

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

St Mary Magdalene's Church

7, Glenearn Road, Perth, PH2 0BD

Tel: 01738 336141

Rev. Bogdan Palka S.D.S. - Parish Administrator

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

26th Sunday of the Year 1st of October 2023

This Sunday we are treated to one of the most beautiful passages about Jesus in the entire Bible. It is found in the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians. St. Paul begins by telling the people to be kind, and loving, and merciful to each other. They, we, are to put the interests of others above ourselves. And then he tells us about Jesus. He says that we should have the same attitude in life as Jesus had. He was forever God, but he did not regard this as something to be grasped. Instead He emptied Himself of his divinity.

He became a human being. More than this, he became a slave for all of us. And he obeyed His Father for our sakes, even when this obedience led to His death on the cross. Then we have the Christological hymn: Because of this God has bestowed on Him the name that is above every other name; so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, both in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.

It is difficult for us to explain our belief in Jesus. He is not just a theory, an intellectual doctrine. He is a living person. We have a personal relationship with Him. We go through our days speaking to Him and listening for Him to speak to us. We know that He is the eternal Son of the Father, the Word of God present from the beginning of creation.

But that is not how we relate to Him or He to us. He is our closest friend, our deepest Love. We look at the Cross and are amazed at the extent of His Love for us. He is God, and yet, He became one of us, more than that, he became a slave for us. A slave serves the needs of his master without considering the impact on his life. Jesus came to serve us.

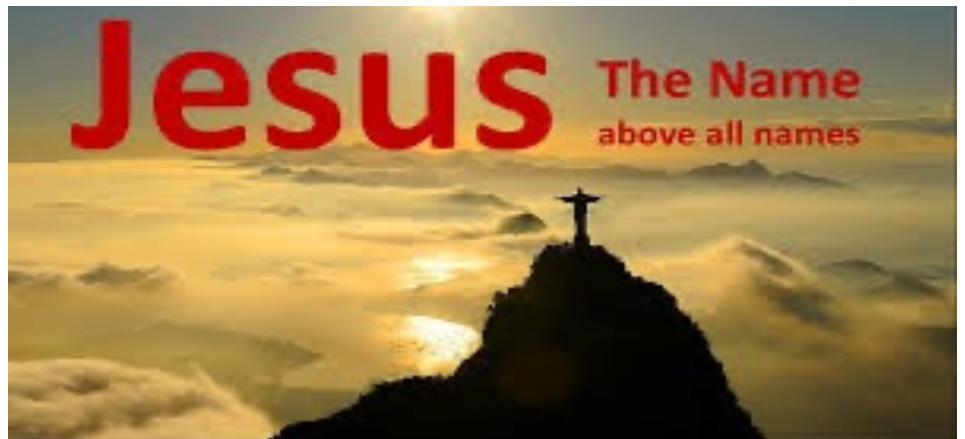
For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

Remember your mercy, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

and my Father will love him,
and my Father will love him
and we shall come to him.



He came to free us from the grasp of materialism. He came to renew the quest for the spiritual within us. He came to restore us to that place in creation that we deserted out of pride and selfishness. We sometimes tell the little children, "Jesus came to open the gates of heaven." That is beautifully concrete, the only way that a little child can understand the world. For us adults we would have to develop this thought into: He came to instill the spiritual within us so that we can be united to the Eternal after our death.

"Be like Him," St. Paul says. "Serve others. Stop being selfish. Look at others as more important than yourself." This is difficult. We would like to think that the world revolves around us and our wants. But it does not. The world is the Lord's. With the Grace of God, we can do the work of God. But this is work, and work is hard. Work takes time and strength. Work means exhausting ourselves to be understanding, in your case, of your husband or wife, your children, your parents.

Doing the work of the Lord means emptying ourselves. It also means doing everything we can to stay away from all that could hurt us. It takes work to control that temper. It takes work to be spiritual in our homes. It takes work to turn a house into a place of prayer, a little Church. This is the work of Jesus, who humbled Himself for others, for us.

