



*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'

14th Sunday of the Year

9th of July 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus invites us today with these beautiful words, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Even the use of the simple word 'rest' touches many of our hearts because we seem so full of activities and thoughts and things to do, that rest is like some promised oasis in the desert. Just as a page needs margins, white spaces, so do our lives.

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King

Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are you, Father
Lord of heaven and earth
for revealing the mysteries
of the kingdom
to mere children.

Even on the natural level, we know that when our lives become too full, we can experience severe stress and sometimes even a complete physical breakdown. Then all of the activity that we thought was so important comes to a grinding halt. On the spiritual level, it works the same way. If we leave no room in our lives for what is deepest and truest, then we end up living lives that are disconnected from our Lord – disconnected from our deepest source of life.

These are beautiful words of Jesus because they are so full of a promised consolation. But what is this "rest" that Jesus promises us? It is obvious that it is not a physical rest. The burdens that are talked about are not physical burdens - like carrying a heavy load on our backs and so the rest is not a physical rest. The burdens are burdens of the heart - worries, troubles, anxieties, personal problems, inner pain and so on. These are the kinds of burdens that do wear us down. They make us weary. Jesus gives us a promise of relief - rest. Not an artificial rest--you know, the kind you feel on your vacation; then the first day back on the job you're hard pressed to remember that you were ever away.

That's not the kind of rest Jesus promises. The rest that is promised by Christ comes about because of many things - when we truly understand the care that God has for us, then we will be able to put many of our worries aside. A deep faith in God will show us how to live with many of our burdens - God may not take the burden away but will show us how to carry it more graciously. We can read these words from a couple of different viewpoints. The first and most important way we can interpret them is to see them as Jesus calling us to a personal relationship with himself.

He promises us that if we nurture that relationship and surrender ourselves to him he will give us rest from our heavy burdens. There

is no replacement in our lives for prayer and for the nurturing of this friendship with Jesus Christ. This is the one thing that we cannot do without. One man challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked very hard, stopping only for a brief lunch break. The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day.

At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had. "I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did." "But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest." As members of his church we can also see the words of Jesus as a call to ourselves as the body of Christ.

We are to be mediators of his rest - to be one of the means by which his rest comes to people. This is so because this same Jesus left us with his wish that we belong to a family that goes beyond blood relationship. The family that we belong to is called church - and the relationships of those who belong to this church should be relationships of great mutual support. Who in our lives needs the rest that I can bring? A wife or husband overburdened by job or children?

A colleague at work who needs a few moments of your time and a listening ear? A child or young adult who needs the care only you can bring? We have come to this Eucharist to meet Christ and one another in Christ. May we continue that meeting long after we leave today.

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 soul of Mike McManaman
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!

Collections -

Sunday's 2nd July – £563.00.

Second collection for Peter's Pence – £211.50.

Next Sunday (16th July) our second collection will be for the Apostleship of the Sea.

On Sea Sunday we are asked to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world.

Priest's musing

Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Jim, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding," Jim replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques— visualization, association—it made a huge difference for me." "That's great! What was the name of the clinic?"

Jim went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?" "You mean a rose?" "Yes, that's it!" He turned to his wife . . . "Rose, what was the name of that clinic?"

Feastday Celebration

To celebrate the Feastday of our patron saint, St Mary Magdalene, there will be a Mass at 7pm on Friday 21st July 2023, followed by strawberries and cream. Wine and soft drinks will also be served. If you plan on attending, please add your name and contact phone number to the list in the church porch.

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

Thank you..

A big 'Thank you' to Sławek Cyzman and Grzegorz Góral who in their spare time repainted all the windows inside and outside in the church porch.

St Benedict of Nursia (480-543)

St Benedict of Nursia wrote a series of instructions for his monastery at Monte Cassino, outlining instructions for a life of work and prayer in the monastic community. This was known as the 'Benedictine Rule', and became the norm for monastic living throughout medieval Europe. It is still used as the basis for monastic life in many orders today. As a result, St Benedict is considered the father of Western monasticism. Much of what is known about Benedict's early life is derived from an account provided in Pope Gregory the Great's Dialogues. Benedict was born into a noble Roman family in Nursia, a small town near Spoleto.

He grew up in Rome, and was in the middle of his studies when he decided to leave Rome and settle in Enfide, in the Simbruini mountains about 40 miles from Rome. According to Gregory, Benedict began to perform miracles, causing him to attract followers. This unwanted attention prompted him to retreat further into the mountains where he encountered a monk called Romanus.

Their discussion prompted Benedict to spend three years living as a hermit. During this time, Benedict is thought to have per-

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.

formed many more miracles and acquired notoriety in the surrounding area. Men began to travel to him and live under his guidance. He built twelve monasteries for his followers, to be governed by twelve abbots who would be overseen by Benedict himself. In 530, he founded the great Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, situated on a hilltop between Rome and Naples.

There, Benedict developed the practical and spiritual guidelines for monastic life, which is now known as the Benedictine Rule. Gradually the Benedictine Rule was adopted in religious houses throughout Christendom, particularly during and following the reign of the Frankish Emperor Charlemagne who helped to promote it.

The Rule has defined the dominant form of monasticism in Western Europe up to the present day.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 10th July
14th Week of the Year

Tuesday 11th July
Feast of St Benedict, abbot

Wednesday 12th July
14th Week of the Year

Thursday 13th July
14th Week of the Year

Friday 14th July
14th Week of the Year

Saturday 15th July
Memorial of St Bonaventure

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