhaps it was with tongue in cheek that St. Paul tells us and the Romans to love our enemies because it will drive them crazy: "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." (Romans 12:20). What drives them crazy is that it is difficult to respond to kindness with nastiness. Many will continue to try to be nasty, but it isn't easy. Still, the call to love those who hurt us does not mean that we should seek their company so we can endure further hurt.

Sometimes it is just the best thing to have less contact with someone who has caused us bad feelings. The important thing is that we limit our contact not to hurt the other person, but to control the feelings within us which can lead to the destruction of our own lives through hatred. We cannot let hatred kill us.

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 - and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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

Collections

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 12th February – £589.00.

This Sunday (19th February) our second collection is for the Ecclesiastical Students Fund.

Priest's Musing

A shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read "Best deals." He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading "Lowest prices."

The shopkeeper panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop. It read, "Main entrance."

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 6th February
7th Week of the Year

Tuesday 7th February
7th Week of the Year

Wednesday 8th February
ASH WEDNESDAY

Thursday 9th February
Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Friday 10th February
Friday after Ash Wednesday

Saturday 11th February
Saturday after Ash Wednesday

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 Crief.

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

Ash Wednesday - February 22nd, 2023

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer and comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head.

The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass. It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate.

Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. Have a fruitful Lenten time.

Ash Wednesday Masses and Stations of the Cross

22nd February 2023

10am (English)

7pm (Polish)

Station of the Cross during Lent every
Friday at 9.30am after morning Mass

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