



*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'

12th Sunday of the Year

25th of June 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

An essential part of our spiritual journey is discovering how much of our life is run by fear and how much is run by love. Our awareness of this part of ourselves is a major step on our spiritual road. Maybe you could set aside one day in which you ask yourself this question each time you are about to do anything: Am I doing this out of fear or out of love? So before you get out of bed ask yourself: Am I getting up out of fear or out of love?

In other words, am I getting up because I am afraid of being late for work, or afraid that people will call me lazy, or afraid that my family will think less of me if I don't get up? Or am I getting up because I love my family and I am

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, in your great love,
answer me.

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of truth
will testify to me, says the Lord;
and you also will testify.

working to help them live a comfortable and human life? Am I getting up because I have been given certain gifts by God and wish to use them in my daily work, whether that work is outside the home, or whether that work is in the home, taking care of the house and my family? Your getting out of the bed doesn't look any different to someone who would be watching you, but there is a great difference in getting out of bed because you are motivated by fear or because you are motivated by love. Can you see the great difference there could be in a person's life if you attempt to change the motivation from fear to love?

The change in your life would be enormous. If you ask this same question before everything you do, then the awareness that comes to you can be a great insight. Yes, even if at first you don't change your motivation from fear to love, at least the awareness of why you are doing what you are doing will give you the chance to gradually change your motivation. And eventually, you will be running your life more on the fuel of love than on the fuel of fear. In our Gospel passage today Jesus tells us three times not to be afraid. And the reason he gives us for not being afraid is this: You are of more value than many sparrows.

The Father is saying to each of us: You are very valuable to me. I will take care of you. Isn't this what we say to our children: Don't be afraid, I'll take care of you? In the first reading the prophet Jeremiah is proclaiming that even though things are going very bad for him--he is being mocked and plotted against by his enemies -- he still calls the Lord the one who will deliver him from the hands of evildoers. We are called to trust and be faithful to God, no matter what, because God will be faithful to us. Seeking to know God better, John Chrysostom became a hermit in the mountains near Antioch in A.D. 373.

Although his time of isolation was cut short by illness, he learned that with God at his side, he could stand alone against anyone or any-

thing. That lesson served Chrysostom well. In A.D. 398 he was appointed patriarch of Constantinople, where his zeal for reform antagonized the empress, who had him exiled. Allowed to return after a short time, Chrysostom again infuriated the empress, who sent him away again. How did Chrysostom respond to such persecution? "What can I fear? Will it be death? But you know that Christ is my life, and that I shall gain by death. Will it be exile? But the earth and all its fullness are the Lord's. Poverty I do not fear; riches I do not sigh for; and from death I do not shrink." This saint had given his life completely over to the love of God and so fear was driven out of his heart. In the first letter of John we read that "fear is the enemy of love".

One will drive the other away. Too much fear will drive love out of our hearts. On the other hand, the person who gives his or her life over to love will gradually see that fear no longer rules their life. Fear keeps us tied up in knots. We are always on the lookout for the disapproval of people, thinking that if we step out of line even a little, someone will be there to correct us or to criticize us.

Can you see how this fear keeps us from loving? It keeps us as prisoners to the reactions of others. Our freedom disappears or is diminished. Instead of having the God of Love as our master, we become slaves to the thoughts and opinions of other people. The God of Love does not want our obedience only out of fear. God wishes us to be free -- to love freely because when we do so, we are most like God, the one who is completely free. Jesus has freed us from slavery to fear. May we all claim that freedom.

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 Chris Ward and Brid Lochran and 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!

Col-

lections: Sunday's 4th June – £716.09.

Sunday's 11th June – £482.20.

Sunday's 18th June – £379.00.

Next Sunday (2nd July) our second Collection will be for Peter's Pence.

Priest's musing

Adam was walking outside of the Garden of Eden with his young sons, Cain and Abel. The boys looked into the garden and viewed waterfalls, lovely birds, lush forests, and trees covered with fruit.

Then they took a long look at where they were living. It was dry and dusty with weeds and sickly looking trees. "Daddy, why don't we live in there instead of out here?" they asked innocently.

Adam said, "Well sons, Eve and I used to live in there at one time. But your mother ate us out of house and home."

What is a Peter's Pence collection?

Peter's Pence (or Denarii Sancti Petri and "Alms of St Peter") are donations or payments made directly to the Holy See of the Catholic Church. The practice began under the Saxons in England and spread through Europe. Both before and after the Norman conquest the practice varied by time and place:

initially, it was given as a pious contribution, whereas later it was required by various rulers and collected like a tax. Though formally discontinued in England at the time of the Reformation, a post-Reformation payment of uncertain character was seen in some English manors into the 19th century. In 1871, Pope Pius IX formalized the practice of lay members of the church and "other persons of good will" providing financial support to the Roman See. Modern "Peter's Pence" is a worldwide collection that supports the activities of the Holy See through which Pope Francis governs the Church and exercises his charitable works. When used for charitable outreach, funds from this collection help those most in need.

Beyond Self-Preservation

There are some profound challenges that our parishes are currently confronting. Today, our churches stand at the crossroads of tradition and modernity, struggling to find a way and solution for declining attendance, shifting cultural values, and widening generational gaps.

We struggle with making our faith relevant in a world that is increasingly steeped in secularism and skepticism, a world where the rapid advancements in technology and a multitude of distractions vie for our attention, often winning over the call of the sacred. But even as we wrestle with these multifaceted issues, it becomes all too easy to lose sight of the most essential and fundamental solution that has the power to transform our parishes into living churches and make our faith relevant.

The solution for reviving our parishes and revitalizing our churches lies in a passionate return to the Great Commission. It reminds us that we are called to build ministries and missions that proclaim the Gospel and save souls. Our sight has become clouded, our focus skewed towards preserving ourselves, forgetting our essential mission: saving souls. We are called to bear fruit and be the witnesses and ambassadors of divine love, salvation, and hope. A parish can only live and prosper if it builds not barriers and barricades that separate and isolate it from the pain and struggles of the world.

May we heed this call, allowing God's spirit to reshape us as vessels of His grace and messengers of His love, ensuring our churches come alive with renewed vigor, passion, and purpose.

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 26th June
12th Week of the Year

Tuesday 27th June
12th Week of the Year

Wednesday 28th June
Memorial of St Irenaeus,
Bishop and Martyr

Thursday 29th June
Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul
Apostles

Friday 30th June
12th Week of the Year

Saturday 1st July
12th Week of the Year

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