



*Drawing by John R Hume,
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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

33rd Sunday of the Year 19th of November 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the people of Thessalonika that the day of the Lord, the end of time, will come like a thief in the night when people least expect. Perhaps time will not end before we die, but when we die our own personal time comes to an end. We spend the month of November praying for our loved ones and all the souls of the faithful departed who have died. Death is a reality everyone has to face. How then, should we prepare for the Lord to come whether it is at the end of all time or the end of our own personal time? Instructions are available throughout the Bible, but particularly in today's Gospel, which comes in the section of the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus is speaking about the end of time.

Today's Gospel is the Parable of the Talents. The master entrusts his possessions to three of his servants, and then goes on a journey. When he returns he calls them to see how they invested them, rewarding the first two who had returned more to him than he had given them, and punishing the third who buried the talent in the ground. By burying the talent, the ancient law said that the servant was no longer responsible for it. That is why the Master in the parable was so upset with the third servant. Our definition of talent is the natural aptitude or skill someone has.

Some have musical talent. Some are talented technicians. Some are talented athletes, and so forth. We were given these talents by God. We are expected to develop them to serve God and his people. There is a wonderful story about Ludwig van Beethoven in this regard. The famous composer was



well aware that he had few social skills. He found talking to people not just burdensome, but beyond his abilities. He just couldn't do it, even if he had to speak to someone.

The story is that one day he heard that a dear friend of his had suddenly lost his son. Beethoven rushed over to his friend's house, but he just couldn't find the words to comfort the dead boy's father. So he used the gifts he had been given. Beethoven went to the piano and for a full thirty minutes he played a beautiful elegy. It is believed that he composed it on the spot. He used his talent to console the grieving. All our talents, all our gifts flow from God. None of us have the right to take credit for them.

We emphasize this at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer when the priest holds up the Body and Blood of Christ and says, "Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, O God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever." And we all say, "Amen," God is the source of all talent. All glory is His. "But," a person might object, "God gave me talent, but I have to work hard to develop the talent."

A young champion swimmer has to get up early to put in an hour or more in the pool before school starts, then hit the weight room and go to swim practice for two or more hours. A doctor who so many claim is the finest ever, has had to work hard to get through Medical School and Residency and now spends as much time as possible developing his

or her knowledge to serve his or her patients better. Everyone can point out how hard he or she works to develop his or her talents. But our talents came from God and must be developed to serve God. He is the focus, not us. His is the glory, not ours. We share in His Glory only to the extent that we have allowed Him to be seen in our efforts.

Nothing that we do should be about us. All our gifts should be seen as just that, gifts from God. This is a message we need to convey to our children and Teens. The Lord tells us in the parable that the Master will come for an accounting of how we used the particular talents He has given each of us. The first two servants in the parable returned more than they received, allowing the Master's possessions to grow. God is calling us to develop what we are given to allow His Kingdom to grow. So, will the world end soon? Maybe yes, maybe no. We cannot be concerned with worrying about the exact day or hour. What we have to be concerned with is doing our part to prepare for the Lord's coming, either at the end of all time or the end of our personal time. If we develop the talents he has entrusted to us, the day will come when the Father will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Open your heart to see God's presence in the ordinary moments of life and be grateful for the many blessings that He sends you each day. Go out and make it a great week!

Fr Bogdan SDS

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.

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 12th November 2023 – £590.00.

Next Sunday (26th November)

2nd collection for the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

Priest's musing

As Joan was getting to know her boyfriend Kyle's family, she was very impressed by how much his parents loved each other. "They're so thoughtful," Joan said. "Why, your mom told me that your dad brings a fresh cup of coffee to her in bed every morning." Eventually, Joan and Kyle were engaged, and then married. On the way from the wedding to the reception, Joan again remarked on Kyle's loving parents, and even the coffee in bed ritual. "Tell me," she said, "does it run in the family?" It sure does," replied Kyle. "And, I take after my mom."

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.

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)

Catholic Education Week 2023

We are delighted to share with you that the Catholic Education Week begun on 16th November – 30th November 2023. The theme this year is "Pilgrims of Faith" and is a preparatory year for the Jubilee of 2025 which has the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". Please, keep our students in your prayers.

Jesus our Teacher, in your love for us, help us to develop our own talents so that we may become like you and lead lives of goodness.

Bless all learners and all teachers. May our Catholic schools continue to serve our families, our communities and our country. Help us, through our learning, to believe in you and to celebrate the life of your Church.

Help us to grow in holiness as we grow in friendship with you and try to become saints. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance meeting

The next meeting of the PPC and Finance Committee will take place in the church porch on Tuesday 28th November at 7pm.

SAINTS DAYS

Monday 20th November
33rd Week of the Year

Tuesday 21st November
Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 22nd November
Memorial of St Cecilia

Thursday 23rd November
33rd Week of the Year

Friday 24th November
Memorial of St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions

Saturday 25th November
33rd 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