



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'

5th Sunday of Lent (A)

26th 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 5th Sunday of Lent.

Most of us like it when we get something new. It could be a new car or a new house; or even just a new coffee pot or piece of music. We're pleased and happy when we have new things in our life. This fascination with newness goes beyond things we can see and touch. It also applies to new friendships, a new day, new jobs, new opportunities, new chances. If we ever came to a point in our lives where there was no possibility of ever experiencing something new, we wouldn't be very happy. We need to know that newness is always possible.

Today's readings talk directly to that need but, of course, in a much more profound way. The newness that we find in our Scriptures today goes to the heart of our fears and hopes. The reading from Ezekiel is a prediction of the renewed vitality of the chosen people. The Israelites had been taken out of their own land and subjected to slavery and hardship. It was as if they were dead. If any people needed a hope of newness, it was the Jewish people in their captivity. Through the prophet Ezekiel, they hear the promise of freedom and a new life for their nation.

And in our Gospel, Lazarus is given a second chance at life as Jesus raises him from the dead. Our God is a God of newness and of unlimited possibility. When we profess our belief in God, we are saying that we believe that God can do all things. God can take our broken, darkened, shat-

tered lives and make them into magnificent, light-filled and life-giving lives. During Lent, we are asked to nurture this image of God. Lent should be a springtime in our spiritual lives – a time to consider the many ways that God can bring new life into our lives.

The Scriptures tell us that with God all things are possible. If we deeply believe those words, then we will live with hearts filled with hope that our lives can be different. We will welcome new opportunities and will have the courage to allow newness into our lives. So many people see road-blocks as dead ends in their lives.

Whenever some difficulty comes along, they throw up their hands and say nothing can be done. We call this attitude 'fatalistic'. It means that life is just the way it is. And that we can't do anything about it. It's kind of the "whatever will be, will be" attitude. On the other hand, if we see God as one who can create absolutely new things, who can bring life out of dry bones, and make deserts into places of lush greenery and flowing water, then we will see life differently.

We will not surrender ourselves to whatever disappointments and frustrations come our way. It doesn't mean that we will not feel the effects of the darkness that enters into our lives. But it does mean that we will not surrender to the darkness. God can reverse the darkness. Jesus reversed the death of Lazarus. He brought him forth into life and then proclaimed, "Untie him, let him go free!" Our God is a God of newness and possibility. May our faith in God deepen as we approach the feast of new life.

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

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord: whoever believes in me will never die.

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
the souls of Ian McCann and
Margaret Conway who died recently
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

Collections:

Sunday's 19th March – £620.00.

Collection for

Papal & Episcopal Charities - £246.00

Priest's Musing

Jimmy, a devout Christian, was in the hospital nearing his death. His family called their parish priest to stand with them. As the priest stood next to the bed, Jimmy's condition appeared to worsen and he motioned frantically for something to write on. The priest lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Jimmy used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, and then passed away.

The parish priest thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket. At the funeral, as he was finishing the eulogy, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Jimmy died. He said, "You know, Ol' Jimmy handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing him, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all." He opened the note, and read out loud, "Hey, you're standing on my oxygen tube!"

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.

Foodbank

Thanks to all parishioners who responded to the recent appeal for donations to the foodbank. The response was most encouraging. Demand has been high over the Christmas period and is expected to remain so during the current cost of living crisis. The following items are urgently required – Tins of fruit, tins of tomatoes, tins of potatoes, jam, sweets/crisps, toilet rolls, small laundry powder/gel, long life juice. Any donations would be much appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Like many others, members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul at St Mary Magdalene have been concerned about how the recent rises on electricity and gas prices have adversely affected the poorer members of our community. In collaboration with Perth & Kinross Foodbank, we have set up a scheme to provide electricity/gas vouchers to families in Perth & Kinross who access the Foodbank services and who use a pre-payment meter. These families are provided with a voucher worth £30 which can be redeemed at the Tulloch COOP store, with the costs being met by the Society. To date over 50 families have been helped in this way. The scheme will last until the end of April, but may be extended depending on need. If you would be interested in joining the Society and helping with its works of charity, please let Father Bogdan know. We would be delighted to welcome you into our Society.

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 27th March
5th Week of Lent

Tuesday 28th March
5th Week of Lent

Wednesday 29th March
5th Week of Lent

Thursday 30th March
5th Week of Lent

Friday 31st March
5th Week of Lent

Saturday 1st April
5th Week of Lent

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Fr David Borland is organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during the October school holiday this year. The total cost of this pilgrimage will be £1,128 plus the cost of the approximately £600. We will see: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Mount Tabor, Tiberius, Capernaum, Jerico, Tabgha, Beatitudes, River Jordan. If you would like to book your place on this pilgrimage please visit: www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage.

If you have any questions about the pilgrimage please contact: david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2023

**Sunday 2nd April
PALM SUNDAY**

Masses at 8:30am (Polish),
10am (English), 12pm (Polish)

Monday 3rd April
Mass at 9am (English)

Tuesday 4th April
Mass at 9am (English)

Wednesday 5th April
Mass at 9am (English)

**Thursday 6th April
HOLY THURSDAY**
7pm, Mass of the Lord's Last Supper (English),
Watching ends at 10pm

**Friday 7th April
GOOD FRIDAY**
9am, Morning Prayer
3pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Polish)

**Saturday 8th April
HOLY SATURDAY AT
THE TOMB OF CHRIST**
9am, Morning Prayer
10am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)
11am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)
12am, Blessing of the Food (Polish)
7pm, Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection (Eng)

**Sunday 9th April
EASTER SUNDAY**
Masses at 7am (Polish), 10am (English),
12pm (Polish)

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