



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'**

## 3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

### 12th March 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 3rd Sunday of Lent.**

The Gospel writer, St John, points out that it was noon when the woman came to draw water. What is so significant about that fact? The commentators point out that because of the heat of the day, women usually came for water in the cool of the evening. But, to avoid meeting any of the other women, the Samaritan woman came to the well at noon.

She was looked down upon by the other women because she had had so many men. It seemed that her addiction to affection had isolated her from the other women in the community. But John also sees her as a very thirsty woman; not just thirsty for water, but for some real love in her life – thirsty for some real meaning. She had searched for this love and meaning but had only found men who would stay with her for a while and then move on. And yet having gone through four men, she was now with a fifth. She was a very thirsty woman indeed.

Jesus knows her heart as he knows ours. He sees our desires and our seeking. He knows how thirsty we are. But do we know how thirsty we are? There are different kinds of spiritual thirsts. There is the thirst we have for God when we are in some kind of trouble and desperately need God's help. There's the thirst for something more in our lives--this kind of thirst is always there, usually in the background of our lives.

There is the thirst that comes when we have tried all the unsatisfactory means of quenching our basic thirst. This is a thirst that will not be quenched by anything less than God. This kind of thirst is most like the thirst we feel in the desert. The Samaritan woman would have left the well with full buckets and an empty heart if she had not listened to her inner thirst. When she came face to face with God-made-human, she had the openness to listen to him. She finally recognized what her nagging need really was – nothing less than a need for the divine. Our Lenten journey should have something of the desert about it.

This is a time to allow the deep inner longings of our heart to rise to the surface. Don't drown them out with too much shopping, sports, entertainment, work, eating, drinking, television, busyness. Allow yourself to be in the Lenten desert where you can feel your thirst--the deepest thirst that is within you. This is not an easy thing to do.

Our first inclination when we feel uneasy is to do whatever we can to take that uneasiness away. So what can we do with these deep desires? The first and most important thing is that we allow them to rise up within us. When our hearts are empty, hungry or thirsty, just stay there and feel those deep feelings. Don't let them frighten you into some senseless activity. Be still. Let these desires lead you to God as the Samaritan woman did. We will not die of thirst.

God has promised this. In fact our thirst may lead us to life – the life that comes from a deeper awareness of God's presence in all the details of our lives – the life that comes from knowing we are made for God and nothing less than God can deeply satisfy 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**

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice:  
'Harden not your hearts.'

#### Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are really the Saviour of the world;  
give me the living water  
so that I may never get thirsty,

## PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen O'Donnell who died recently and for Margaret 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!

Sunday's 5th March – £660.50.

**Next Sunday (19th March) Second Collection for: Papal & Episcopal Charities.**

## Priest's Musing

A huge explosion occurred in a gunpowder factory, and once all the mess had been cleared up, an inquiry began. One of the few survivors was called in to make a statement. "Okay Simpson," the investigator said, "you were near the scene—what happened?" "Well, it's like this. Old Charley Higgins was in the mixing room, and I saw him take a cigarette out of his pocket and light up."

He was smoking in the mixing room?" the investigator asked in stunned horror. "How long had he been with the company?" "About 20 years, sir." "Twenty years in the company, then he goes and strikes a match in the mixing room? I'd have thought it would have been the last thing he'd have done." "It was, sir."

## 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

## Friday 17th March Feast of St Patrick



## SAINTS DAYS

Monday 13th March  
3rd Week of Lent

Tuesday 14th March  
3rd Week of Lent

Wednesday 15th March  
3rd Week of Lent

Thursday 16th March  
3rd Week of Lent

Friday 17th March  
Feast of St Patrick

Saturday 18th March  
3rd Week of Lent

## Great Lent – Forgiveness

There is an interesting Spanish story about a father and his son. Because of some issues, they became alienated and estranged. After some time has passed, the father, perhaps realizing the emptiness of his life without his son or possibly missing him, sets out to find and reconnect with him. He searched for his son for months. He searched for him everywhere but was unable to find him. In a last desperate effort to find his son, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper.

The ad read: "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your father." To his surprise, eight hundred "Pacos" showed up on Saturday, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers. Everyone needs forgiveness. Forgiveness is one of the most essential building blocks of life and every relationship. Without forgiveness, we can not build or sustain any form of relationship. Marriage, friendship, and every other form of human relationship depend on our ability to forgive. In his book "No Future Without Forgiveness"

Nobel Peace Prize-winning author, archbishop Desmond Tutu argues that human society and civilization are simply impossible without forgiveness. Forgiveness is universal and essential for being fully and wholly human. There is a lot of talk about the need for forgiveness in our society. In a secular perspective, it is often portrayed in two ways: a. an internal and therapeutic process that helps us gain closure and healing, or b. as an external and transactional process of justice where we grant and extend forgiveness when we feel ready, the individual in question earned our forgiveness or suffered far and long enough, or when justice was served in some way or another.

Forgiveness has an equally important role in our faith. But an amazing dimension of forgiveness emerges when we view it within its spiritual context, one where the two secular views of therapeutic healing and justice are beautifully merged, one where forgiveness is not self-centered or transactional, one which is revealed most clearly and brilliantly in our redemption through divine forgiveness through the crucifixion of Christ. God did not grant us forgiveness through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ because He needed to find closure and healing, nor did He do so because we earned his forgiveness in any way or because justice was served. He did it out of his abundant love. Forgiving not because of justice, revenge, personal healing, or gain but in the name of love for God and humanity, forgiving because He forgave us first and taught us that only by doing so can we truly achieve both – healing and justice in our lives.

**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