

*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'

27th Sunday of Year A 8th October 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Mayo Clinic claims that eighty to eighty-five percent of their total inpatient admissions is the result of anxiety and worry. Many experts claim that coping with stress is the number one health priority today. Many physicians claim that over half of all their patients could cure their illnesses if they would stop worrying. With this in mind notice that our second reading today begins with the remarkable phrase: "Do not worry about anything". St. Paul was not sitting in a comfortable easy chair, sipping a martini, as he wrote these words to his friends at Philippi. On the contrary, as he wrote these words, he was sitting in a jail cell, awaiting his trial and possible execution.

His situation gives more power to the things he writes about. Here we have an imprisoned man, waiting to be executed, urging us not to worry about anything. It seems that Paul could say these remarkable words because the peace of God had found a permanent home in his heart. Through his faith, Paul was able to see a wider picture of his life. His focus was not narrowed down to the here and now. He was able to tell us not to worry about anything because of his deep faith in God. God had been faithful to Paul in the past and would continue to be faithful in the future. Paul wasn't narrowly focussed on his prison cell.

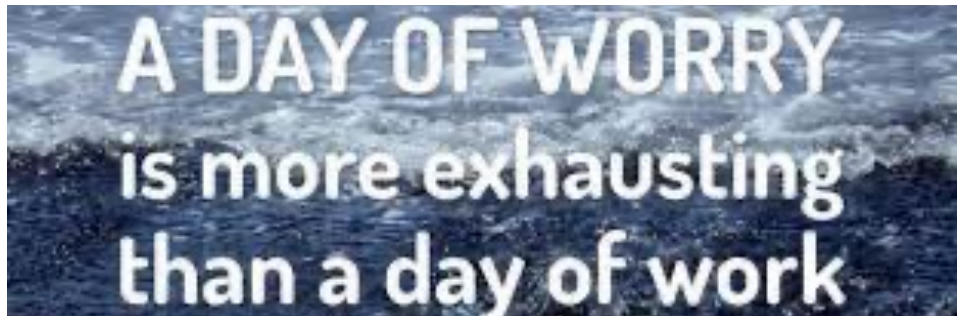
For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.



Through his faith, he could see beyond the four walls in which he was confined. One of the greatest obstacles to peace is the inability of being able to see beyond our present trouble. We judge that our troubles are all that we have -- they seem to fill up all the empty spaces in our life. By the way, worry comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means, "to strangle". And the word "anxious" means, "to be pulled in different directions". Thus to worry and be anxious is to be strangled and pulled apart. Not a pretty picture. Whenever we have a few spare minutes, our troubles rush in to fill the void. We start to obsess about them. Our troubles become like walls we build around ourselves which keep out the rest of life.

We can't see beyond such walls. Our life is narrowed down to our problems and only to our problems. But this is not reality. Life is very big. God is very big. Paul teaches us that if we want to leave the road of worry and anxiety we must enter the road of prayer. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything let your requests be made known to God by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving". When we pray we are making an act of faith -- faith in a God who cares for us more than we could ever imagine.

If we refuse to bring something to God in prayer, we are really saying that we don't trust that God is able to handle our difficulties. We'd rather do it on our own. When we find ourselves in some kind of trouble, the first person we seek out is not usually a stranger who doesn't know us. Normally we go to a friend - someone who has some sense of who we are, Diocese of Dunkeld - Scottish Charity No. SC001810

someone in whom we have faith, and who has faith in us.

Prayer is the way we place all of our life, joys as well as sorrows, into the safekeeping of the God who is always thinking about us. Here is some simple but wise advice about worry. In life, there are two things about which we should never worry. In the first place, we shouldn't worry about the things we can't change. If we can't change them, worry is both foolish and useless. Secondly, we shouldn't worry about the things we can change. If we can change them, then taking action will accomplish far more than wasting our energies in worry. The only rightful place that worry has is out of our lives. This is wise advice, but hard to put into practice. But if we are to take the Word of God seriously, it is not only wise human advice; it is also divine advice. The future is both unpredictable and yet, also predictable. It is unpredictable because we don't know the details of how any given situation will turn out.

Our lives can change radically in just a few seconds. Things, which could never have been foreseen, happen to people all the time. We can't predict the future. But in a way, we can predict the future. If we have faith in a God of love and kindness and concern, then we know, by faith, that, in the end, all will be well. The Scriptures are full of God's promises to us

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

Fr Bogdan SDS

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PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls Thomas Frederick Carruthers and Vincenz Tabernig who died recently and for Jimmy Gallagher and 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

1st October 2023 – £753.50.

Sunday (October 8th) our Second Collection will be for the Organ Fund.

Priest's musing

A small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness to the stand in a trial—a grandmotherly, elderly woman. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?" She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy. And frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, you manipulate people, and you talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a rising big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you." The lawyer was stunned.

Not knowing what else to do he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Williams, do you know the defense attorney?" She again replied, "Why, yes I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to baby-sit him for his parents. And he, too, has been a real disappointment to me. He's lazy, bigoted, and has a drinking problem. The man can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him." At this point the judge rapped the courtroom to silence and called both counselors to the bench. In a very quiet voice, he said with menace, "If either of you asks her if she knows me, you'll be in jail for contempt within five minutes!"

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.

The Feast of St Luke - Evangelist

Saint Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile in Antioch, Syria. He was a physician. Luke joined Paul at Troas in the year 51, accompanying him from Macedonia to Philippi. It is very possible that Luke provided medical assistance to Paul when he had been beaten, stoned or nearly drowned while evangelizing to the Western Roman Empire. Luke explains in the introduction to his gospel that his writings were inspired by close association with Paul and his companions. Luke is the only Gentile to have written books in the Bible.

He is the writer of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles and his writings have been proven to be historically accurate. In the third Gospel, Luke emphasizes Christ's compassion for sinners and for those who suffer. The gospel of Luke focuses on the poor and oppressed, encouraging tenderness and compassion for the less fortunate.

The story of Lazarus and the Rich Man who ignored him is told in Luke's gospel, as is the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Gospel of Luke stresses the importance of evangelizing to the Gentiles. In the Gospel of Luke we hear Jesus praising the faith of Gentiles such as the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian (Lk.4:25-27), and we hear the story of the one grateful leper who is a Samaritan (Lk.17:11-19). Unlike the Jewish writings, women have an important place in Luke's gospel.

Luke writes about the women who accompanied Jesus, such as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and Martha and Mary and "many other women who used their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples" (8:1). Luke also writes about the birth of Christ from Mary's point of view and she is especially important in Luke's gospel. It is only in the gospel of Luke that the story of Mary's Annunciation, her visit to Elizabeth, the Magnificat, the Presentation and Jesus' remaining in Jerusalem are told. In Luke's gospel, we learn the words spoken by the angel to Mary at the Annunciation, "Hail Mary, full of grace" and Elizabeth's words to Mary,

"Blessed are you and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." He was the first Christian physician and was venerated by the Catholic Church as the patron saint of physicians and surgeons. Saint Luke's feast day is celebrated on October 18th.

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 9th October
27 Week of the Year

Tuesday 10th October
27th Week of the Year

Wednesday 11th October
27 Week of the Year

Thursday 12th October
27th Week of the Year

Friday 13th October
27th Week of the Year

Saturday 14th October
27 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