



*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'**

## The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 26th of November 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends of our parish, we are so happy that you could join us today to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Today's feast concludes the Church year with this exclamation: Jesus Christ is King. He is the King of Kings. His Kingdom does not follow the model of kingdom we might have in our minds. He is a conquering Messiah, but his army is spiritual, not physical. He battles to restore life, not destroy life. He came down from heaven to bring us to heaven. What will we find when we get there, when we get to heaven? We really do not know. We only know that it will be radically different than our fondest expectations. "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, God has prepared for those who love him," we read in 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The great Anglican scholar C. S. Lewis wrote humorous essay about what we would experience if we were admitted into heaven. He wrote that there would be a triple surprise, more than this, a triple shock. First, Lewis wrote, we would be surprised at the people in heaven. We would be shocked that there are people there we never would have thought would be there. The second surprise would be the shock at realizing there were people we expected to be in heaven who were not there. The third surprise would be that we would be astonished that we were there. We Catholics have only recently moved away from our rather arrogant and self centered view that we have exclusive rights to heaven.

But there is no way to the Father except through the Son, but the Son's obedience to the Father sac-

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want

#### Gospel Acclamation

Blessings on him who comes in the name  
of the Lord!  
Blessings on the coming king-  
dom of our father David!



rificing his life for us resulted in the Father and the Son sending the Holy Spirit to all people of good will. These people of good will are those who reach out to others in charity, and in so doing, reach out to the very presence of Christ in others, even if, like the sheep in today's Gospel, they do not recognize Christ. There will be many who have been saved by Christ who did not know Him by that name but who reached out to Him in others. There will be many in heaven whom we would n

ot expect to be there. C.S. Lewis's second conjecture is that there will be people missing from heaven whom we expected to be there. In our cultural denial of death, we try to ease our grief of death by canonizing our Loved Ones who have died. No matter who a person may be, we decide that they are in heaven after their death.

For example, teenagers steal a car and then are killed in a horrible car accident. Alcohol and drugs are involved. Yet, their classmates are told that they are with God now. Or Grandpa dies. Children are told that God has taken him. All of this has to more to do with our grief than the reality of God's gifts. Perhaps, and hopefully, the teenagers in the car accident and Grandpa are all with God in heaven. But their presence in heaven will be determined not by our need for them to be there, but by how well they reached out to Christ in others throughout their lives.

Their presence in heaven will be determined by the Just Judge who recognizes those who loved him throughout their lives. This same Just Judge will listen to others pleading that their Loved Ones be fully united to Him. It is a good thing to pray for the dead, as Second Maccabees says. Still, their presence in heaven is in God's hands, not ours.

The souls of the just are in the hands of God. (Wisdom 3:1). In his wit, C. S. Lewis says that the third surprise we would have if we took stock of the souls in heaven would be learning that we are there. When we are honest with ourselves, we are well aware of the many times that we have turned from God. Our sins are very clear to us. What we are not so aware of is the extent of God's mercy. He sees that as charity which we, though His grace, have developed as life style. He allows us to replace with love that which we have destroyed with selfishness and sin. Now, at the conclusion to the year we beg Him to help us recognize Him in our world and to acknowledge His presence by reaching out to Him on others.

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

## PRAYERS

Please prayer for the repose of the soul of Bishop Tony Farquhar who died recently and for all whose names are on the November lists, and Charles Santucci 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  
19th November 2023 – £679.50.

Today's 2nd collection for the Scottish Catholic Education Services.

## Next Sunday's Second Collection is for the Poor Mission Fund.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation for the students from St Mary Magdalene's Parish will be held on Friday 1st December at 6pm. Pray for our Candidate who will be presented to Fr Bogdan at the Confirmation Mass may the Holy Spirit strengthen their faith and that their hearts might always be a places where the gifts of the Holy Spirit will grow.

## 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 pounds. If you 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.

## 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". David O'Brien the RE teacher from St John's Academy in Perth will give us a brief presentation. Please, keep our staff and students in your prayers.

## 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.

## Message from Fr Bogdan

What are you thankful for? It's a simple question to ask. The words roll off the tongue like a worn-out cliché. People may ask in regular conversation. Countless social media posts with this question will weave in and out of timelines and feeds. There will be many different answers to this question. Some will give deep philosophical or theological answers about life and God. Others will give seemingly more simple answers like family and friends.

There will also be those who won't be able to give any answer. For many, giving thanks doesn't come naturally. In fact, it can be a very difficult task. This doesn't mean life is bad. Some simply find it hard to think of good things. When a challenge or a problem comes up in our lives, we focus most of our attention and energy on it. That's not necessarily a bad thing. This can help us overcome difficulties better and quicker.

The problem is we don't always have much energy left to focus on the good things. So they often pass by us unnoticed. Naming things we are thankful for, or counting our blessings, can help counteract this effect in our lives. When we intentionally show gratitude, we feel better about our lives and about the world around us. Showing gratitude helps us to read just the lenses we look at life through and see a better, more accurate, reflection of reality. Take some time at the end of the Church's year to express exactly what you're thankful for.

## 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.

You can tell your friends and family on social media. It will help them and it will help you. You'll feel a lot better if you do. Today as we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, I would like to say a heartfelt „thank you” to our Lectors, Cantors, Organists, Altar servers, Volunteers indeed to all who contribute in any way to the well-being of our parish family, be it by their encouragement, their concern, their time, talent, treasure or their prayers. And last but not least, I thank God for all of you here. May the Good Lord bless you and your families as we approach New Church's Year. (Fr Bogdan SDS)

## SAINTS DAYS

**Monday 27th November**  
34th Week of the Year

**Tuesday 28th November**  
34th Week of the Year

**Wednesday**  
**29th November**  
34th Week of the Year

**Thursday 30th November**  
The Solemnity of Saint Andrew,  
Apostle

**Friday 1st December**  
34th Week of the Year

**Saturday: 2nd December**  
34th 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