



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

# St Mary Magdalene's Church

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

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

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

## 31st Sunday of the Year 5th of November 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Keep my words always before your eyes."  
(Proverbs 4:21)

According to Jesus in today's Gospel, these Pharisees strutted their stuff to all the important banquets. They were the masters of seeing and being seen. That's all they really wanted. They were just putting on a show. They knew how to hold their arms up in prayer. They knew what proper pious platitudes they should say. They pretended to be holy. But they were not holy.

They spoke about following God. They demanded that others live holy lives. But they did not live as people committed to God. They just dressed the part. Jesus called them hypocrites. The word hypocrite came from the Greek word for actor. God saw them. And God sees us. He looks at us and sees some of us putting on a show. He sees some religious leaders wearing costumes and saying all the proper things, but carrying on immoral actions that could not emanate from the soul of a holy person.

He sees some people who proclaim their Christianity, but in reality are not open to God in their lives. He sees some people who pretend to be a kindly, but who are really carrying years of hate within their hearts. God also sees those who are really trying to live their commitment to Him. He sees us at our best not just

when we are at our worst. He knows how we are trying to be better, to do better. He knows how we are fighting against any tendency we might have to be hypocrites ourselves. We are faced with some of the most frightening words in scripture.

We are told that we cannot be satisfied with the outward appearance of religion. We are told to fight against our own hypocrisy. How can we do this? For one thing, we cannot demand more from others than we demand from ourselves. As a priest, I cannot demand that others fulfill their worship obligations if I do not fulfill mine. I cannot stand here and tell you that you need to say prayers at home every day if I am not faithful to saying the Liturgy of the Hours, what used to be called the Divine Office. I cannot encourage you to say the rosary, if I don't say the rosary. I cannot ask you to tithe, if I do not tithe myself. I cannot demand that you fight against immorality if I partake in immorality. You also cannot not demand that others be kind and caring, if you are mean to that daughter-in-law or son-in-law you've never liked.

If you are a young adult, you cannot claim to be a Christian if you are nasty to other people. You cannot call others be good Catholics if you destroy people's reputations with snide remarks, gossip or even outright attacks on social media. We have to avoid playing dress up. Our lives cannot be an act. We have to fight against our own hypocrisy. We also have to avoid masking our Christianity. We do this when we just go along with the group, being more concerned with being a member of that group instead of a member of God's group, His family.

And we have to take responsibility for our own lives rather than just join a crowd that entrusts their lives to others. We cannot be followers of other people, be they religious or political, to such an extent that we allow them



to determine our actions, or even our lives. We cannot allow the mob mentality to take over our lives. We cannot be part of the hate mongers. We have the ability to set the course of our own lives. We must take responsibility for our faith lives. Call no man "father" or "rabbi" or "teacher" means "call no man guru." If we have a guru, then we don't take responsibility for what we do. We call our priests father in that they are the head of our faith family in our parishes, but we do not give our priests the position of guru, entrusting them with the responsibility for our lives.

We entrust our lives to God and God only. Only Christ can be our guide. If we, you and I, can find the courage to let Jesus be our guide, if every aspect of our lives reflects the presence of Jesus in the world, then we will not wear masks. Then we would really and truly be followers of Christ. Following Jesus is the serious work of people who have no need for masks. Following Jesus is the serious work of those who are willing to expose their faces and their lives to the world. People admire us Catholics with our determination to worship God and to live for Him. They see how we are united in our faith, and how our Church is universal. And they look to us to live lives that are wholesome, sincere, and genuine. May they have the courage to be Catholic. Have a wonderful week – stay well. Please keep me in your prayers as you all are always in mine.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

Keep my soul in peace before you,  
O Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation

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

Fr Bogdan SDS

## PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Adam Fraser and Willie Goggin (Cork), who died recently and for Victoria Santucci, and and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**Eternal rest grant unto their souls, O Lord.**

## 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

29th October 2023 – £869.50.  
Votive Candles: £36. 50.

## Priest's musing

*Are you listening? A little girl was kneeling beside her bed with her mother and grandmother, softly saying her prayers. "Dear God, please bless Mommy and Daddy and all the family, and please give me a good night's sleep." Suddenly she looked up and shouted, "And don't forget to give me a bicycle for my birthday!" "There is no need to shout like that," said her mother. "God isn't deaf." "No," said the little girl, "but Grandma is."*

## November the Month of the Holy Souls

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 ASAP to the Church or Presbytery or directly to Fr Bogdan. Thank you!

## Let's Celebrate!

As we get ready to celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, Perth Action of Churches Together invite you to join in a Lantern Advent Parade on Saturday 9th December, leaving from St Ninian's Cathedral at 4:45pm. Following behind the Perth Pipe Band, and carrying lanterns\*, lights or torches, we parade through the town to the Nativity Tableau outside St John's Kirk, where members of Perthshire Brass will lead us in some community Carol singing. All are welcome, and there will be refreshments following the carol singing. (\*there will be a lantern making workshop at St Ninian's from 2.30 -4.30p.m. led by local artist Lisa Earl, in which all ages are welcome to participate.) Then on Friday 22nd December, we will be holding our annual Carol service at 7p.m. This year it is in the North Church, and we are delighted that the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton has accepted our invita-

### 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.

tion to be our guest speaker. A collection will be made at the service for local and international charities. All are very welcome to join in either or both of these activities. For further information, please speak to you PACT reps.

## Dunkeld Diocesan Pilgrimage to LOURDES 2024

After a wonderful pilgrimage this summer we are now working towards ensuring an equally successful one in 2024. One aspect that we are working on is to try and start the process earlier this year and with this in mind would be grateful if you could share the attached poster with your parishioners. If a paper copy would be better, please contact us [dunkeld@pobox.com](mailto:dunkeld@pobox.com) as we have printed copies ready to send. Thanking you in anticipation. Ruth Anne.

## Christmas Present Appeal

Could you help us make Christmas special for those who may have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning? If so, please leave your new, unwrapped gifts at Perth Salvation Army Charity Shop, 81 South Street, Perth PH2 8PD. Open Monday to Saturday 10am – 3pm or by appointment (Email: [perth-salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:perth-salvationarmy.org.uk)) Closing date for donations - 9 December 2023 Find us on Facebook or at <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/perth>



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