



*Drawing by John R Hume,
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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'

32nd Sunday of the Year 12th of November 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Every day we are given 86,400 seconds to use wisely. Every night, God writes off as lost whatever portion of this time we have not used well or have wasted. In the bank of time, there are no balances and no overdrafts. Each day a new account is opened for us. Each night, what remains is written off, lost, gone forever. Everyday's 86,400 seconds have to be invested in commodities that will hold their value from day to day, quarter to quarter, year to year and beyond. These commodities are lasting values like justice, compassion, forgiveness, and love. There were five wise virgins and five foolish ones.

The five foolish virgins squandered their time. The five wise virgins made the best use of every moment. The wise virgins entered into the banquet of the Master's love. The foolish virgins were too busy wasting time to be ready for their Master's return. They were locked out of the celebration. How much time do you and I have left? We really don't know. The proper Christian attitude is not to deny death, but to prepare for it. This is the wisdom behind the five bridesmaids who were prepared to enter the wedding reception. They didn't know when the bridegroom was coming, but they were ready. So how do we prepare? We prepare for the end by nurturing the proper disposition, the Christian attitude. Some of the most important words in scripture are two verses from



Paul's Letter to the Romans: Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2. "Be transformed by renewal of mind." Paul tells us to take an attitude of life that is completely different from the attitude of the world. Throughout the Gospels, particularly in Matthew where today's gospel is taken, Jesus emphasizes the need for inner transformation. His complaint against the Pharisees was that they were hypocrites. They behaved one way, but were another way. He called them whiten sepulchers. On the outside, they looked nice and clean. On the inside they were rotten. The tax collectors and prostitutes who turned to Jesus transformed their lives. Their devotion to the Lord was a reflection of the Christian disposition they had taken on.

So, how do we form and nourish the Christian attitude of life? On the negative, we cannot give ourselves over to that which destroys the presence of the Lord. We live in a materialistic society. To the vast majority of society success is counted in the amount of possessions a person accumulates. Pleasure, even fleeting pleasure, is the goal of life. The glorification of sex is just one of the many ways that this is expressed. We, you and I, have to fight against the forces outside of us and, particularly, within us that are

drawing us into materialism and away from the Christian disposition of life. On the positive, we can form and nourish the Christian disposition by continually communicating with the Lord.

We need to pray daily. We need to find a time, even if it is brief, but still a time when we can be with the Lord and freed of the distractions of life. If we have a family, then we have the additional responsibility to pray as a family every day. Bedtime prayers when the children are little is a great time for this. As they get older, Mom and Dad should continue praying with their children every evening and then, as time goes on, for their children every evening. The main focus of our prayer life should be on the Lord's Day, Sunday.

On Sunday we celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord and, if we are able to come to Mass, receive the Eucharist. The presence of Christ within us in this sacrament gives us the strength to be who we claim to be, Christians. Today's first reading speaks about wisdom. Wisdom is a way of life. The wise are always ready for the Lord because they are always united to him. The gospel lesson is simple for this Sunday. Be like the wise virgins. Be ready to celebrate the banquet of the Lord's love.

Please keep me in your prayers as you all are always in mine.

Fr Bogdan SDS

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

For you my soul in thirsting,
O God, my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.

PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the souls for all the faithful departed whose names are on the November lists, 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 05th November 2023 – £683.00.

Thank you!

On behalf of the Polish Province of Salvatorians and myself I would like to thank you my Dear Parishioners for your generosity in the last week's second collection. Your great financial support is deeply appreciated. The collection amounted to £381.00. May God reward you for your kindness. Fr Bogdan SDS

Priest's musing

A policeman from a K9 unit, had parked his car so he could go inside the station for a moment, and when he came out there was a little boy standing at his car. "Whatcha' doing here son?" The little boy turned and said, "I thought I heard barking from the backseat of your car." The policemen laughed and responded, "Well you did. There's a dog there." The little boy scratched his head. "Really? What did he do?"

Christmas Dinner and Dance

Perth Italian Association Christmas Dinner Dance will be at Salutation Hotel on Monday, 18th December at 6:30pm. Music will provide Roberto Enzo. Price £30. If you are ready to celebrate please enter your name and the phone number on the list in the porch of the church or phone directly to Norma at 01738 622661.

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 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 invitation 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.

SSVP

I thought that it was about time to give you an update on what our combined Conferences (St Mary Magdalene and St John the Baptist) have been doing recently. We have restarted the Energy Support Scheme which we ran last Winter and which was a big success, helping 54 families (which included 96 children) with their energy costs. This year's Scheme started on 1st November and will run until 30th April. We are continuing to help around 20 Sri Lankan families, who have been forced out of their country due to dire economic conditions, with a free supply of food ingredients which they can use to cook their own familiar meals. This has been very much appreciated.

Also our Diocesan Council has started up a Furniture Project, supplying good-quality second-hand furniture to people in need. If you have furniture you wish to donate, please let me know and I can arrange a pick-up. Finally our thanks once again to all our supporters for their ongoing generosity. We could not do what we do without your help. Ivan Carnegie (Conference Secretary)

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.

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: perthsalvationarmy.org.uk) Closing date for donations - 9 December 2023 Find us on Facebook or at <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/perth>

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 13th November
32nd Week of the Year

Tuesday 14th November
32nd Week of the Year

Wednesday 15th November
32nd Week of the Year

Thursday 16th November
Feast of St Margaret,
Queen of Scotland

Friday 17th November
Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary

Saturday 18th November
32nd 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