



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'

1st Sunday of Lent (A)

26th 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

Have mercy on us,
O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 1st Sunday of Lent.

When we are not really aware of life as it is, we can find ourselves in serious trouble. This is what temptation is all about. Temptation is the attempt to convince us that something is not what it seems to be. The serpent in today's reading from Genesis knew that only too well. We read that, "The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made." He very cleverly convinces the woman that she doesn't need to pay attention to God's words about not eating from the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."

But the serpent says, "No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." The serpent has convinced the woman that reality is not what she thought it was. And so she takes the fruit and eats it, and so does the man. This is the success of temptation: convincing someone that they were not seeing clearly. The serpent gives the woman a new way of seeing her surroundings. She then acts out of that new vision. But the result is death. This is exactly how temptation works in our own lives. There is something we want to do.

The idea is there in our minds, but we know it is against what we hold as a value. At this very beginning of the season of Lent, we are asked to once again look at the reality we have taken on in our lives. Are we living in God's world, or in a world we have created for ourselves? One of the things that leads us into creating a world of our own truths is isolation. The more isolated we become, the easier it is to make up a world according to our own tastes. When we separate ourselves from the community, we can find ourselves in very dangerous and deep waters. When we find



ourselves making difficult decisions without consulting anyone, we should be asking ourselves why. Why am I keeping this part of my life a secret? Why am I not seeking the advice and counsel of others in this matter?

Is it because I am afraid they will remind me of how life really is? It seems that the serpent wanted to talk to the woman alone, instead of with the man present. Did the serpent know that it would be easier to convince one of them if the other were not present? Perhaps. At the beginning of Lent, many of us are wondering what we should be doing. Well, if we returned to a vision of life that comes from the Gospel and the Church, instead of just from our individual selves, we would be doing just what the Lenten season is about. Lent should be a time of renewal, of awareness, of awakening. I pray that we will all succeed in putting away our illusions and come to re-discover the truth of what life is all about.

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 Alan Cameron and Anthony Martin 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 19th February – £636.50.

Second collection for The Ecclesiastical Students Fund – £242.50.

Priest's Musing

A meat counter clerk, who had had a particularly good day, proudly flipped his last chicken on a scale and weighed it. "That will be £6.35," he told the customer. "That really is a little too small," said the woman. "Don't you have anything larger?"

Hesitating, but thinking fast, the clerk returned the chicken to the refrigerator, paused a moment, then took the same one out again. "This one," he said faintly, "Will be £6.65." The woman paused for a moment, then made her decision. "I know what," she said, "I'll take both of them!"

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 27th February
1st Week of Lent

Tuesday 28th February
1st Week of Lent

Wednesday 1st March
1st Week of Lent

Thursday 2nd March
1st Week of Lent

Friday 3rd March
1st Week of Lent

Saturday 4th March
1st Week of Lent

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

Important Memorials

Memorials can be dedicated in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion—birthdays, anniversaries, living and dead etc... or for your own special intention by ordering a Holy Mass. Offering a stipend for a Mass intention is a way of contributing to the upkeep of your priest. It is a donation. Thank you for all your orders!

Stations of the Cross

On Fridays during Lent there will be Station of the Cross after morning Mass at 9:30am

SCIAF Boxes

Our Lenten appeal for 2023 focuses on families in Kabwe, Zambia and the effect hunger has on their daily lives – and their futures. Wee Boxes for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund are available at the back of the church for your Lenten Alms. Please take on home today – and return it to the church on Holy Thursday. Thank you for your continued care and compassion!

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 18th April 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

A Big Welcome to Canon Thomas Shields

Today, with great joy, we welcome the Very Rev. Dr Thomas Canon Shields as he is coming to St Mary Magdalene's Parish Community to lead us through the Parish Lenten Retreat. Thank you Canon Tom for being with us and we wish you to feel comfortable in our Parish Family.

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