



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'**

## 28th Sunday of the Year 15th of October 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"It is no easy task to walk this earth and find peace. Inside of us, it would seem, something is at odds with the very rhythm of things and we are forever restless, dissatisfied, frustrated, and aching." These are the words of Fr. Ron Rolheiser. It seems that nothing in life is perfect, complete and totally fulfilling. Even at those times in our lives when we feel ourselves filled to the brim with happiness, in the back of our minds, a small insistent voice tells us that everything on this earth comes to an end.

Every living person faces the same basic problem: What can I do with this desire for complete perfect joy, peace, love and happiness that lives within each one of us? How can I keep this desire in hand and not let it lead me into a fruitless and frustrating search for complete pleasure and comfort? This problem about what to do with our basic desire has been with men and women since the beginning of the human race. And many answers have been tried, and are still being pursued in some manner or other. On one side we have the attitude which we call stoicism. The stoic is a person who hardens him or herself to anything which would disturb this sense of peace. They attempt to live their lives in such a way that nothing will bother them. About two thousand years ago, many of the intellectuals

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

#### Gospel Acclamation

The Word has made flesh and lived among us;

to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God.



of Greece were trying to follow this philosophy. "Epictetus, one of the Stoics' most famous leaders, advised to begin with breaking a cup and to say disdainfully, 'I don't care.' "Then you go on to break a chair, then a table, and then ever more precious household utensils, and so the same.

Ultimately, you go to yourself, and if you're hurt, you say the same thing. If you do this long enough, you'll come to the stage of being able to watch your closest loved ones suffer and die, and say, 'I don't care.' You were to do this, the Stoics said, deliberately, so that you could finally come to see everything that happened in this troubled world as the will of God." (Harold Buetow, *God Still Speaks*). This attitude has a certain appeal for many people. They think that if they can only detach themselves from human suffering, they will find some kind of oasis here on this earth. Then they won't have to worry about what happens to others. They will be able to ignore pain, violence, poverty, suffering and sickness. We see this kind of attitude in people who don't want to hear about what is really going on in the world. On the other side of this picture are those who cannot find any peace because all they see is the evil and darkness which walks the face of this earth.

They work tirelessly for justice and peace, but in the end find themselves at a complete loss about what should be done. It is all just too much to bear. As we struggle with these two extremes - caring about nothing and caring about everything, let's look at today's Scripture

readings. In his book, *I Shall Not Want*, Robert Ketchum tells about a Sunday school teacher who asked her group of children if any of them could quote the entire twenty-third psalm. A little four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

The little girl came to the podium, faced the class, made a little bow, and said: "The Lord is my shepherd, that's nothing I shall want." She then bowed again and sat down. Even though this little girl took a short cut through the psalm, she captured what that scripture was really about. All we need is the Lord. Life, in all of its good and evil, is not ours to control. We need to hand over our search for completeness to the Lord. We need to move towards that little girl's attitude when she said: "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want." St. Paul says that he has learned the secret of living - he can be well fed or hungry, rich or poor, but whatever his situation, he trusts that God is his strength and will give him what he truly needs. Our human longing and desire for what is complete, and perfect, and unending, is something with which we have to live. On the one hand, it will do no good to try to kill our feelings so that nothing bothers us. But on the other hand, we can't be continually agonizing over everything that is not right. We need to see reality for what it is, do what we can to help, and leave the rest to God. 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

8th October 2023 – £520.50.

### Second collection

Organ Fund – £1543.50.

Next Sunday our second collection will be for the Missions.

## Priest's musing

*Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding," Fred 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?" Fred 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?"*

## 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](http://www.spuc.org.uk).

## A "Mission Event" in Diocese of Dunkeld

The month of October in our Church is dedicated to the Missions. Once again the Dunkeld Diocesan Mission Group has organised a "Mission Event". Over the past few years we have developed a day of prayer, reflection and information. Hopefully it is a day to challenge and inspire us. The event will be on Saturday 21 October. Local: Forebank; Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Time: begin 9.30am with teas & coffee. We will have Mass approximately at noon. We will end at 3.30pm sharp so those who need to will be back home for Vigil Masses.

Everyone brings their own packed lunch. PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS is the theme for this year. We invited Aid to the Church in Need to be our guide. Their theme just now is very much on persecuted Christians in Africa and especially in Nigeria. They will provide us with presentations, and videos. They plan to bring along either a lay person or Nigerian priest who have worked in refuges camps. It would be wonderful if at least two people from each parish would participate. (Fr. Mike Freyne)

## World Mission Sunday 2023

World Mission Sunday is the day we acknowledge our connectedness to all the other members of the Church. We pray for one another and offer support to those communities which need our practical help. Our prayers and donations on Mission Sunday, therefore, are a witness to the fact that the Church is a family, a family where we look after one another. This year Missio Scotland hopes to fund many different projects in mission countries, but we wish to draw special attention to some projects in Sri Lanka.

The first project will provide basic education for children living in the remote tea plantation villages and the second project will provide food to school children. We are also appealing for fund to help the Catholics of Sri Lanka build their own national shrine, for a parish community to build a parish hall and to provide sewing machines to women who are single parents so they can earn an income to help raise their children. You can read more on our website. Your sincerely in Christ, Fr Vincent Lockhart, National Director of Missio Scotland – The Pontifical Mission Societies.

## 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 16th October**  
28th Week of the Year

**Tuesday 17th October**  
Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch

**Wednesday 18th October**  
Feast of St Luke

**Thursday 19th October**  
28th Week of the Year

**Friday 20th October**  
28th Week of the Year

**Saturday 21st October**  
28th 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