The famous English author G. K. Chesterton wrote that atheists were balanced on the very

edge of belief, but it is belief in almost anything. Some people reject Jesus and then substitute His presence with superstition. They say that they do not believe in God and certainly not in the concept that He could love us so much as to send us His Son, but then they call the shaman in to investigate their house for bad juju. And to our discredit, in our politically correct world, we reinforce their emptiness by giving credibility to this mumbo jumbo.

Yes there is truth throughout the universe, but how dare we equate pagan practices with the Life and Death of Jesus the Christ?! Maybe we lack the courage to do that which we were created to do: lead others to Jesus. But when we do have that courage, when others can come to a deeper understanding of the extent of the Love God has for us and for them, then they will be open to this love, open to Jesus.

That is the mission of Christianity, the mission of evangelization. What is the reality of Jesus in your lives, in my life? How real is He to you? Can we all realize that through the Grace of God, Jesus' presence is stronger and His Life is more meaningful now than ever before? This is not a matter of feeling, it is a matter of recognizing reality. Everything is for Jesus. Everything that matters in the world flows from Him and leads to Him. He is ours. And we are His.

Have a wonderful week – stay well. Please keep me in your prayers as you all are always in mine.

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of 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 collection

24th September 2023 £723.50.
The Organ Fund – £760.00.

Next Sunday (October 8th) our Second Collection will be for: The Organ Fund.

Healing Service / Blessing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of Sick will take place today during the Mass at 10am.

St John's Academy Annual Family Mass

Family School Mass in St John's Academy will be celebrated in the Assembly Hall of the school on Wednesday 04th October at 6pm. All friends of St John's academy are cordially invited to join.

Weekday Masses With Rosary

In honour to Our Lady of the Rosary we will pray one decade of the Rosary at the end of the daily Masses. Come and join us!

October - The Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. But why is it that on October 7th the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary? On October 7, 1571, a great victory over the mighty Turkish fleet was won by Catholic naval forces primarily from Spain, Venice, and Genoa under the command of Don Juan of Austria.

It was the last battle at sea between "oared" ships, which featured the most powerful navy in the world, a Moslem force with between 12,000 to 15,000 Christian slaves as rowers. The patchwork team of Catholic ships was powered by the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct material disadvantage, the holy pontiff, St. Pope Pius V called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory.

We know today that the victory was significant, prevented the Islamic invasion of Europe, and evidenced the Hand of God working through Our Lady. At the hour of victory, St. Pope Pius V, who was hundreds of miles away at the Vatican, is said to have gotten up from a meeting, went over to a window, and exclaimed with supernatural radiance: "The Christian fleet is victorious!" and shed tears of thanksgiving to God. At Lepanto, the Victory over the Moslems was won by the faithful praying the Rosary.

Even though they had superior numbers, the Turks really were overmatched. Saint Padre Pio, the Spiritual Father of the Blue Army, said: "The Rosary is the weapon," and how right he was! The Battle of Lepanto was at first celebrated liturgically as "Our Lady of Victory." Later, the feast of October 7th was renamed "Our Lady of the Rosary" and extended throughout the Universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1716 (who canonized Pope Pius V in 1712).

And with that we are back to Fatima, Portugal where Our Lady, when asked her name, said: "I am the Lady of the Rosary." At Fatima, Our Lady taught us to pray the Rosary every day. Heaven presented its peace plan at Fatima and truly gave us hope for the world. Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!

Say "NO" to Buffer Zones

A Bill going through the Scottish Parliament will outlaw peaceful pro-life protests outside abortion clinics in Scotland so-called Buffer Zones. Even silent prayer will become illegal. This proposal is a breach of your human rights. Make your opposition known by contacting your local MSP. Further details can be found on the SPUC website www.spuc.org.uk.

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 2nd October
Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

Tuesday 3rd October
26th Week of the Year

Wednesday: 4th October
Memorial of St Francis of Assisi

Thursday 5th October
26th Week of the Year

Friday 6th October
26th Week of the Year

Saturday 7th October
Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

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