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# St Mary Magdalene's Church

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

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**PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'**

## 30th Sunday of the Year 29th of October 2023

**Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

A lawyer asked Jesus which was the greatest of all the laws. There were 613 of them in Hebrew Scripture. Which was the most important? Jesus responded to the lawyer's question with two quotations from the Torah, the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. The first quotation was the Sacred Jewish Prayer called the Shema Israel. This was a prayer contained in the sixth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy 6:5. This is recited by pious Jews every morning and evening, "Hear this, O Israel, Shema Israel, God is One. You shall love your God with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind." The second quotation came from the Book of Leviticus, 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We cannot just love God part time, we have to love Him with everything we have. We cannot just be good to our neighbor sometimes, we have to treat our neighbors in the same way that we care for ourselves. The heart of Christian morality is the desire to love God fully, completely, and to love others as unique reflections of God's love. We can see an analogy in the love we must have in the love that good parents have for their children. God loves us because we are His children. Jesus is not calling us to be minimalists. He is calling us to love God and neighbor completely,

without counting the cost. Shema Israel. God wants us to love him with our whole mind, our whole heart, and our whole soul. "Give me your mind," the Lord says, "Do not just think about me when it is convenient for you. Do not destroy your minds with evil thoughts. No, give me your whole minds," the Lord says. "Are you distressed? Do you despair? Have your children or your parents, relatives or friends hurt you? Give me your mind, love me with your thoughts and I will transform your thoughts to my way of thinking. I will give you wisdom." We all have negative thoughts regarding other people. These thoughts are destroying us. We can get them under control and even eliminate them.

There is a trick. We need to pray for the people who have hurt us. We need to pray for those whose very existence irritate us. When we do this, not only does our pain diminish, but we are giving our negative thoughts to God who turns them into a source of grace. Prayer is amazing. Not only does God listen to our needs; He heals us when our own minds attack us. "Give me your hearts," the Lord says. He wants our whole hearts. He wants us to love him with every part of ourselves, even those parts that feel empty. He wants us to love him by loving others, spouses, children, parents, neighbours. He does not want part of our hearts.

He wants all of our hearts. If there is a part of our love that we cannot share with God, such as the love a married person may have for someone else, then this itself is not real love because God is not in that love. The only love that is real is the love that gives. This is the love where He is present.

This is the love that God wants us to have for each other. Loving God with our whole heart is really loving our neighbors as ourselves because it is loving as God loves. God wants our whole soul. God wants all those qualities



"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
-Leviticus 19:18

that distinguish us from animals. Shema Israel! You shall love the Lord with your whole mind, your whole hearts and your whole soul. If we want to have meaning in our lives, if we want to die knowing that we have been faithful to the whole reason we have been created, then we have to give all we have back to God. "Love your neighbour as yourself." Loving our neighbors as ourselves means that just as we want to be united to God, we want others to be united to God. When this becomes the focus of our relationships, then we are loving others as Christ taught us to love. I want to flesh this out. And Jesus says, "Love your enemies."

How are you supposed to do that? Well, when we get into a situation like this, we have to strengthen our relationship with God by increasing our prayer life. This is tough. But God wants our love to win others over for him. That is the meaning of "when someone slaps you on your right cheek, offer him your left cheek." Being a Christian is tough business. It means following the one who on the cross forgave his executioners, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Love God with your whole heart, our whole soul and your whole mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." This sums up everything there is in the law and the prophets. The lawyer asked, "What does God want from us?" Jesus answered, "He wants it all."

Fr Bogdan SDS

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

I love you, Lord, my strength.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.

## PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Dan 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

22nd October 2023 – £794.50.

Mission Collection – £355.50.

We have received from HMRC the 'Gift Aid' repayment of £3,382.99 for the first part of the tax year (April – October). Thank you so very much to all of you for the continued support of our parish.

Next Sunday Second Collection for Salvatorian Fathers (Fr Bogdan's Religious Order).

## Priest's musing

*Jack was a painter who was very tight on money. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a little bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches. Jack put in a painting bid, and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles, putting up the planks, buying the paint, and thinning it down with the turpentine.*

*Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, and rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn. Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?" From the thunder, a mighty voice spoke, "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"*

## All Saints' Day

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

**Wednesday, 1st November**

**10am (English)**

**7pm (Polish)**

All Saints' Day is set aside by the church to honour and recognize all of the saints of the Christian Church, many of which were martyrs.

## Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

**Thursday, 2nd November**

**9am (English)**

**7pm (Polish)**

## November the Month of the Holy Souls

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If you would like to submit a Name or List of Names for the November Altar List of the Holy Souls, please complete a list which are in the back of the church (porch) and submit it. The Holy Mass will be offered throughout the month of November for all our beloved dead, family and friends. Please put your November list, along with your Mass offering, into an envelope and return it by 1st November to the Church or Presbytery or directly to Fr Bogdan. Thank you!

## The Society of the Divine Saviour - SDS (The Salvatorians)

The Founder of the Salvatorians, the Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan was born 16th June 1848, in the poor, rural family in Gurtweil, the archdiocese of Freiburg. At the age of 30, he was ordained a priest. In Rome he founded the Apostolic Teaching Society on 8th December 1881, which eventually turned into a religious institute called the Society of the Divine Saviour. On 8th December 1888, with the help and participation of the Blessed Mary of the Apostles, he founded a fe-

## 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.

male branch of the Assembly, called the Salvatorian Sisters. He founded numerous apostolic institutions in Europe, Asia, and America with great courage. He died at the age of 70 on 8th September 1918. Poland is amongst the 42 countries where Salvatorians are working. The first Salvatorians arrived in Poland 1900.

The Polish Province was founded in 1927, and has since grown to over 470 members, which is more than on-third of the total Society. The members of the Province are involved in the following apostolic works: parish work, pastoral care at the foreign missions, parish missions and retreats, apostolic work within the mass-media, spiritual formation, academic teaching at the universities, pastoral youth ministry, apostolic work abroad, pastoral work with Polish people abroad, work in hospices, chaplaincy for religious sisters and brothers, and chaplaincy in hospitals, schools and military units. Currently the members of the Polish Province are present in 22 countries of the world.

Altogether, outside of Poland there are 172 priest and brothers. Through all the ways of working successfully in the apostolate, the most important and essential means is by giving good example according to the saying: Words move, examples lead.

**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