

*Drawing by John R Hume,
courtesy of Scotland's Churches Trust*

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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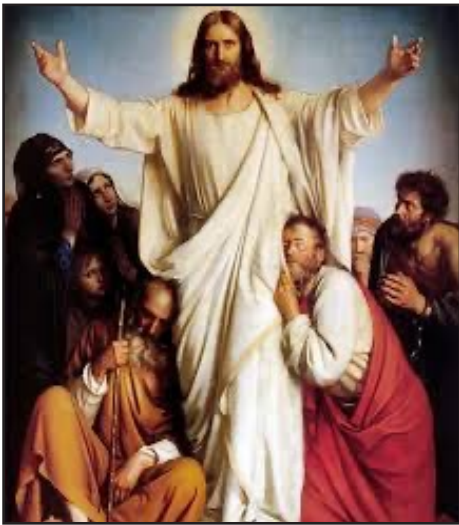
Rev. Bogdan Palka S.D.S. - Parish Administrator

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER,

7th May 2023



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

In today's second reading Peter talks about rocks. He first says that Jesus is a stone, a rock, but not an inanimate mineral. He says that Jesus is a living rock. How can a rock be alive? That must have seemed absurd to the people who first heard or read this. Peter makes an even seemingly crazier assertion: not only is Jesus a living stone,

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

May your love be upon us,
O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said:

"I am the Way, the Truth,
and the Life.

No one can come to the Father
except through me.

but his followers are also called to be living stones. What does Peter mean by this? Or, more properly, what is the Holy Spirit saying through Peter? When Peter called Jesus the living stone, he particularly referred to the cornerstone of the building, the stone that unites all the other stones. We are called to be living stones, not inanimate pet rocks, but stones that unite all other stones together to form the Building of the Lord, the Church.

We are not just pet rocks. Nor are we any old rocks laying on the ground. We are living stones. We have Dignity. We have received dignity from the Lord. We are the building that is the church. It is in recognition of our dignity that Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a special place for them.

They, and all his disciples, would have a place in the Father's house. "There are many rooms in my Father's mansion," the Lord says. There is a place for each of us, recognizing our individuality. Just think about that. God has a special place reserved for you and for me. We each have a door with our names hung over it. That special place, the heavenly court of God, is there waiting for us. What will it be like? We certainly will not be sitting on clouds playing harps for all eternity.

Boring. We only know that it will be better than our fondest expectations: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," we read in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 2:9. We do not know what heaven is like, but we do know what is required for us here on earth. We are to be living rocks. Like our Lord our lives have to be intertwined with all those around us.

The cornerstone connects the walls of a building. It supports the walls. We have to be people who connect others to God. We have to be people who support others. In the beginning of the second read-

ing we are called precious in the eyes of the Lord. We are invaluable. We are cherished. We are highly esteemed. We are loved. We are not pet rocks. We are precious stones. Why? Why does God love us so much? Is it because of something that we have done? Why are we so precious to Him?

He loves us for whom we are, unique reflections of His love in the world. He loves us because He sees in each of us the love He has for his Son, Jesus. Jesus is the rock that has been rejected by the world but has become the cornerstone of the New World. We are the living cornerstones. The Church is the building of the spirit of God.

We are the Church. Jesus is the great high priest who was rejected by the status quo and thrown out of the Temple. He was crucified outside the city. We are rejected by the intellectually arrogant atheists who control so much of our media and society. We are thrown out of the City of Man and laughed at as naive remnants of an ignorant age. But we remain here in the City of God.

We are a holy priesthood, people carrying on the priestly ministry by making God present to others and others present to God. Jesus is the Light of the World, the one who dispels the darkness of sin. We are the people of the Light. We are called to bring hope and light to a world living in fear and darkness. And we are precious. Precious to our God and precious to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

What dignity we have! We have the dignity of Jesus Christ. We need to walk through this world with our heads held up high. We cannot be pet rocks that really do nothing. No, we are called to be the living stones of an eternal home.

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
the souls of Susan Riddell
and Catherine Fraser
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 appreciated!

Sunday 23rd April 2023 – £670.50

**Last Sunday's Second Collection for the
Apostolate of Communication raised
£206.50.**

Priest's musing

While driving along with her husband and young son one day, a woman saw a teaching opportunity. "What does a red light mean?" she asked. "Stop," the boy replied.

"Good. How about green?" "Go." "And yellow?" she continued. The boy paused for a moment and looked at his father. Then in his best deep-voice impression, he bellowed, "Hang on!"

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!

Bishop's Retirement Mass

Sorry to say that due to Bishop Robson still convalescing after his surgery, it is necessary to postpone the Mass scheduled for Thursday 11th May at 7pm. Mass will be rescheduled in due course. I ask you to keep Bishop Stephen in your prayers.

Fr Bogdan SDS

Church Heating – Second Collection

It has been apparent for some time that the church heating system was in need of an upgrade. A heating engineer was recently engaged to carry out an inspection of the system. His report identified that improvements were required, namely the removal and replacement of faulty radiators and the installation of a thermostat and timer. The engineer reckons that this should result in more efficient heating and a reduction in running costs. The cost will be just under £4500(inclusive of VAT). A collection to help with the cost of the works will be taken on 14th May and will replace the special collection scheduled for that date. Ivan Carnegie (Fabric Convenor).

Foodbank

Thanks to all parishioners who responded to the recent appeal for donations to the foodbank. The response was most encouraging. The following items are urgently required – tinned soup, tinned vegetables, tinned of potatoes, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, small laundry powder/gel. Any donations would be much appreciated.

Pope Francis appoints a new Papal Nuncio for the UK

Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Reacting to the recent announcement that Pope Francis had appointed His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, the President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, Bishop Hugh Gilbert said: "I offer a warm welcome to Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and look forward to welcoming him to Scotland in due course. I can assure him

of the promise of our prayers as he takes up his important post." Archbishop Buendía succeeds Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, was named prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches on 21 November 2022. He entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in July 1987, serving in diplomatic missions in several countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, Morocco, Nicaragua, Egypt, Slovenia and Ireland. Archbishop Buendía was born in Madrid on 19 November 1955, he studied philosophy and theology at the Conciliar Seminary of Madrid before being ordained a priest for the Archdiocese on 26 June 1980.

NORMAL MASS SCHEDULES

Monday

No public Mass

Tuesday – Saturday

9am

Friday

7pm (Polish)

Sunday

8.30am (Polish)

10am (English)

12noon (Polish)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

9:30am (after Mass)

or call to make an appointment.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 8th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 9th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 10th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

Thursday 11th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

Friday 12th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

Saturday 13 May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

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