



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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

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Parish Motto - 'The best is yet to come'

13th Sunday of the Year 2nd of July 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

How often do we find Jesus saying things like: "...whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Jesus tells us that we must not love anybody or anything more than him.

These ideas seemed to preoccupy him. They must be important for us – very important. The two words we use in our day to talk about these ideas are attachment and detachment. These two concepts are central to anyone's spiritual life. Common attachments – which don't make them any less

dangerous – money, pleasure, entertainment, comfort, alcohol, drugs. Other dangerous attachments: ideas, a long life, security, family (mentioned in today's Gospel), the home we live in, our reputation.

As Catholics we are taught to love the world and everything in it because everything can be a sacrament, a sign of God for us. But the problem arises when we love the world more than the maker of the world. What do attachments do? They draw us away from the basic love that should be in our lives—our love for the God who is Love itself. In a time management seminar, an expert was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration.

As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered over achievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel.

Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?" "No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!" "No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

What are the 'big rocks' in your life? What are the really important things that you would not want to live without? Your faith, your prayer life? Time with your family and friends? Helping others? Fighting for a good cause? Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all. We have to become attached to Christ and to all that he wishes us to be and do. This usually requires that we see things differently so that we can make necessary changes in our life.

There is a little saying that seems to say it all. You may have heard this before: Two men looked out of prison bars, One saw mud, the other stars. That speaks so clearly of the importance of how we see. Jesus spent his life trying to help people see differently. It is only by seeing differently that life can change. That is our common human experience. When we get stuck seeing something or some situation only in the same way, all of the time, then we have abandoned all hope of change. We have become attached to that way of seeing things and so have become a prisoner to our own ideas. And so our task is twofold: First we have to examine ourselves to see to whom or what we are attached in a way that leads away from the important things in our lives. Then, we have to attach ourselves more firmly to the person of Christ and to all that he lives and teaches us to do. May we all remember to put the big rocks in the jar first.

Have a great week—stay well and enjoy the gifts and blessings God has given us. May God bless you always,

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever
of your love, O Lord
Open our heart, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

Please pray for the repose
the souls of
Piotr & Rozalia Piechowicz 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!

Sunday's collection 25th June -£523.00.

Today our second collection is for Peter's Pence.

Priest's musing

A cowboy from Colorado skipped church one Sunday to go bear hunting in the mountains. As he turned the corner along the path, he and a bear collided. The cowboy stumbled backwards, slipped off the trail, and began tumbling down the mountain with the bear in hot pursuit. Finally the cowboy crashed into a boulder, sending his rifle in one direction and breaking both legs.

As the bear closed in, the cowboy cried out in desperation, "Lord, I'm sorry for what I have done. Please forgive me and save me! Lord, please make that bear a Christian." Suddenly, the clouds parted and a beam of light shown down on the bear. The bear skidded to a halt at the cowboy's feet, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together, and said, "God, bless this food which I am about to receive."

Thank you

The new altar cloth we use currently was sponsored by Patricia and David (Ross) Carruthers. Many thanks for that generous gift to our lovely church. May God will be your reward.

Fr Bogdan

Monday 3rd July

Feast of St Thomas the Apostle

St Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated 3th July. He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ.

When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. St Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master.

Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas." Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side.

After verifying the wounds were true, St Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus. St Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred. This is all that we know about St Thomas from the New Testament.

Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St Thomas." St Thomas - pray for us!

MASS TIMES

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.

Heating System

Upgrading of the Church heating system was completed at the beginning of last month, consisting of installation of 2 new gas heaters, a new thermostat and a complete overhaul of the system. The total cost was £4,440 (inclusive of VAT), which is in line with the original estimate. This should result in improvement of the church environment during the winter months.

Ivan Carnegie, Fabric Convenor

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.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday 3rd July

Feast of St Thomas, Apostle

Tuesday 4th July

3th Week of the Year

Wednesday: 5th July

13th Week of the Year

Thursday 6th July

13th Week of the Year

Friday: 7th July

13th Week of the Year

Saturday: 8th July

13th 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