

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'

4th Sunday of Lent (A)

19th 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 4th Sunday of Lent.

Most of us have blind spots, presumptions, ideas and perceptions that we don't even think about changing. These blind spots are major roadblocks in our spiritual journey. They can cause untold harm to others and to ourselves. Even a quick reading of today's Gospel shows us in a graphic way how blind the Pharisees were to Jesus and to his work. These religious leaders were leading people into the darkness, not into the light. They had become so smug and sure of themselves that they were not able to recognize Goodness itself as it was shown to them in the person of Jesus. They were as blind as a person could be.

Any blind spots that we possess are there because we have developed them. This development was not done at random. We carefully chose our blind spots to protect us from something that is perceived as a threat. The Pharisees refused to see the power and goodness of Jesus. Their blind spot protected them from having to give up any of their authority or power. We are presented with this Scripture today so that we might be inspired to take a closer look at those areas of our lives that we have blocked off from God and from others – even from ourselves. But there seems to be an in-built problem here. If I am blind, but don't recognize my blindness, how can I move towards the healing of this blindness? Blind spots are usu-

ally created around our fears. If there is something that we need to protect from outsiders, then we conveniently fail to see the reality that threatens us. Prejudice is a blind spot. We think that those who are different from us are a threat to us, and so we develop a distance from them. We come to fear what they will do to us. You can see that our blind spots are not rational. They come from a fear. This is why you can't argue a person out of their blindness.

They are emotionally unable to listen to you. Only conversion works to help people see. But to be converted we must be open to receiving new sight. This is why prayer can be the first step towards sight. In prayer we open ourselves to God working within us. If in our prayer, we sincerely and continually ask God to reveal those parts of ourselves that we refuse to look at, we can be sure that God will answer our prayers. There is one clue to our blindness that we would do well to be aware of. That clue is anger. Now it's true that there are many reasons for anger, some good and some bad. If we become angry because an injustice is being done, we are not doing anything more than Jesus himself would have done.

But, if we are honest, most of our anger is not provoked by injustice. We are often angry because someone has threatened something that is personal to us -- whether that personal thing is a possession that we cherish, or an idea that we cherish. So it's important for us to pay attention to our anger. So our anger is the first place we must look as we search for our blindness.

If you discover a pattern to your anger, you may also have discovered your main blindness. In the reading from Ephesians we are urged to come out of the darkness: Live as children of the light -- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ...Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord...everything that becomes visible is light." May the Lord bless all of us with new discoveries and new sight.

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

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
anyone who follows me
will have the light of life.

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
of 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 12th March – £768.00.
Shrine Candles – £36.00.

**Today Sunday's Second Collection is
for the Papal & Episcopal Charities.**

Priest's Musing

How long did Cain hate his brother?
As long as he was Abel.

**What kind of man was Boaz before
he married Ruth?**
He was Ruth-less.

**Which area of Palestine was espe-
cially wealthy?**
The area around Jordan ... the banks
were always overflowing.

**Why didn't they play cards on the
Ark?**

Because Noah was standing on the
deck.

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 metre. 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 20th March
Solemnity of St Joseph,
Spouse of the Virgin Mary

Tuesday 21st March
4th Week of Lent

Wednesday 22nd March
4th Week of Lent

Thursday 23rd March
4th Week of Lent

Friday 24th March
4th Week of Lent

Saturday 25th March
4th 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, Tiberias, Capernaum, Jericho, Tabgha, Beatitudes, River Jordan. If you would like to book your place on this pilgrimage please visit: www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage.

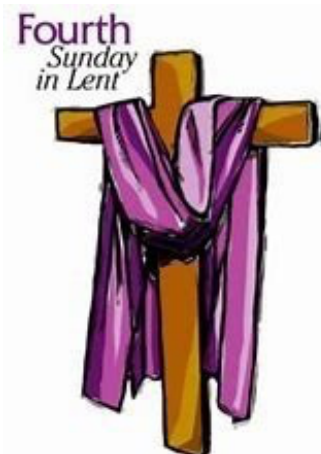
If you have any questions about the pilgrimage please contact: david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Reflection

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose". (Romans 8:2)

A divine invitation into cooperation, a relationship and a friendship founded on love, a calling and purpose in life. One short sentence packed with so much beauty and depth. Romans 8:28 is like a closing chord of a grand opera vibrating with million sounds of the orchestra, singers and a choir. Faith, work and life founded on the love for God transforms them into a ministry for "God works for the good" through which Christ transforms and forges and shapes his kingdom in our fractured and wounded world.

Life and faith founded on the love for God is not a mere chain of events, an instinct to survive and to get along, build safety and security in a brutal and cold world, but a joyful calling, purpose-driven life, bright and beautiful experience of living in the presence of God.



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