



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

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**PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'**

## 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER,

### 14th May 2023



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

The Holy Spirit has been given to us by the risen Christ to be our comforter. The word that is translated as Advocate has many different shades of meaning. It can mean intercessor, witness for the accused, defence attorney, best friend and comforter in distress. So when we hear the word, "advocate", our first thought should not be of a lawyer. If we think of the Holy Spirit as a lawyer, then does God the Father become

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said:

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

the judge? We end up by having one member of the Trinity pleading a law case before another member of the Trinity.

This just doesn't make much sense. It seems more appropriate to think of the role of the Holy Spirit more in terms of a compassionate friend--one who is there, always there, when we need such a friend. Jesus tells us that he will not leave us orphaned. The Spirit is always with us. Imagine always having a friend, a compassionate friend, with you.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, you would never be alone. That person would always be there, always at your side--in fact, always ON your side. This is the gift that Jesus promises in today's Gospel. We have a deep need to know that we are not alone in our troubles. There is an old saying that tells us that a sorrow shared is cut in half.

When we know that someone else is present to us in our time of need, then we feel so much better. No, the suffering doesn't disappear and the problem is not magically solved, but things seem different to us. Even though our burden is not taken away, it is lessened. It is lighter. In our day there are thousands upon thousands of people using the twelve-step program that was developed by Alcoholics Anonymous.

These people do not have a drinking problem, but they have discovered a deep spiritual wisdom in the twelve steps. The first three steps can be summarized briefly in this way: I can't. God can. I think I'll let God do it. There is a deep trust and a surrender asked for in these first three steps. I can't, God can, I think I'll let God do it. The Spirit wants to help to struggle alone with any human difficulty, no matter how severe it may be.

Of course, we all know that there is a bit of a problem here. If the Holy Spirit is always with us, then why don't we always feel his presence? We must remember that we are living a life of faith - a life of trust

in God. We can't expect to experience God without doing some work on our part.

If we never pray, read spiritual writings, think about our faith, give time to God, then it is unrealistic to expect that we are going to be conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Prayer itself can be a difficult task because it requires faith. But a life of faith without a life of prayer just doesn't make any sense. In fact, it just doesn't work. We have to be clear about one very important thing: there is a difference between our emotional reaction to this notion of comfort and the way we are comforted through our faith.

At times, we may receive the emotional comfort of God - we actually feel the consolation of God - we, as it were, don't even have to appeal to the blind side of our faith because we can feel the warmth of God-at those times we know God's presence in a very tangible way. But for many people, maybe most people, that emotional consolation is not a common experience.

Most times we have to call on our faith - that Christ's promises can be trusted even in the face of great suffering or sorrow. The Holy Spirit is with us as our comforter - as the Divine friend and consoler. God is close to us and desires that we draw close to Him. The promise that Jesus gave to his Apostles is given to us today. The Spirit will be with us - as a friend, as a consoler, as a comforter.

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 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 7th May 2023 – £668**

We have received from HMRC the 'Gift Aid' repayment £3,341.40 for the second part of the tax year (October– March). Thank you to all of you for the continued support of the parish.

### Priest's musing

*Tom was so excited about his promotion to vice president of the company he worked for that he kept bragging about it to his wife for weeks on end. Finally she couldn't take it any longer, and told him, "Listen, it means nothing, they even have a vice president of peas at the grocery store!" "Really?" he said.*

*Not sure if this was true or not, Tom decided to call the grocery store. A clerk answered and Tom said, "Can I please talk to the vice president of peas?" The clerk replied, "Canned or frozen?"*

## 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 £4,500 (inclusive of VAT). A collection to help with the cost of the works will be taken today at all the Masses. Thank you for your generous support.

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 potatoes, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, small laundry powder/gel. Any donations would be much appreciated.

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### THURSDAY 18TH MAY

THIS IS A HOLY DAY  
OF OBLIGATION

MASSES

9AM (ENGLISH)

6PM (ENGLISH)

7PM (POLISH)

## Where Has Our Hero Gone?

Human beings were created for an ultimate future that is completely magnificent, all-encompassing, and totally awesome. But in our day to day lives, we question-we worry-we fear-and we hurt. And we just wish someone-pick any hero you want-would fly in and save us from it all-SOON! But in spite of all that seems hopeless in our lives and our world, humans are created always to seek hope. And on the feast of the Ascension, we're reminded that if we take our toughest questions to the right source, our very questions actually lead us right to the true source from which our hope springs. Why would we want to celebrate Jesus exiting this life, leaving the apostles behind to fend for themselves?

They are worried about the future, just as we worry day after day, but Jesus calms them down: "I am sending the promise of my

Father upon you-stay where you are until you are clothed with power from on high." Picture standing at the Ascension with Jesus, and seeing him rise up beyond our eyes into the clouds. Now picture someone very precious to you, who has died, and imagine them going up in the same way as Jesus. Let yourself hear Jesus' words to us that when he is "lifted up from the earth," he will draw all people to himself. The same awe, joy, and profound amazement we would feel at seeing the Ascension should fill us as we see our loved one taken up-because this is what our future holds. Jesus has assured us that where he is going, we will go, too.

### 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 15th May**

Sixth Week in Eastertide

**Tuesday 16th May**

Sixth Week in Eastertide

**Wednesday 17th May**

Sixth Week in Eastertide

**Thursday 18th May**

**Ascension Day**

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Friday 19th May**

Sixth Week in Eastertide

**Saturday 20th May**

Sixth 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