



*Drawing by John R Hume,
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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st of May 2023



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

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus tells us: I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. We belong to God first. We are not first of all citi-

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Cry out with joy to God
all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

I will not leave you orphans,
says the Lord;
I will come back to you
and your hearts
will be full of joy.

zens of a particular country, or children of particular parents, or mothers or fathers of certain children. No, our first identity is that we belong to God.

Everything else has to follow after that. If anything comes before our belonging to God, then we are living backward lives – as many of us do. We give the first place to our country, our parents, our children, but not to God. And so we end up not really seeing life the way it is. This emphasis on what is only secondary influences our choices of many things in life. If real life is our life at work and home, but not our life in God, then we will do all kinds of things to protect what we see as rightfully ours.

We then refuse to live out of what is most important – God's love for us and our response to that love. At times we laugh at our movie stars. They seem to live in a world that is so all absorbing – everything they do seems to go towards maintaining a certain external image – their homes, cars, love life, their physical attractiveness, and so on – all of these go to create a public image. And one gets the impression that many of these men and women live, not in the real world, but in the world of their

own making. We can fall into the same trap to a smaller degree.

Where we live, what work we do, how we look, how much education we have and so on – we can use all of these things to create an image that we want the world to love. All of this is just living in an illusion. We come to celebrate the Eucharist to remind ourselves of our deepest identity – we are children of God, loved by God in a way beyond all of our imaginings; and we are brothers and sisters of one another.

When we come here, I hope that we leave at the church door all of our particular illusions about who we are – we are not here because of what we do, or how much we own, or how great an influence we have on the world. We come here knowing that we are all united by the love of God as shown through Jesus himself. "And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent". Jesus uses this word 'know' with the biblical meaning of the word.

In the Book of Genesis we read: "Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived". This 'knowing' implies the deepest kind of intimacy. We do not need a certain level of intelligence to know God – we only need a heart that admits that it was made for God. This eternal life does not only mean life that never ends. It means first of all a life that is worth living – it implies a quality of life that we are all searching for – a life that is founded on the truth of who we are, and what we most need in this world, as well as the next.

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 14th May 2023 – £792.00.

Special collection to upgrade
the heating system: £1,149.00.

Priest's musing

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" he asked. "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said: four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer."

Annual May Celebration

The Italian Association will hold their annual May celebration at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull on Sunday, 28th May. Holy Mass in Italian will be celebrated at 3pm followed by the procession in the grounds and crowning of Our Lady's Statue in the grotto. There is an open invitation to all parishioners to join us. Those unable to walk may sit in the grounds during the procession. Italian cakes, tea & coffee will be served in the refectory. Bring a flower to place at our Lady's feet.

Norma Giulianotti

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Dunkeld Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee will hold the pre-pilgrimage Mass in Ss Leonard & Fergus, Dundee on Tuesday 20th of June at 6.30pm. There will be refreshments in the hall after Mass. All welcome.

Claim Your Gift of Peace

Before His Ascension to the Father we find our Lord surrounded by his disciples in the Upper Room. It was a precious moment, their last peaceful day. The lives of the apostles were about to be thrown into turmoil and chaos.

They were about to witness everything they believed and hoped for being destroyed, violated and taken away from them. They were about to see and experience betrayal, injustice, torture, death and persecution. Christ was not going to leave his disciples vulnerable and exposed to the approaching deadly storm of fear and death. He promised to give them something extraordinary, a transcendent and powerful ability against any struggle and suffering in life.

He promised them peace, his peace, peace that would protect the disciples, heal their wounds and help them navigate through the stormy waters their lives were about to be engulfed in. Here is the beautiful promise of peace, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:28). The gift of peace that Christ promised to his followers is entirely different from our conventional understanding of peace. It is much more than just the absence of pain and distress. It means wholeness, completeness, security, contentment, healing and even joy despite suffering and pain. Disorder, disarray and suffering penetrate our lives in many forms and shapes.

We struggle when our lives, joy, and sense of security are shattered by an unexpected diagnosis, the suffering of someone close and dear to us, career setback, financial crises, break up, divorce, and death. The free gift of peace that Christ extends to us is an effective remedy against any and every form of affliction and tribulation.

A mere drop of Christ's peace instantly transforms and calms the stormy seas of emotional and physical suffering. Some might dismiss the promise of a free universal solution and remedy for all forms of human suffering

as too good to be true. Others might consider it contrary to our real life experiences where peace is based on the resources, pills we take to calm our minds, vacations we take, and things we buy to mask and escape the sadness and pain in our lives.

Yet, that is exactly what Christ is offering us constantly, peace that transcends human understanding and comprehension and heals any form of suffering. What are the things that trouble you today? Let us raise our struggles and difficulties to God. Let us share with God all that deprives our lives and relationships of joy. And let us ask our Lord to fill our lives with His peace and make us whole again.

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 22nd May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Tuesday 23rd May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 24th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Thursday 25th May
Seventh Week in Eastertide

Friday 26th May
Memorial of St Philip Neri

Saturday 27th May
Seventh 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