



*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'

15th Sunday of the Year

16th of July 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

How we respond to God's Word depends on many things. Jesus told today's parable about the Sower and the Seed to provoke us into thinking about our own response to God's Word. How many times have you heard the Scriptures being read? How many times have you read them yourself? How many homilies have you heard? More than you care to remember? A hundred, a thousand, two thousand, ten thousand? What happened to all of those words? Why did we not receive each one as a gift, as a word of consolation or a word of challenge?

What prevents us from taking God's Word and making it our own? This is a very important and

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Some seeds fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening you have the message of eternal life

very complicated issue. In our Gospel, Jesus gives us a few clues. But then we have to do some work on our own to see how these clues apply to our own lives. Perhaps the one obstacle that many, if not most of us, have to deal with is what Jesus refers to as the thorns of life. The words are these: As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

When we really think about it, the so called thorns or cares of the world are most likely one of the major obstacles even to our hearing each other very deeply. When you have too much on your mind then it is hard to listen closely to another person. Our thoughts, emotions and concerns often get in the way of our paying attention to another. The cares of the world choke the Word. Isn't this what happens to us so often? We have so much to do and so much to worry about that we don't have the time or energy to pay attention to this gift that we call the Word of God?

We run around in circles until we're dizzy. The feeling of being hurried is not usually the result of living a full life and having no time. It is, on the contrary, born of a vague fear that we are wasting our life. And so we fill our lives so full that we hardly have room to breathe or to move. We then tell ourselves, and others, that we are very

busy--in other words, we want ourselves and others to think that just because we have no time for anything else, this proves we are living a full life. We are the busiest people in the world but not the most satisfied. This sense of being filled to the brim is something that we carry wherever we go. How do we learn to empty our lives so that there is room for God's Word? Most of you probably know about some simple time management techniques which encourage you to take control of your time and set your priorities. These methods can be very useful and help you to free up some space in your lives.

But the danger is that when we have some free time we will compulsively rush in to fill it up with something else. Our use of time is a spiritual problem. That's true. But the deeper question is: how do we open our hearts to God so that they become listening hearts. Merely having the time doesn't do this. We need the willingness to allow our hearts to be touched by God. If we do nothing else, we must pray for an open and listening heart. Ask God to make your heart into a place where God's Word can find a home.

This means a willingness to listen no matter what the consequences may be. Yes, listening can be a very difficult and frightening thing to do, because we may hear words that will call us to change, to give up something, to do something, to think differently, to act differently. Isn't this why it is so hard for husbands and wives to really listen to one another with open hearts?

Ask God to help you to listen to the Words of Scripture with that kind of heart. We must remember that in this parable one thing is clear: Despite the loss of some seed, there is a tremendous harvest. To have some seed yield a hundredfold is beyond belief since the usual yield was between seven and tenfold. There is so much hope in these words of Jesus. This same hope is promised to each one of us.

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 Margetta Scambler
and Carlo Brugiotti
who died recently
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 9th June – £572.00.

**Today our second collection is for
the Apostleship of the Sea**

Priest's musing

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor, who was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100 percent.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the gentleman said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

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.

Mass to mark the retirement of Bishop Stephen Robson

The Mass to mark Bishop Stephen's retirement has now been rescheduled. It will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Thursday 24 August at 7pm. An open invitation is extended to everyone.

The Feastday of St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels. Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures.

The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers. Mary Magdalene followed Jesus, part of a semi-permanent entourage who served Jesus and his Disciples. Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry.

Mary was present when Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him. She was the first witness to His resurrection. Mary Magdalene is the first among the women following Jesus to proclaim Him as having overcome death.

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.

She is the first to announce the joyful message of Easter.

But she also proved she was among those who loved Him most when she stood at the foot of the Cross on Mount Calvary together with Mary, His Mother, and the disciple, St. John. She did not deny him or run away in fear as the other disciples did, but remained close to Him every moment, up to and including the tomb.

St Mary Magdalene is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners and women, and many other places and causes.

SAINTS DAYS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Monday 17th July
15th Week of the Year

Tuesday: 18th July
15th Week of the Year

Wednesday: 19th July
15th Week of the Year

Thursday 20th July
15th Week of the Year

Friday 21st July
15th Week of the Year
Vigil Celebration of the
Feast of St Mary Magdalene

Saturday 22nd July
The Feast of St Mary Magdalene,
Patron of Our Parish

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