

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

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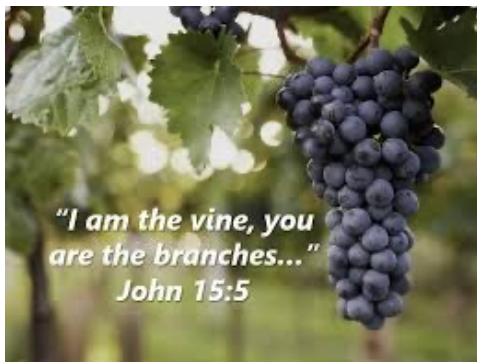
Rev. Bogdan Palka S.D.S. - Parish Administrator

Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590) - Permanent Deacon

PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

## 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

### 28th of April 2024



Welcome to Saint Mary Magdalene — we are happy to have you join us today to celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

"I am the vine, you are the branches," the Lord says. We have great strength and power when we are attached to, united to the Eternal Vine. We have the life force of the Lord flowing through us. Our strength comes from our union with Christ. The Catholic Church in Scotland is very beautiful and strong because it is united to the Vine. The Church is also strong due to people who are extremely generous with their time, talent and treasure.

Our families are very Christian and very beautiful. We are under the beautiful umbrella tree of Christ's love. But the beauty of all those leaves is due to the source of their life. They get their life from the main vine. Christ is the source of our beauty. We must fight to stay united to our Lord, our Vine.

### For today's Mass

#### Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

He is our life blood. We have to pray to him every day. We have to continue to seek his love as he extend it to us. We have to avoid severing our relations with him. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us in becoming children of God," says St John in the second reading for this Sunday. Look at all the beautiful parts of our lives.

The beauty is there because God is there. Should we lose God we will be cut off from the vine. The Gospel speaks about bearing fruit. If the branch is united to the vine, it bears much fruit. God calls us to make His message real in the world. He calls us to bring His Love to the world. He is not calling us just to be in His presence. He is calling us to use His Presence to transform the world. Husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors and friends, priests and laity, are called to live the only Life that matters so completely that others are attracted to that Life, within the home, within the neighborhood and within the world.

The Life of Christ is indeed a magnet. When people experience this Life in others they want it for themselves. These people, those who turn to God, are fruit. Our union with God draws them to God. They are the fruit we have been called to bear. "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." We come to Church to praise God, to worship God, but if this is all we do, reverence His Presence here, and then return to a pagan world living like pagans, accepting and even flaunting pagan values, we are not really worshipping God. We are only worshipping God when we take what we experience in church out to a world that longs for His Presence. When we live our Christianity in our workplace, at our schools, in our neighborhoods, others experience the Word of

God that is within us. And the very Power of God will work through us in ways beyond our understanding, for that is Who God is, the one who is beyond our understanding. God is with us, yes. But to have a relationship with God, we need to be with Him too. Sometimes we come upon people who live immoral lives, and say, "I know God loves me. I'll be OK."

Insufficient. It is not enough for us to say, "God loves me." We have to want to be related to God. We have to be united to the vine for His Love to flow into us. This is what Jesus is speaking about in the Gospel. Knowing where the vine is does not allow the branches to be nourished by the life of the vine. The branches must be part of the vine, grafted onto the vine. God loves us infinitely but if we refuse to enter into our Father's love than we will not have his life flowing through us. But if we do fight hard to have a union with God, if we fight against those negative forces around us and within us that are trying to separate us from God, then we can continue to experience the flow of God's life within us and through us towards others. When we do this, when we are united to the vine, then we can do the work of the Christian. We can draw others to Him. We can bear fruit. We fight against all evil forces trying to keep us from union with the Vines. And so we pray: "Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."

Have a great week—Stay safe and well and enjoy the gifts and blessings God has given us. May God bless you always.

Fr Bogdan SDS

## PRAYERS

We pray for the repose of the soul of  
Mgr Charles Hendry and all those  
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!

### Collections

Sunday 21st April 2024 – £780.00.

Organ Fund – £504.00.

Individual donation: £300.00.

Total: 'Organ Fund' £4250.50.

## Priest's Musing

*An elderly lady was well known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. She would stand on her front porch and shout "Praise the Lord!" Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There ain't no Lord!" Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted, "Praise the Lord! God I need food! I am having a hard time! Please Lord, send me some groceries!" The next morning the lady went out on her porch and found a large bag of groceries and shouted, "Praise the Lord." The neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought the groceries, God didn't." The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "Praise the Lord! He not only sent me groceries, but He made the devil pay for them. Praise the Lord!"*

## Important Memorials

Memorials can be dedicated in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion—birthdays, anniversaries, living and dead etc... or for your own special intention by ordering a Holy Mass. Offering a stipend for a Mass intention is a way of contributing to the upkeep of your priest. It is a donation. Thank you for all your orders.

## SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

### Monday 29th April

Feast of St Catherine of Siena,  
virgin, doctor of the Church

### Tuesday 30th April

Fifth Week in Eastertide

### Wednesday 1st May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

### Thursday: 2nd May

Memorial of St Athanasius  
of Alexandria, bishop

### Friday 3rd May

Feast of Ss Philip and James  
apostles

### Saturday 4th May

Fifth Week in Eastertide

## Foodbank

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned move to new premises in York Place has been delayed. The Foodbank will continue to operate out of Pullar House for the next few weeks. A new opening date will be announced in due course.

## Mgr Charles Hendry - 4th Anniversary in Heaven

The Holy Mass for Mgr Charles Hendry will be offered this Sunday at 10am marking his 4th dead anniversary. He died on 30th April 2020. May he rest in peace. We love you Monsignor and you are in our prayers! Keep us in yours as well!

## May: The Month of Mary

Why is May Mary's month? For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honor Mary, Mother of God. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as 1 May was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. The idea of a month dedicated

specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary. It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today. The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her.

It's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray. For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between. Just do it. Why? Because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

Fr Bogdan

### NORMAL MASS SCHEDULES

**Monday - No public Mass**

**Tuesday-Saturday**  
9am Mass

**Friday**  
6.15pm Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament  
7pm (Polish Mass)

**Sunday**  
8.30am (Polish)  
10am (English)  
12pm (Polish)

### CONFESSIONS

**Saturday**  
9:30am (after Mass)  
*or call to make an appointment*

**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